

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
WILLIAMSON COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER BOARD
Wednesday, October 2, 2013

MEETING LOCATION:

Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter, Community Room
1855 SE Inner Loop, Georgetown, Texas 78626

Minutes:

BOARD MEMBERS

Cedar Park, Asst City Manager, Josh Selleck, Chairperson	Leander, Community Development Director, Jim Bechtol
Williamson County Commissioner, Valerie Covey	Hutto Assistant City Manager, Micah Grau
Round Rock, Asst City Manager, Bryan Williams	

- 1. Call to Order 2:15 PM**
- 2. Roll Call**
 - Board members present: CP Asst City Manager Josh Selleck, Hutto, Asst City Manager Micah Grau, Leander, Community Development Director, Jim Bechtol (alternate Asst Chief of Police, Jeff Hayes), Williamson County Commissioner, Valerie Covey,
 - Board members absent: Round Rock Asst City Manager Bryan Williams
- 3. Citizen Communications - none**
- 4. Board Opening Comments –**
 - a. Jeff Hayes apologizes for being late.
 - b. Commissioner Covey brought up an item to put on agenda for next meeting. Wilco has \$50,000.00 to put towards HVAC units for the shelter. Need input from the other participating entities as to whether they can kick in the remainder of the \$100,000.00 in proportion to their intake percentages.
 - c. Josh Selleck commented that recently there have been discussions in Cedar Park city council regarding the increasing number of people raising chickens in residential areas. How might an increased number of chickens in Cedar Park affect animal intake at the shelter?
- 5. Discussion and/or action on Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (TBVME) ruling**
 - a. The recent licensing act approved in September 2013 has dictated that no one can do anything medically to a pet unless they are a veterinarian and there is an established relationship. This ruling affects current animal shelter policies and procedures. The currently shelter gives vaccinations

on intake and treats painful conditions (wounds, arthritis etc). Shelter policy may need to be changed somehow to state that an animal when it comes in belongs to the shelter. This would also necessitate the revision of city and/or county ordinances.

- b. Several possibilities of dealing with this new ruling are: 1. Hire a shelter vet 2. Ignore the ruling 3. Claim ownership on intake 4. Not vaccinate
The shelter's most viable option is to establish a temporary custodial ownership of the stray animal not a permanent ownership of property. Shelter will still continue the 3 to 5 day stray hold period. Until ordinances are changed shelter will not vaccinate microchipped or tagged animals that have probable owners. In order to provide provisional care temporary ownership converts to county/city and/or animal shelter immediately when animal is taken into custody. Josh Selleck made motion to approve this change to shelter policy. Seconded by Commissioner Covey. Policy change is approved

6. Subcommittee Report on Marketing

- a. A meeting was held regarding development of marketing aimed at decreasing shelter intake numbers as well as future expansion plans for the shelter. Different possibilities were discussed including advertising, social media and email blasts. Any messages will be unified to make sure messages from all sources are standardized.

7. Discuss and/or take Action on Marketing subcommittee report

- a. Advertising will be done through a "Bling" campaign promoting use of wearable tags, licenses, and microchips. Posters will be distributed of animals wearing their bling. All entity logos will be used to present a unified message. Radio spots and jurisdiction tv channels will also be utilized. Misty Valenta will create a page on the shelter website for the bling campaign that would also link to all entity websites plus the chip companies. The program will be monitored to see what works and which direction to take further steps.
- b. Ownership of the pilot program goes to city of Cedar Park and will be presented as such in media. Timeline for implementation: After receiving the logos Jenny from Cedar Park will send proofs to Misty.

8. Subcommittee Report on Prevention (Reducing Intake into the Shelter)

- a. Handout: Intake Reduction Committee Report. Issues that influence intake numbers are multi faceted. There is no single cause or source responsible for high numbers of intake. Handout was reviewed outlining costs per animal, per capita intake, adoption and euthanasia. Percentages of intact (non-neutered) pets were reviewed as well as reasons for owners surrendering their pets.
- b. Suggestions to limit intake based on evidence were discussed including spay/neuter, licensing, change in admission policies (why impound feral cats?), increasing return rate, assisting with behavior issues, use of advocacy group, providing vet care at the shelter.
- c. An Intake Reduction Plan was given on the last page of the handout outlining 12 different actions that could be implemented to reduce intake.

Some of these included Free spay/neuter, low cost clinics, behavior “hotline”, ordinances allowing TNR, pet training classes, and differential license fees for non-neutered pets.

9. Discussion and/or Action on Prevention Subcommittee Report

- a. Josh Selleck requested that shelter director quantify the dollar amount difference for a shelter model that takes in free roaming cats vs. a shelter model that neuters and returns them to the neighborhoods. This may provide further justification for building TNR into the shelter expansion plan.
- b. Prioritizing impoundments – creating an appointment system for intake of owner surrendered animals seems to be reducing the number of actual vs intended surrenders.
- c. Josh Selleck asked which ideas from the list of reduction actions would be highest priority that would be simplest to implement and have the highest return for the money spent. Maybe take the top 4 or 5 actions and come up with an implementation plan.

10. Discuss and/or take action on Long Term Strategic Planning of WCRAS

- a. There were questions from Jeff Hayes regarding feasibility of contracting with other nearby shelters for services/space. Director commented that the existing space in the shelter does not offer adequate space for the number of daily residents. There is a need for 122 kennels and there are only 54 now. In accordance with most recent sheltering guidelines there should also be separate areas for stray hold and isolation which is not possible with the current structure.
- b. Current schedule of bond elections for the separate entities was discussed. Coordination of bonds may be in required for further planning.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2013

Josh Selleck, Chairperson

Linda Gunter, Secretary