



CITY OF BAYTOWN

NOTICE OF MEETING

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024
4:30 P.M.
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX
220 W DEFEE STREET, BAYTOWN, TEXAS 77520

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM

1. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, prohibits the Animal Control Advisory Committee from discussing, deliberating, or considering, subjects for which public notice has not been given on the agenda. Issues that cannot be referred to the administration for action may be placed on the agenda of a future Animal Control Advisory Committee Session.

2. MINUTES

- a. Consider approving meeting minutes of the January 18, 2024 Animal Control Advisory Committee Meeting.
- b. Consider approving meeting minutes of the August 17, 2023 Special Animal Control Advisory Committee Meeting.

3. INTRODUCTION

- a. Introduce Toni Graham as the new animal welfare representative for the City of Baytown Animal Control Advisory Committee.

4. DISCUSSIONS

- a. Receive and discuss an update with dog attack victim, Ms. Enjoli Richardson, and discuss the City of Baytown ordinances related to dangerous and aggressive dogs.
- b. Receive and discuss an update on shelter capacity challenges.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Consider items for discussion at future meetings.

6. ADJOURN

THE DISTRICT IS COMMITTED TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AND EQUAL ACCESS TO

COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST. FOR ASSISTANCE PLEASE CALL 281-420-6690, FAX 281-420-7176, OR CONTACT 281-420-6690 VIA RELAY TEXAS AT 711 OR 1-800-735-2988 FOR TYY SERVICES. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING RELAY TEXAS, PLEASE VISIT: [HTTP://RELAYTEXAS.COM](http://RELAYTEXAS.COM).

Approved for posting:



Tony Gray, Health Director

Posted by:



Angela Jackson, City Clerk
(SEAL)

Posted this 12th day of April 2024, at 5:00 P.M.





ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2. a.

Meeting Date: 04/18/2024

Subject: Consider approving meeting minutes of the January 18, 2024 Animal Control Advisory Committee Meeting.

Prepared by: Miriam Hernandez, Health

Information

ITEM

Consider approving meeting minutes of the January 18, 2024 Animal Control Advisory Committee Meeting.

PREFACE

This item allows for the Committee Members to review and approve meeting minutes of the previous Animal Control Advisory Committee Meeting held on January 18, 2024.

Attachments

DRAFT 2024 01 18 Meeting Minutes.pdf



CITY OF BAYTOWN

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Animal Control Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting

January 18, 2024

Meeting Location: Sterling Municipal Library, Innovation Room, 1 Mary Elizabeth Wilbanks Ave., Baytown 77520

Members Present: Dr. Francisco Alvarez, Lou Sisk, Ellen Hollaway, Marga Matthews, & Alberto Contreras

Members Absent: Mike Farabee & James Garcia

Staff Present: Tony Gray (Director of Health), Candace Thomas (Animal Services Manager), and Miriam Hernandez (Secretary, Health Administrative Supervisor)

Quorum was met and meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM by Chair Ellen Hollaway.

1. (a) Discuss current Animal Services operations and the management of an illness impacting shelter dogs. Chair Hollaway gives the floor to Candace Thomas, Animal Services Manager. Candace states there are currently between 6-8 dogs in the shelter that are coughing, showing symptoms, and being treated. It runs like an upper respiratory virus with symptoms of nasal and eye discharge, coughing, and lethargy lasting about 3 weeks even with treatment of steroids and antibiotics. Chair Hollaway questions if highly contagious and Candace responds yes. To help keep from spreading, play groups and owner surrender appointments have been suspended, unless absolutely necessary. More extensive cleaning procedures are in place and the number of sick dogs is currently 55 out of 75. Chair Hollaway questions how over capacity the shelter is and Candace states, it is currently at 112% capacity and still manageable due to a few moms and their puppies sharing kennels. Adoptions are still available if they know which dog they want and visits are being limited to one dog a day. Chair Hollaway questions if the illness can be transported by humans or dog to dog. Member Sisk states it is airborne and Candace agrees and states it can be transmitted by fomites. Member Dr. Alvarez states the media made it worse than it is and is a low mortality illness. It can be treated with steroids and antibiotics. Member Matthews questions if any strays have been rounded up since the freeze and Member Sisk states there is no room in the shelter and do not want to stack animals to breed more disease. Candace states currently all the kennels are full and have added crates in laundry room for additional capacity. Chair Hollaway questions any calls were received during freeze for animals that needed to be taken cared of. Candace states 2 calls but on both calls the information was inaccurate. Member Sisk states there were several posts on social media about what to do with your animals during the freeze. Member Sisk states her rescue spent thousands on kennels and they were distributed throughout several neighborhoods to give dogs somewhere to go during the freeze and no dogs died. With no further comments or questions Chair Hollaway proceeds to the next agenda item.

(b) Receive and discuss an update on the Community Cat Program. Chair Hollaway gives the floor to Candace Thomas, Animal Services Manager. Candace states they are still in the beginning stages. They have the grant proposal and it is being reviewed by the City's grant coordinator. They will be purchasing the items needed and will be opening up the volunteer group for specialized training in trapping. Chair Hollaway questions if there is someone in the facility to do the medical work. Candace states part of the

grant from Best Friends will cover a vet coming to the facility twice a month to do the medical work. Chair Hollaway states based on previous discussions the people trapping the cats will bring them in for vet and questions how many the vet will be able to sterilize. Candace states the vet will provide a number and tends to be between 40-60 starting in the morning until completed. Chair Hollaway expresses her gratitude to the advisory committee for their hard work in the last 2 years while trying to get a community cat program passed. City council recently approved a program and she is glad to hear there will be funding. Member Sisk questions if there are plenty of volunteers. Candace states they are working on onboarding and have people with experience to help like Justin, who was previously with Best Friends. With no further comments or questions Chair Hollaway proceeds to the next agenda item.

2. (a) Consider items for discussion at future meetings. Chair Hollaway states the focus has been on a cat program and looking further into the year there are no items in demand of attention. She opens the floor for members to provide suggestions for future topics. Member Sisk states community education is needed. Chair Hollaway requests an update on microchipping. Whether animals found in the field are microchipped or if it is not really helping. Member Matthews states she would like to see committee members attend open discussions town hall meetings the city manager has been having to help give input on what the city can do for them. Director of Health, Tony Gray, clarifies if she is asking the committee be at the listening tours. Member Matthews confirms and Tony states it would have to depend on availability and if 4 or more members are together it is considered a quorum and a meeting would need to be posted. Member Sisk states animal control would likely have to be there to answer questions. Member Matthews states some of the members could be there to listen to input and hear from the public in different areas. Tony states members could attend those meetings individually and bring it back to the committee to discuss. Chair Hollaway states there was an incident in the outskirts of Baytown involving dogs who broke in and attacked a family's pet inside their own home. For the next meeting, the family member will be coming in to speak with the committee on how the state supports someone who has been a victim of a dangerous dog. Chair Hollaway states the committee has worked on language but if you are a victim, like this person, you do not have the support of the City of Baytown all you have is the state resolution, which was not much for this family. Tony requests clarification from Member Sisk regarding community education. Member Sisk states from talking to people on Facebook, more education is need on what a no kill shelter is because majority think the shelter will not euthanize. Some dogs have been in the shelter for over a year and when the shelter is over capacity, the shelter needs euthanize for space. Living in a shelter for over a year is no life for dogs and euthanasia should be an option if not adoptable. The community will bash the shelter for euthanizing but do not understand the consequences. Community education is needed to help understand. Member Dr. Alvarez offers to give a 15-20 min talk once a quarter on the importance of spaying/neutering, vaccinations, microchipping, rabies, etc. He is not opposed to coming in if the shelter can organize. A lot is being done to lobby responsible pet ownership but it starts with providing an understanding as to why. It would be a good idea to present at the shelter as it will give the public an opportunity come in and see the animals and possibly adopt. Candace states they go to the schools, nursing homes, and girls/boy scouts come to the shelter. Member Sisk states teaching kids young is a huge benefit. Chair Hollaway and Tony state a lot of great ideas have been suggested. Tony addresses Member Dr. Alvarez, if he is willing to do it, the shelter will put something together. The ultimate goal is to have responsible pet ownership and that is the biggest challenge Tony has faced. Member Dr. Francisco Alvarez states they can continue to make laws but hopefully by teaching, no other laws need to be made. With no further questions or items of discussion, motion to adjourn is made by Member Matthews followed by Member Sisk and Member Contreras. Meeting is adjourned at 4:57 PM.



ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2. b.

Meeting Date: 04/18/2024

Subject: Consider approving meeting minutes of the August 17, 2023 Special Animal Control Advisory Committee Meeting.

Prepared by: Miriam Hernandez, Health

Information

ITEM

Consider approving meeting minutes of the August 17, 2023 Special Animal Control Advisory Committee Meeting.

PREFACE

This item allows the Committee Members to review and approve the meeting minutes of the Special Animal Control Advisory Meeting held on August 17, 2023.

Attachments

DRAFT 2023 08 17 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf



CITY OF BAYTOWN

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Animal Control Advisory Committee

Minutes of Special Meeting

August 17, 2023

Meeting Location: Sterling Municipal Library, Innovation Room, 1 Mary Elizabeth Wilbanks Ave., Baytown 77520

Members Present: Alberto Contreras, Marga Matthews, Lou Sisk, Ellen Hollaway, Dr. Francisco Alvarez, & James Garcia

Members Absent: Mike Farabee

Staff Present: Tony Gray (Director of Health), Candace Thomas (Animal Services Manager), Jamie Eustice (Library Director), and Miriam Hernandez (Secretary, Health Administrative Supervisor)

Quorum was met and meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM by Chair Ellen Hollaway.

1. (a) Discuss proposed ordinance revisions to Chapter 14 Animals' and the implementation of a Community Cat Program. Chair Ellen Hollaway states there are speakers signed up to speak on item 1a and calls on Randee King to speak. Ms. King lives in the Lakewood subdivision and is supportive of a TNR (Trap Neuter Release) program in the city. The next speaker is Pauline Singleton who lives out of city limits. Ms. Singleton states cats are constantly being dumped and favors any program that will result in neutering cats to help control population. Chair Hollaway calls on Sophia Proler to speak. Ms. Proler is with Best Friends Animal Society and is in support of the ordinance and language used. Sharon Harp is the final speaker and has been involved with TNR for several years. Chair Hollaway calls on Ms. Harp, the final speaker. Ms. Harp was previously involved with A Life to Live, more recently with Best Friends, and now with a group of citizens who spend their own time and resources with no help from the City. Ms. Harp states this needs to go to City Council now as the it has been about 5 years now since the city has been asked to do something about it. Ms. Harp states it is the only solution to cat overpopulation aside from having to round them up and kill them. Chair Hollaway thanks the speakers and proceeds to the discussion item. Tony Gray, Director of Health, is given the floor. Tony states staff has been directed to bring the Animal Control Advisory Committee (ACAC) recommendation for a Community Cat Program (CCP) next Thursday, August 24th to the City Council Meeting. The reason for the meeting so soon is for the committee to discuss and come to a consensus on a CCP. A PowerPoint presentation is shown on the screen. After each slide there will be a pause where Jamie Eustice, Library Director, will engage with members for discussion and input in order to move forward. Chair Hollaway clarifies the final vote will be on the next item, 2a. Jamie states at meetings things can get stuck sometimes and she is there to help. Council made it clear they need a recommendation from the ACAC whether a yes, no, in favor, or not in favor of certain parts. Jamie states a consensus is needed meaning, a point where you are comfortable moving forward. For parts where you may be stuck, further discussion may be had. Jamie states the ACAC is a more called upon board and has been tasked to do real and important work as there is a lot on the table. Tony begins on the first slide and proceeds to read the definition of nuisance cat. *An owned cat that lives outside and is not sterilized, and microchipped. Allowing or permitting a cat to damage the property of anyone other than its owner, including, but not limited to, defecating, urinating, turning over garbage containers or damaging vehicles, gardens, flowers, or vegetables. A cat that directly causes a disturbance or annoyance to other animals while off it's property.* Member Dr.

Alvarez states this definition is the most important part of City Council accepting the program. City Council has been clear that unless the upstream flow is stopped, there will be no program. People are still not spaying and neutering their own animals. With no other comments or questions, the ACAC agrees to definition. Tony reads the definition of nuisance animal. *Any animal normally found in the wild: that has entered onto any public or private property and by its presence is committing a threat to public health and safety or is a, high risk for rabies transmission; bats, skunks, foxes, coyotes, and raccoons.* This definition is new to the ACAC. Member Matthews questions if possums are considered high risk. Member Dr. Alvarez confirms they are not high risk. Member Garcia states what needs to be considered is if the animal is considered a public health threat or safety threat. An exterminator would need to be called for possum in an attic. This definition is not meant for all types of animals and would need to stick to the key words. With no other comments or questions, ACAC agrees to the definition. Tony reads, *Feeding Cats, making it unlawful to feed stray cats outside of a Community Cat Colony. It is an affirmative defense if the person that feeds or provides care to a cat is a community cat caregiver maintaining a community cat colony.* A note is provided reading; *individuals who are identified feeding cats outside of a CCP will be educated on CCP, encouraged to join CCP as caregiver, and assist in trapping the cats for servicing. Individuals who refuse to join CCP and continue to feed cats will receive a notice of violation.* Tony states the intent is to achieve compliance through education. Chair Hollaway summarizes, if someone has a group of cats who wants to feed, they need to have cats be a part of a CCP to spay and neuter. Member Dr. Alvarez states some structure and education is needed so people are not feeding cats who are continuously procreating. With proper education they can join a CCP still feed but with more structure. Member Garcia states this part is a hot topic for the community and questions if the first bullet can read differently and lessen the restriction outside of wiping it out completely. Member Matthews states she has been doing research and suggest adding a notation, if you plan on feeding a cat, they have to be in a CCP. The word unlawful threw her off previously. Dr. Alvarez states the point is to offer education but at some point, you make it clear that you do not feed wild animals because they come into areas where they should not. Member Matthews states most people will not think of a cat the same as a racoon. Member Sisk states the more you feed the more cats will come. Member Garcia states he is the one who brought this up because of the types of complaints received. If there are reservations to what is presented, it could read, *causing an environment to be unattractive by overfeeding or letting food stay which attracts flies or other unwanted animals.* This is seen often; an entire bag of food will be dumped on a sidewalk. Jamie states Member Garcia's suggestion is not to make it unlawful to feed but to not dump to feed or overfeed. Chair Hollaway questions if the definition should be expanded or left with harsh language. Jamie states the options they have is to leave it harsh or make it specific. A quick consensus is taken and ACAC members all agree with the definition the way it is. Tony proceeds to read Community Cats slide. *Community cat - any domestic cat, with no indication of ownership, that lives primarily outside and has an eartip. Community cat caregiver means any person who provides care, feed, or shelter to a community cat, while not being considered the owner, harbinger, custodian, possessor or keeper of a community cat under this ordinance. Community cat caregiver shall not be subject to provisions of this ordinance directed toward owners and owned animals unless deemed a nuisance. Eartip – means under veterinarian services of sterilization of a cat, the tip of the left ear is removed indicating the cat is a community cat and is sterilized and vaccinated.* The next slide, *Community Cat Program- (a) A community cat that has been impounded which has already been ear-tipped shall be returned immediately to the location at which it was found, unless deemed a nuisance(b) Community cats shall not be exempt from the provisions of statute or this ordinance applicable to the prohibition on cruelty to animals; provided however, the return of a community cat to the location at which it was found or humanely trapped, subsequent to sterilization, vaccination and ear-tipping, shall not be considered abandonment under any statute or other provision of this ordinance. (c) Community cats, being unowned as defined herein, shall not be subject to*

provisions of this ordinance applicable to owned animals, unless deemed a nuisance. (d) Community cats shall be eligible for return unless deemed a nuisance. The next slide, *Community Cat as a Potential Nuisance. 1st time return to same colony with a microchip 2nd time move to a different colony 3rd time remove it from City.* Jamie says in a hypothetical situation, there is a cat who is part of her CCP and makes daily disturbances after so long she calls it in. Because the cat is part of a colony who would assume liability. Member Dr. Alvarez states it would be removed to microchip and then moved to different colony if happens again. Member Sisk questions who would be tracking this information. Tony states the city would track since the first time they are being microchipped. Marga questions what “remove from the City” means. Members Sisk and Dr. Alvarez confirm it means euthanasia. Member Matthews states it should be clear it means euthanasia and not that they are being dumped. Member Garcia states it will likely not get to a 3rd time. Member Dr. Alvarez suggests to move it to a second colony or give animal control the discretion to decide whether to relocate a second time or euthanize. Chair Hollaway questions if anyone has additional concerns and ACAC agrees with recommendation made by Dr. Alvarez. Tony reads the next slide Partnership with Best Friends. The details of the partnership are as follows: 6-month partnership between the animal welfare organization, Best Friends, and the City of Baytown’s Animal Services Division

- Best Friends cover Vet cost and servicing costs; core vaccines, controlled drugs, and consumables
- Best Friends provide CCP training to City staff
- COB allow the use of its surgical suite for the CCP spay/neuter process – servicing
- COB's Volunteer Supervisor (a current budgeted position) acts as liaison to assist and coordinate servicing with a designated Best Friends representative – Community Cat Coordinator

After initial 6-month program, it is proposed that the City of Baytown’s Animal Services Division would assume administration of the program:

- COB's Volunteer Supervisor (a current budgeted position) continues as liaison to assist and coordinate with the designated Best Friends community cat coordinator.
- Best Friends designated community cat coordinator – is responsible for the trapping, delivering of cats for service, and then returning the cats after recovery.
- COB's Volunteer Supervisor (a current budgeted position) acts as liaison to assist and coordinate servicing with a designated Best Friends representative – Community Cat Coordinator

ACAC members have no further discussion on this slide. Chair Hollaway states City Council wanted a complete program in order for them to decide and this is one. With no further questions, Chair Hollaway proceeds to the next agenda item.

2. (a) Consider approval of the proposed revisions to Chapter 14 Animals’ and the implementation of a Community Cat Program. Chair Hollaway proceeds to take a vote on the entire program as discussed.

Yay: Alberto Contreras, Marga Matthews, Lou Sisk, Ellen Hollaway, Dr. Francisco Alvarez, and James Garcia

Nay: None

Absent: Mike Farabee

With no other questions or items of discussion, motion to adjourn is made by Member Matthews followed by Member Sisk. Meeting is adjourned at 3:52 PM.



ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3. a.

Meeting Date: 04/18/2024

Subject: Introduce Toni Graham as the new animal welfare representative of the Animal Control Advisory Committee.

Prepared by: Miriam Hernandez, Health

Information

ITEM

Introduce Toni Graham as the new animal welfare representative for the City of Baytown Animal Control Advisory Committee.

PREFACE

This item will allow for the introduction of Toni Graham as the new animal welfare representative for the City's Animal Control Advisory Committee.



ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4. a.

Meeting Date: 04/18/2024

Subject: Receive and discuss an update with dog attack victim, Ms. Enjoli Richardson., and discuss the City of Baytown ordinances related to dangerous and aggressive dogs.

Prepared by: Miriam Hernandez, Health

Information

ITEM

Receive and discuss an update with dog attack victim, Ms. Enjoli Richardson, and discuss the City of Baytown ordinances related to dangerous and aggressive dogs.

PREFACE

This item will allow Committee Members to hear from dog attack victim Ms. Enjoli Richardson and will allow for discussion on the City of Baytown ordinance related to dangerous and aggressive dogs.



ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4. b.

Meeting Date: 04/18/2024

Subject: Receive and discuss an update on shelter capacity challenges.

Prepared by: Miriam Hernandez, Health

Information

ITEM

Receive and discuss an update on shelter capacity challenges.

PREFACE

This item will allow the committee members to receive and discuss an update regarding shelter capacities and the challenges they are facing.



ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5. a.

Meeting Date: 04/18/2024

Subject: Consider items for discussion at future meetings.

Prepared by: Miriam Hernandez, Health

Information

ITEM

Consider items for discussion at future meetings.

PREFACE

This item will allow committee members to bring up topics they wish to discuss and consider at future meetings.
