

Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board

Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2019 ~ 10:00 a.m.

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER

CLASSROOM

2825 LONGLEY LANE, # A, RENO, NEVADA

MEMBERS

Naomi Duerr, Reno - Chair

Annette Rink, DVM, PhD - Vice-chair

Paul Anderson, Sparks

Jill Dobbs, SPCA

Kitty Jung, Washoe County

Irene Payne

Vacant

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL [Non-action item]

Chair Duerr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Paul Anderson, Jill Dobbs, Naomi Duerr, Kitty Jung, Irene Payne and Annette Rink.

ABSENT: None.

VACANT: One.

Jennifer Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, as also present.

Chair Duerr welcomed Paul Anderson – City of Sparks to the Board.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT [Non-action item]

Alfred Knepper commented that he was here as an applicant for the vacant position on the Animal Services Advisory Board. Mr. Knepper noted that he was a retired teacher with 12-years' experience as well as 12-years in banking. Mr. Knepper noted that he has worked with the Humane Society and adopted several dogs over time as well as a donkey from the BLM (Bureau of Land Management). Currently Mr. Knepper is now president of a small corporation that leases aircraft. Mr. Knepper explained that he lives in a small island of unincorporated area located within the City on Ponderosa Drive near Sullivan Lane.

Responding to Member Anderson's inquiry about how vacant positions are filled. Deputy District Attorney Jen Gustafson pointed out that Agenda Item 7 would cover that particular topic.

Brett McLane also noted that he has applied to fill the vacant position and is a native Nevadan with a degree in finance working in both banking and corporate finance as well as administration of Casino portfolios. Additionally, Mr. McLane was a volunteer for Mt. Hood Search and Rescue and a local volunteer for the SPCA as well as search and rescue with the Office of Emergency Services.

Tim Stoffel commented that as a former member of the Animal Control Board he was also a Broadcast Engineer and ham radio operator and works at the Sierra Safari Zoo. Additionally, Mr. Stoffel has dealt with land valuation and the issues that crop up with animal owners. Mr. Stoffel believes he would be a valuable asset to the ASAB.

3. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 9, 2018, MINUTES [For Possible action]

Chair Duerr opened the agenda item and asked for a motion.

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It was moved by Member Rink, seconded by Member Dobbs, to approve the August 9, 2018, minutes as submitted.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried: Member Anderson abstained.

- 4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT** [Non-action item] - An informational update on the Department of Regional Animal Services' programs, statistics, emerging developments, financial updates, and other matters properly related thereto.

Shyanne Schull – Director, expressed her appreciation to the applicants for the vacant position which will be filled by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Schull then narrated a PowerPoint® presentation (copy on file) outlining the number of animal intakes by species July 1 through September 30, 2018. Miss Schull drew attention to the historical pattern of calls for service and animals coming into and leaving the shelter as the community has grown. Ms. Schull noted that adoptions are handled by NHS or other rescue groups with about 40-percent of animals being returned to their owners. In 2012 the region adopted a microchip program making it easier to connect stray/lost animals with their owners thus making it easier to return animals to owner in the field without having to bring them to the shelter.

During the discussion it was noted that the percentage of animals returned to their owner is significantly notable and commendable. Ms. Schull discussed the resources and tools that WCRAS staff utilize to return animals to their owners efficiently such as cell phones, computers in their vehicles and microchip scanners. Staff work diligently to contact the owner if the animal is wearing identification. Additionally, in the event an animal is loose multiple times it is not likely that the animal will be returned to the owner. At the next meeting the end of year statistics will be brought to the ASAB. Other discussion noted the increase in animals being surrendered during the recession in 2007 through 2011. As the discussion continued, it was noted that as the weather continues to warm there will be an increase in calls for service. Currently the field staff operates from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Discussion then focused on response to dogs being left in closed vehicles during summer months. The breakdown in the types of calls received is included in the information provided.

Yvonne Shanto – Washoe County Animal Services, outlined the enrichment program implemented at the shelter. The program incorporates a variety of elements including essential oils or extract such as lemon, almond peppermint and others to keep animal engaged. Additionally the use of treats and a clicker enable shelter animals to be interactive with the personnel along with the use of treats, hanging mobiles and other things to keep the animals occupied. Additionally, pupicles are provided to help animals that might not be readily adoptable. Ms. Shanto outlined several activities and types of behavior that assist in making the animals more readily adoptable. Ms. Shanto outlined successful adoptions of dogs that were initially thought to be almost impossible to adopt. Ms. Shanto emphasized the successful outcomes due to the interaction between the animals and rescue groups helping with the rehabilitation and socialization of animals resulting in adoption for many of the animals. Ms. Shanto explained that one such successful outcome was a Great Dane.

Ms. Schull then played two PSA (Public Safety Announcement) videos (copies on file). Ms. Schull emphasized the public outreach, use of social and public media outlets to educate individuals on the

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consequences of leaving dogs unattended in an enclosed vehicle during summer weather. Ms. Schull stated that Animal Services personnel were authorized to use any means necessary to rescue an animal including and up to breaking a window to gain access. However, the public at-large does not have that protection or authority and should call the proper authorities for assistance. In many instances the vehicle in question may have already left the scene by the time Animal Services personnel are able to respond. Ms. Schull emphasized that the information is also available on the website and other media to share the information with the public. Ms. Schull noted that there are not nearly as many calls for similar services during winter months. She indicated that backyard dogs that are in the weather is not a violation as long as there is shelter and water. Additionally there is a continuing need for public education about ambient temperatures. Animal Services can use additional help in the education on animal welfare issues as related to heat and cold.

There was some minor discussion about Animal PODS deigned to keep pets safe outside of businesses while the owner goes inside. This was an inquiry as to where this former agenda item was left off. Chair Duerr reminded the ASAB that this item was researched and presented to the ASAB at a former meeting and that the jurisdictions were provided the summary of research to implement if desired.

5. WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES (“WCRAS”) BARKING COMPLAINTS [Non-action item] – An informational overview and presentation of how WCRAS handles barking complaints.

Shyanne Schull – Director, commented that this was an item identified at a previous meeting.

Field Supervisor Cindy Doak - Washoe County Regional Animal Services, commented that noise complaints were received on a daily basis. Typically a notice is mailed to the address about the complaint that includes the time of day the complaint was received. In the event there are additional calls for the same location a previous call can be reopened and the caller who is allowed to be anonymous on the first call is identified in subsequent calls for the same location. That caller must provide information on the type, size and color of the animal along with the location. The notice that is sent to the pet owner includes information on methods to alleviate the barking along with warning the pet owner that a noise complaint has been received. However, follow-up calls for service will most likely result in a Notice of Civil Penalty.

Member Jung left the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Field Supervisor Doak outlined the penalty that double with each subsequent call starting at \$100.00, \$200.00 and \$400.00. In some cases it is determined that the person receiving the notice did not actually own a dog but was in fact hosting a friend/relative that had brought a dog with them. In the event the fines are not paid within the 30-days allotted the County can issue a citation for subsequent violations, which then requires the individual to appear at a hearing in Justice Court.

During a brief discussion it was noted that an unknown vehicle pulling up outside a home where a notice of barking has been issued would most likely cause the dog to bark. It was noted that it is not always known if the resident is the same on subsequent barking notices.

Member Jung rejoined the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

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Officer Doak noted that under Chapter 55 of Washoe County Code 55.125 it is unlawful to keep or harbor any animal that causes annoyance to the neighborhood. Officer Doak pointed out that individuals have various levels of tolerance ranging from the noise made by a basketball to barking.

Chair Duerr outlined a Facebook experience with someone pinging her on Facebook from the Double Diamond area about a barking dog. Upon investigation it was determined that the dog lived on the other side of the marsh. Chair Duerr recalled contact Code Enforcement and the City Attorney about the incident before she was aware of the rules early in her tenure as a Member of the Reno City Council. Once she was made aware of the regulations in place the incident was investigated and subsequently resolved.

Officer Doak noted that Animal Control had provided services for the Cities of Reno and Sparks as well as unincorporated areas for some time. Officer Doak noted that there is a recording machine to take calls after regular business hours. Officers are on-duty until 10:00 p.m. Officer Doak reiterated that the first complaint can be reported anonymously with follow-up calls requiring that an individual leave their name and address, which can be found by submitted a public records request.

Member Anderson recalled that his HOA (Homeowners Association) Board had received several calls about a barking dog some time ago. However, no one was ever able to pinpoint the exact location. It was highly recommended at the time that individuals not access private property without homeowner permission.

Officer Doak noted that if she or any other Officer attempts to survey an area in the truck all dogs begin to bark. Officer Doak noted that in Spanish Springs an individual had used a bicycle to obtain addresses.

6. WCRAS PARK PATROLS [Non-action item] – An informational presentation on WCRAS Park Patrol efforts, including an overview of park patrol efforts and WCRAS's receipt of community feedback on this program. Amanda Schultz

Shyanne Schull – Director, provide a brief overview of the issue of individuals not picking up waste after their pets. Ms. Schull noted that there is insufficient staff for park patrols resulting in inconsistent enforcement.

Amanda Schultz narrated a PowerPoint® presentation (copy on file). Ms. Schultz noted the location of various dog parks and the desire of resident to take dogs along the walking paths. Of particular to some individuals that staff has spoken to is that there are too few dog parks in Washoe County.

During the discussion the locations of various dog parks within the City of Reno and Washoe County were pointed out including one at Washington north of the I-80 terminus. Other discussion noted that the City of Sparks is in the process of developing two parks. It was pointed out that there is also an area in Hidden Valley where dogs can be off leash if outside populated areas. Discussion then noted that discussion with Parks Managers indicated the major issues for development of additional dog parks is funding as well as the turf upgrades. More recently a complaint was received about the baseball field in the North Valleys being used as a dog park.

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Ms. Schull explained that the goal is to get a “grass roots” movement underway to determine what is out there in terms of signage and the like. Secondly to hear what the community has to say about not adhering to the dog off leash regulations. Ms. Schull noted that information will be conveyed to the local jurisdictions.

Member Anderson noted that there is one park in the City of Sparks that is transitioning to a larger more community oriented park. Member Anderson will convey comments about off leash dogs to the Sparks Director.

Member Jung left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Ms. Schultz noted that many individuals prefer not to have to drive to a dog park after work, preferring to walk to a nearby park and back.

Chair Duerr recalled her previous involvement in the development of dog parks on the downtown LIDS over the train tracks as well as a joint effort at Virginia Lake Park that resulted in a 50/50 cost share with residents to add trees. The LIDs in downtown Reno used an artificial turf. Chair Duerr noted that there has been interest expressed in developing additional dog parks. Of some concern is the significant reduction experienced during the recession of 2007 that result in the nearly 7-percent reduction in staff. Chair Duerr believes there are opportunities to partner with other agencies/non-profits and grants to help fund future endeavors. Chair Duerr noted that the worst water quality in the Truckee River is in the vicinity of the baseball stadium and Broadhead. Chair Duerr noted that the installation of porta-potty facilities along the river has met resistance due to the perceived encouragement of homelessness along the river front.

7. UPDATE ON RECRUITMENT FOR OPEN ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER POSITION [Non-action item] – An informational update on the recruitment process for the vacant board position.

Shyanne Schull – Director, noted that the vacancy was caused when the BCC removed a former individual from the Board. Three of the applicants for the open position were present at today’s meeting. The BCC (Board of County Commissioners) will fill the vacancy at the February 12, 2019, BCC meeting. Ms. Schull noted that the BCC had adopted the current configuration of membership as follows:

- Elected Official from Washoe County Board of County Commissioners
- Elected Official from City of Reno Council
- Elected Official from City of Sparks Council
- a member with business/real estate background
- a veterinarian
- a non-profit humane organization representative
- a Washoe County resident with a general interest in animal related issues

Ms. Schull commented that the application had been posting in various publications, press release, and social media and closed November 30, 2018. The applicants and their applications will be shared with the ASAB once the agenda is made public.

8. SET 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE [For possible action] – A review, discussion and possible action to set and approve a meeting schedule for 2019.

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Chair Duerr opened the agenda item noting that the last Thursday of the month had presented some unanticipated issues such as end of month holiday resulting in a rescheduling of meetings. The intent of this agenda item is to set the schedule for the balance of 2019: April, July and October 2019. Chair Duerr suggested that the board consider either a Monday or Friday meeting.

It was moved by Member Anderson, seconded by Member Rink, to meet at 9:30 a.m. on April 5, July 26 and November 1, 2019.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried with Member Jung absent and one position vacant.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [For possible action] – 1) Chair and 2) Vice-chair

Chair Duerr stated she was willing to continue in the position if that was the desire of the Board.

It was moved by Member Payne, seconded by Member Rink to nominate and elect Naomi Duerr as Chair.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried with Member Jung absent and one position vacant.

Nominations for vice-chair opened.

It was moved by Member Anderson, seconded by Member Payne, to nominate and elect Annette Rink as Vice-chair,

There were no public comments.

The motion carried with Member Jung absent and one position vacant.

10. WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS [Non-action item] – Limited to items not addressed elsewhere on the agenda. The Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board may not engage in discussion or take action on any item identified under this topic and items may be placed on a future agenda for discussion and possible action. The next regular meeting of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board to be determined in the previous agenda item.

No new items were identified for the April 5, 2019 meeting.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT [Non-action item]

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There were no public comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Duerr adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.