

Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board

Minutes

Thursday, May 31, 2018 ~ 2:00 p.m.

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER

CLASSROOM

2825 LONGLEY LANE, RENO, NEVADA

MEMBERS

Naomi Duerr - Chair
Annette Rink – Vice-chair
Charlene Bybee
Jill Dobbs
Kitty Jung
Jennifer Linn
Irene Payne

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

Chair Duerr called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Charlene Bybee, Jill Dobbs, Naomi Duerr and Annette Rink.

ABSENT: Kitty Jung, Jennifer Linn and Irene Payne.

Jennifer Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

Chair Duerr explained that she had another unexpected meeting to attend and would have to leave about 3:30 p.m., resulting in a probable loss of quorum. Thus, any unfinished business would be continued until the next regular meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2018, MINUTES [For Possible action]

It was moved by Member Rink, seconded by Member Bybee, to approve the February 22, 2018, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried with Members Jung, Linn and Payne absent.

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 Animal Services, narrated a PowerPoint Presentation® copy on file noting that she was available to answer questions ruing the presentation or at the next regular meetings. Ms. Schull drew attention to the increases over time (2006 through 2017) due in part to the increased population of the region. Ms. Schull pointed out that more than 1,000 dogs have been returned to their owners and homes.

There was some discussion about the Next Door App, during which it was noted that any social media tool that can direct pet owners to the Washoe County Regional Animal Services website is helpful. Other discussion noted that all resources to locate missing animals are viable and that a large number of animals have been returned to owners. However, it is vital that the WCRAS be the central resources center for lost animals as there is a better chance of reuniting the animal with their rightful owner. As the discussion continued, it was pointed out that the Sparks Police Department uses the Next Door App that includes contact information. Other discussion suggested that there are some limitations given the size or various neighborhoods which might not make the app very useful.

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Ms. Schull then continued the presentation outlining care, transport and outcomes of injured animals.

Chair Duerr suggested a statistical analysis of percentage of found versus euthanized.

Ms. Schull outlined the higher demands being placed on the department due to increased populations that includes questions about animal welfare, cruelty and animals left in closed vehicles. Officers are being sent to dangerous dog hearings to answer questions and help to address issues and the need to get aggressive dogs off the streets.

There was minor discussion about a previous Lynx permit that had gone to appeal after being denied.

Karen Stark – Washoe County, outlined the Outreach Programs over the past three years noting that Officers are providing information about what to do when being chased by a dog. Additionally, vaccination clinics are held monthly with outreach education being provided to civic groups and schools including a discussion about disaster preparedness and presentations geared to young children. Due to hurricane Katrina regulations have been modified to allow individuals to bring their pets to shelters. Ms. Stark noted that administrative staff is also involved with the process including return of animals and that livestock, reptiles, chickens and other animals are included in the educational programs and rescue operations. Vaccination clinics are also provided to those who cannot afford such care and has helped to reduce the incidents of parvo and other diseases. Ms. Stark then outlined the training programs provided to volunteers and collaborations with other agencies such as Catholic Charities and Meals on Wheels programs.

Amanda Schultz noted that the hope is to continue educating owners to keep dogs on a leash when using a public park. She also noted that the goal is to continue raising the awareness to the public about the requirement to license their dogs. Animal Control Officers are no longer issuing warnings but instead are issuing fix-it tickets for dog licensing. This is essentially a fine for not licensing your dog, however if the dog is licensed within the allocated two weeks, the ticket will be voided. If the dog is not licensed, the fine will be issued.

During the discussion it was noted that complaints about dog feces are being heard at TMWA and Truckee Meadows Parks meetings. As the discussion continued it was suggested that outreach programs be more than simply providing a bag for disposal. It was suggested that a greater emphasis be placed on education that might qualify for certain grant funds.

Ms. Schull then outlined the fiscal update noting that the Assistant Director position remains vacant and is contributing to the salary cost savings in this fiscal year. Ms. Schull noted that Shelter and Field costs are for a 24-hour per day 7-days per week operation. Ms. Schull commented that the budget is well within budget goals.

Ms. Schull highlighted the importance of training in the animal welfare industry as many of our staff provides an array of decision making tasks, independent of direct oversight every day. Ms. Schull provided an overview of training opportunities that WCRAS staff participated in during the third quarter; Julie Winkle from Maplewood Stables hosted her bi-annual First Responder Horse Handling training on how to capture and load large animals during a wildfire or other major event. Ms. Schull also highlighted the Ms. Schull also highlighted the Incline Village Bi-State Evacuation Drill, where WCRAS provided evacuation assistance for three live animal scenarios as well as set up an

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emergency shelter at the evacuation center. Ms. Schull emphasized the importance of a healthy training budget, but noted that professional training is one of the first items to be reduced in the event of a budget shortfall. Ms. Schull then focused on Maddies Pet Project (www.maddiespetprojectnevada.org) that kicked off in April 2018 with a ceremony attended by Governor Sandoval at the Nevada Humane Society. Ms. Schull explained that the program is focused on identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the animal welfare industry in the entire state of NV. Ms. Schull also noted that the intent is to enhance essential pet services and safety nets not only in Northern Nevada but throughout the State of Nevada. Ms. Schull commented that Maddie's Pet Project collaborated and partnered with Humane Network, a grass roots organization. Ms. Schull noted that this is intended to result in positive programs to assist at risk animals.

Ms. Schull recalled a stranded animal incident on March 29, 2018, that included response from TMWA, TMFPD TMWA, NV Energy and Washoe County to assist in getting the stranded deer out of the canal. It appears that the animals were stranded due to the steep embankment and that veterinarians assisted in the rescue of injured animals. Ms. Schull then focused on elusive at-large dogs including one that apparently did not wish to be captured. Ms. Schull noted that a WCRAS Officer had taken the time to work on the issue for just under one year in order to gain the confidence of the animal and the cooperation and trust of the community. Ms. Schull then outlined future focus of the agency to bring an Assistant Director on board, Livestock Evacuation team – a two-year project to train volunteers with trucks and trailer that can assist in the transport of larger animals when needed. Additionally, revisions to the SOP's (Standard Operations Procedures), increased customer service to be the best that the agency can be and let the community know that the agency is here to help and in what ways the agency can provide assistance.

Chair Duerr expressed her appreciation for the information provided on the training and special events.

5. UPDATE ON WCRAS FEE SCHEDULE [Non-action item] – An informational update on the current WCRAS fee schedule for services.

Shyanne Shull – Washoe County, explained that the fees had not been updated since being established in 2005. Ms. Schull noted that a study of the fees had been done in 2014 that compared Washoe County rates to the national average as well as other organizations. Ms. Schull noted that the fee schedule would be adopted by the BCC (Board of County Commissioner by Resolution once completed). Ms. Schull noted that the proposed fee schedule can also be reviewed by the ASAB before going to the BCC. It is hoped that the fee schedule will be completed by the end of 2018.

6. UPDATE ON DOG PARKER [For Possible Action] – An informational update on the Dog Parker enclosure system's ability to provide for the safe keeping of dogs outside of businesses within the City of Reno.

Chair Duerr opened the agenda item and requested that a memorandum be prepared on the topic that can be shared with local government officials.

Amanda Schultz – Washoe County, provided an overview of information she had obtained on the Dog Parker system that is used extensively in New York City. One of the issues identified by Washoe County staff is the potential increase in abandoned dogs using this system. Ms. Schultz explained

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that the Dog Parkers are monitored by the company's headquarters office that has obtains and retains detailed information on the pet owner using the system. Ms. Schultz explained that the Dog Parkers are equipped with monitored ventilation and heating units to maintain interior temperatures and is also monitored by the corporate offices. Staff is dispatched to the dog parker location when necessary and has the ability to remove animals when necessary.

During the discussion it was pointed out that the maximum time an animal can be left in a specific location is not more than 180-minutes. Other discussion suggested a detailed report on the Dog Parker System that Managers and elected officials can review before determining whether or not to move forward. Other discussion suggested that perhaps it would be more prudent to contact individual business owners in areas such as the Mid-town are of the City of Reno to determine if there is any interest. It was noted that there are four major entities involved in the region, the Cities of Reno and Sparks, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, and University of Nevada, Reno. As the discussion continued, it was suggested that the Mid-Town are might be a good location for a pilot project if business owners are interested. Other discussion pointed out that the unit are tied to the business owners' electrical system and includes a battery back-up system. Discussion then noted the potential modified to local zoning code that would allow the use to share public rights-of-way in a manner that does not block pedestrian or other access.

Ms. Schultz noted that she had not received a response from the Brooklyn, New York, Animal Shelter on what, if any, issues had been identified with the system.

Member Rink commented that while this appears to be a good idea, additional information is needed to make an informed decision and that the region does not necessarily need to be on the cutting edge.

Member Bybee suggested that perhaps business owners should work with the local jurisdictions to help develop appropriate ordinance and guidelines based on what has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions.

Chair Duerr noted that it had taken two years to bring forward a dock-less line bike ordinance and that this would provide an alternative to leaving animals inside a locked and closed vehicle when going to businesses that are not necessarily pet friendly.

It was moved by Chair Duerr, seconded by Member Dobbs, to direct Washoe County Regional Animal Services to compile the information memorandum form that can be provided to the Mayors of Reno, Sparks and others to obtain their input on the proposal to the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Board.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried: Members Jung, Linn and Payne absent.

- 7. UPDATE ON WCRAS WELFARE AND CRUELTY CASES** – [Non-action item] - An informational update on staff training, process improvement and case tracking on WCRAS animal welfare and cruelty cases. Based on a recent training workshop as well as improved

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departmental, internal processes, staff will provide a summary of strategies to support successful case preparation and prosecutions.

Shyanne Schull- Washoe County, provided an overview of the February 2018 field staff training to identify different types of animal cruelty and available resources to determine what type of investigation should be conducted and identify any weaknesses that can be addressed thus providing a more transparent process and integration with the Washoe County District Attorney's Office in prosecuting cruelty cases successfully. Ms. Schull will continue to provide updates as the process moves forward.

- 8. 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. The Board may request that items be placed on a future agenda for discussion and possible action. The next regular meeting of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board is scheduled for August 30, 2018.*

There was some discussion about a modification of the next meeting date to accommodate review of pending legislative items that may be submitted during the 2019 Legislative Session. A consensus was reached to meet August 9, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., location to be announced. The August 9, 2018, agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1) An update from the Washoe County District Attorney's office on the formation of a subcommittee to monitor potential legislative proposals; and 2) Update on the fee schedule.

- 9. PUBLIC COMMENT** [Non-action item]

Responding to Linda Peri's inquiry about the meaning of certain abbreviations in the presentation Shyanne Shull explained that CIT meant Citation; and NCP Notice of Civil Penalty.

- 10. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

Chair Duerr adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD IN SESSION ON AUGUST 9, 2018.