



**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee  
Minutes for November 19, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Rayna Ross  
Marsha Patykiewicz  
Madeline Monroe  
Tracy Owens  
Karen Tesmer  
Dr. Imran Rana  
Lily Yap  
Destinee Wright

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Robin Ghio  
Lisa Turner

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Karen Tesmer, via tele-conference at 6:31 p.m. with a quorum present.

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Review August 20, 2020 Minutes**

Marsha Patykiewicz moved to approve the minutes, Madeline Monroe seconded.  
**Motion passed.**

**B. Board Member Recognition**

Lily recognized Virginia Stinchfield for her service. Virginia has been volunteering with Grand Prairie Animal Services for almost 20 years and has been serving on the board for over 13 years.

Virginia has recently moved and will no longer serve on the Animal Services Advisory Committee. City Council will appoint a new member.

**C. Improvement Projects: Kennel Renovation & Perimeter Wall**

Lily discuss updates on the kennel renovation project. The project will begin in January 2021 and will be divided into four parts to limit the impact on operations.

Lily also discussed the reconstruction of our retention wall. Our current exterior has begun to crumble in some sections posing a safety hazard. The date for this project to begin has not been determined. Operational impact is not expected for

this project.

The shelter is looking into updating the drainage system in our Quarantine areas. There were not enough funds to put in this type of drainage system for Phase 1. We will be looking at the CIP budget to determine a timeline for this project.

#### **D. Program Updates**

Lily Yap provided recent program updates from last quarter. Lily introduced Destinee Wright as our new Programs Supervisor. Lily also reported that we have cats available for adoption at Petco again. Petco Kennels proved to be great exposure for cats/kittens before COVID-19 impacted having cats onsite.

Lily reported that in August and September, the shelter seized about 70 cats altogether from two hoarding cases. From those cats, we are down to five cats needing to find homes.

A positive aspect from COVID-19 operations, is that staff has been able to spend more time with behavior cases. Recently, the shelter started to follow a cat enrichment program from Jackson Galaxy. The program structure will help staff engage with special behavior cats and aims to make the cats more adoptable.

#### **E. Operations Updates**

Imran Rana discussed recent operational updates.

Imran reported staffing shortages due to COVID has halted clinic operations. Surgeries and heartworm treatment is expected to resume after December 3, 2020. The shelter will be outsourcing TNR cats. Once operations resume, the shelter will begin to schedule oldest surgery and heartworm treatment appointments first.

Staff Veterinary position is open. Because of an abundance in career opportunities for veterinarians and our shelter being high volume the position has been difficult to fill. Lily recognized Imran for building a relationship with RSVP and contract vets to fill our vet needs.

Imran reported that our field department is fully staffed. We should expect to see more field presence in the upcoming weeks as Animal Control Officers are trained.

Imran recognized staff for working together on recent hoarding cases. The hoarding cases created a big influx in our cat population and staff worked hard to care for and disposition them.

#### **F. Loose Dog Issues & Prospective Ordinance Update**

Lily discussed recent nuisance case where four dogs were killing community cats. Our current Dangerous Dog ordinance was not applicable in this case due to definition of state law. GPAS was able prove the dogs a public nuisance, even after the owners appealed. Lily recognized the reporting party in this case and discussed how we rely on community advocates to solidify our cases.

Lily Yap also discussed a short-term goal and a long-term goal to help community cats. A short-term goal to help community cats from stray dogs would be to create outside cathouses that offer elevation and a hiding spot. A girl scout troop recently donated cat shelters that the GP Cat Crew helped distribute to colonies in areas with a high stray volume. A long-term goal would be to revise our public nuisance ordinance. The revision will let the court, in an extreme case, declare dog(s) a public nuisance without having to a history of repeated offenses. Lily also discussed that we are looking at adding a Community Advocate Form to the shelter's web page for citizens to report issues.

**G. Animal Shelter Manager Quarterly Report**

Lily Yap provided quarterly numbers for the months of August, September and October 2020.

Lily recognized staff and the community in the wonderful work they have been doing. Although euthanasia is still occurring for medical and behavioral reasons, it has been minimized. The shelters limited intake process and the current waitlist process has provided staff more capacity to work with cases that are more difficult. The overall intake dropped by two thousand and our Live Release Rate was over 90%.

**H. Public Comments**

Madeline Monroe mentioned that citizens could inform the Fire Department of the number of animals living in their home. The information is stored in the FD's database and used in the event of an emergency at that address. The shelter will look into purchasing window clings to hand out to citizens that will indicate the number of animals in the home.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Thursday, February 18, 2020 at 6:30 pm with the location to be determined.



Lily Yap, Animal Services Division Manager