



# TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

**THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020  
ZOOM MEETING**

<b>Meeting Called to Order:</b>	1:12 pm by Kim Gisler
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<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
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<b>PRESENT:</b> Amy Shuklian, BJ Motko, Damaris Menchaca, Ivy Ruiz, Kim Gisler, Laurie Eberle, Mary Dieterle, Oma Mansfield, Patrick Hamblin
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<b>ALTERNATES PRESENT:</b>
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<b>EXCUSED ABSENCE:</b> Bridgette Davis, Donna Sims, Jamie London, Macy Wilfong
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<b>UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:</b> Augie Gonzalez, Bonnie Heasley, Donna Grigsby
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<b>GUESTS PRESENT:</b> Mary Jungwirth, Cassie Heffington, Marit Erickson
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>AGENDA</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DISCUSSION:</b> <b>Approve the minutes for February 13, 2020</b>
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<b>Discussion:</b> None.
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<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Approve the minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting of February 13, 2020</b>
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<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	Patrick Hamblin	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> :</b>	Laurie Eberle
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<b>Vote</b>	<b>Yes:</b>	Unanimous	<b>No:</b>	
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<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>
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None.
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>AGENDA</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DISCUSSION ITEM:</b> <b>New Business</b>
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**Amending bylaws regarding the Parliamentarian:** Marit apologized, she has this on her to do list. She also has to take out the stuff about the form 700. Patrick mentioned that at the last meeting, they had asked if anyone was interested. Maybe Damaris? Having trouble filling the position. Whether or not we need to remove this section about the parliamentarian out of the bylaws as a required position. Marit will check. If it says the position has to be filled and there is nobody interested, then it will just go unfilled and it will stay there unless we need to take it out. Laurie is the Secretary. Parliamentarian is more about determining the rules of order. Kim asked if we need one because they have Marit. Marit will look at the by-laws. Patrick said ideally he would like to leave it in, in case someone wants to serve in the future. Can go unfilled if no one is interested.

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>AGENDA</b> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>DISCUSSION ITEM:</b> <b>Update from Animal Services</b>
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Cassie said things have been a little crazy around here. Everything revolves around COVID-19. Split our staff in half and did two week rotations. Took in 1100 animals from February until now. During that time we've maintained between and 85-87% LRR. That is with the majority of the animals we've been taking in were sick, injured or aggressive and we have still maintained that live release rate. She is super proud of her team for that.

Operations update. As of right now, the majority of our staff is back. We have about 75% capacity. Right now, we are still rotating an animal control officer in case somebody was to contract COVID-19. We would still have an officer who would not be exposed and could run emergency calls. The majority of the rest of the staff is back and have resumed most normal operations. They are just altered. Instead of when people come to drop off strays, they are triaged. We are attempting to get people to do as much online as possible. To do licensing online or through the mail or on the phone. Licensing or citations online or through email or on the phone. Stray dog is no contact. We have them drive in and park, after getting all of their information over the phone. Making some adjustments to processes. We are seeing an increase in intake now that people are going back to work and we are going back to an open state.

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For the spay and neuter clinic. We were supposed to present to the Board of Supervisors on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The donor is still very much on board. This is her passion. We are her project. Cassie has talked to her multiple times. Just talked to her last week. She still really believes in us and the cause.

In addition to that, because the county has instituted a hiring freeze, Best Friends has agreed to give us \$40,000 to go toward the salary of a veterinarian, if we are able to get the veterinary position approved. As far as other issues, with the hiring freeze please, tell people in the community to be a little patient with us. We have our full time extra help that will be ending on June 30<sup>th</sup>. And we have five positions that are open and frozen. So that's about 40% of our staff at this point who will be frozen and open and not able to be filled. We have requested an exemption for positions but we haven't heard back yet, which is totally understandable. Everything's up in the air right now. So just tell people out in the community to be a little patient with us as far as staffing and timing.

With spay and neuter in general, the Hope Animal Foundation is not doing any transports right now. With the decrease in staffing and the fact that they're not doing transports, we are working out some other things as far as being able to spay and neuter shelter animals and for the public. We're looking at a partnership with Simi Valley, who just opened a clinic in Porterville. They have an immense demand which I think speaks to our need for a clinic as well, because they are filling their appointments right and left.

Laurie asked about pulling animals. Cassie said that rescues have been able to pull the entire time. That's the only way she's been able to maintain our LRR, was that rescues were able to pull. Adoptions are by appointment only so people have to call and make an appointment. We recommend that people look on the website and see who they are interested in prior to coming. As far as rescues go, they have been pulling the entire time. They just have to arrange with Paula or herself.

Kim asked about cats and kittens. Cassie said they have been doing the return to field program. Did almost 300 cats. Because we are having issues getting spaying and neutering done, we have temporarily paused that program. So we are not currently taking in feral cats, because we have no way to get them back out again. Kim mentioned the nice cats and kittens that we send to the pet stores. Cassie said we have about 30 kittens in foster care right now and 6 in incoming. We are still taking in kittens and cats that are sick or injured or otherwise need to be at the shelter. We are asking people to leave friendly and healthy community cats where they are. Studies have shown that they are far more likely to get back to where they come from and survive if they are left where they were found. Utilize social media and other resources to get them home, rather than bringing them to the shelter where they have zero change of being returned. We are still taking in cats and kittens that are sick or injured or need our help. And we have foster homes that are taking care of those that we have here and we're sending some off to rescues. We have our first load of kittens that will probably be making weight to get adopted in the next two weeks. I think we have our first load going to the Porterville clinic next week and then go to get adopted.

We do desperately need volunteers for our PetSmart locations. We can't send staff. We don't have the staff to send to go and clean and feed every day. The SPCA isn't taking any kittens out there right now. So we have to go seven days a week. And in Porterville, Hope for Porterville Pets have cats at PetSmart and we still have our cages there that we can fill. So between them and us, we don't have to staff seven days a week there, but we do in Visalia. Damaris asked what was required. Cassie said that Mary might be able to talk about this. Maybe about an hour to go clean and feed and make sure all of the cats are healthy and let us know if they are not. Laurie mentioned she used to clean at the PetSmart in Visalia. You get into a rotation, even though they're not all your cats and you clean all of the cages. You make sure the blankets are all nice and clean all the litter boxes and the food and water looks good. You want



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to make sure they look presentable and they usually have all the supplies there. Cassie confirmed that they have all of the supplies already there. Laurie said you just need a body to do it. She did it for years.

Patrick mentioned he wanted to piggyback on Cassie's updates as far as the spay and neuter clinic goes. It was one of those timing issues where everything happened at once. The donor had also wanted to be present if possible at the Board meeting. It is a sizable donation. Its \$200,000 and we felt that it would be nice for them to be there and recognize that it is just her and her husband right now who are doing the contribution. As far as Animal Services goes and HHSA, we are still looking at all avenues in order to be able to move forward with this project because it is the key to our success with the county and supporting Animal Services and all they are trying to accomplish. It is an interesting climate overall fiscally and again, we have not had a chance to go before the Board or discuss any of this because we are still looking at what we can do this coming fiscal year. We are committed to this cause and we are trying to look at all avenues and all resources to try and make it happen.

**AGENDA /**  **DISCUSSION ITEM AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Update from Ad-Hoc Committees**

**Education and Outreach:** Not met.

**Volunteer:** Not met.

**Membership:** Not met.

**New Committees:** None.

Patrick mentioned that Mary has a zoom license and can schedule meeting for each of the Ad-Hoc Committees if interested. We have the license assigned to Animal Services.

**AGENDA /**  **DISCUSSION ITEM AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of Committee Alternates**

**Discussion:** None.

**AGENDA /**  **DISCUSSION ITEM: Announcements and Correspondence**

**Discussion:** None.

**AGENDA /**  **DISCUSSION ITEM: Additional Member Comments**

**Discussion:** Patrick wanted to thank Animal Services during these times. They ran into a lot of issues overall. Whether you are city, county or state the Feds are securing supplies and one key area has been disinfectant wipes and those types of things. We thought out of the box. Animal Services has been preparing wipes for distribution and spray bottles with Rescue, the solution they use to clean at the shelter which is an approved cleaning solution. They have been producing large quantities and the staff has stepped up and went above and beyond to make sure that we as an agency, our staff and our programs have that level of comfort knowing that we have the cleaning products necessary to sanitize after clients. He just wanted to recognize Animal Services because this is something that is not normal, and without hesitation they stepped up to the plate and went above and beyond.

**AGENDA /**  **DISCUSSION ITEM: Suggestions for Future Agenda Items**

**Discussion:** Kim said this sounds like this is the way we are going to be doing these now. Patrick said yes, moving forward, for the rest of the calendar year. We will be scheduling all of our meetings through zoom, which is kind of nice that it saves on gas and time driving back and forth. Still under guidelines that require social distancing and it is now our standard process internally that all meetings are taking place by zoom. Marit asked if all members have access to zoom. Ivy is here and she is voting by chat which is fine. People know they can join via a phone. Still have a call in option. Chat and the waiting room feature. Putting together more of a structured guideline on how to access our meetings and we will probably put that on the bottom of the agenda with the log in and calling information moving forward.



## TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Amy mentioned an FYI, the next Board meeting is on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is an agreement with Best Friends Animal Society for \$40,000. Will be a consent item. Laurie asked to confirm the date.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>AGENDA /</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>DISCUSSION ITEM: Adjourn meeting</b>			
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>Adjourn Meeting @ 1:37 pm</i></b>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	Laurie Eberle	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> :</b>	Patrick Hamblin
<b>Vote</b>	<b>Yes:</b> Unanimous	<b>No:</b>	