



TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

**THURSDAY, SEPT 10, 2020
ZOOM MEETING**

Meeting Called to Order:	1:04 pm by Kim Gisler
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ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Amy Shuklian, BJ Motko, Bonnie Heasley, Bridgette Davis, Damaris Menchaca, Donna Grigsby, Donna Sims, Kim Gisler, Laurie Eberle, Mary Dieterle, Oma Mansfield, Patrick Hamblin
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ALTERNATES PRESENT:

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Ivy Ruiz

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE: Augie Gonzalez
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GUESTS PRESENT: Mary Jungwirth, Cassie Heffington, Marit Erickson
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGENDA / <input type="checkbox"/> DISCUSSION: Approve the minutes for June 11, 2020

Discussion: None

Motion:	<i>Approve the minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting of June 11, 2020</i>
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1st:	Patrick Hamblin	2nd :	Laurie Eberle
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Vote	Yes:	Unanimous	No:	
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PUBLIC COMMENT

None

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGENDA / <input type="checkbox"/> DISCUSSION ITEM: New Business

Election of Chairperson: Kim mentioned that Jamie and Macy had to resign. Have 19 members with 5 vacant positions. Donna G asked about a quorum percentage, thinks it is 50% plus one. Listed the open positions. Patrick said Animal Services will need to contact the Board to post for vacancies. Marit said with who we have, a chairperson does need to be elected. BJ asked if we need to nominate and can we process it today. She nominated Kim. Marit said the person must agree. Patrick said it can be any member. Damaris was 2nd for Kim. Marit said yes to filling the Vice Chairperson position also. Does not see an issue. Kim was nominated for Chairperson and Patrick for Vice Chairperson. For voting, Patrick mentioned a roll call which Mary did. The new Chairperson is Kim and the Vice Chairperson is Patrick. Laurie asked for an updated membership list to be emailed out.

Revision to the By-laws: Marit asked if everyone had seen the redline version of the revisions and how they feel about that. They have a couple of options. So in addition to removing the stuff about the form 700 filing which doesn't apply, she was asked to make the Parliamentary optional. Another option is to make the Secretary optional also. She recommends just the Parliamentary. She had some notes on the bottom regarding conflict of interest. Recommends cutting it out. Most does not apply. A lot of the language came from somewhere else. Copying from the same earlier edition. 1st change is on page 6 (Form 700). Page 7 – Parliamentary optional, made duties to the Chair. Page 11 – Cut out the conflict of interest section. Can take it all out or leave the 1st paragraph. Laurie asked to cut after the word County. BJ said to refer to Marit's expertise. Keep it simple. Marit said to keep the sentence and delete the bullets. Patrick talked about the background. By-laws were made for others. Cutting down to the bare minimum or remove all together because it is not applicable to this committee. Donna G mentioned that this board is different than another one she had sat on years ago. Why do we even have anything in there that is a conflict of interest if we don't have to sign the form? Marit mentioned that it is still kind of in the back of everyone's mind that you know you shouldn't be suggesting to the county that they sign an agreement that benefits someone on the committee. Ideally we'd be catching that. Anything would be disclosed. Marit does not think it is a problem and we can cut it all out. Leave up to

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the word applicable. Oma was not sure what you are agreeing to if the list is not there. Donna G mentioned whatever you suggest is what we should be doing. Marit will take out and disclose a blurb. Need to vote. BJ received a text from Mary D. that she had lost connection and hers was a yes vote.			
Motion 1:	<i>Move to appoint Kim Gisler as the new Chairperson</i>		
1st:	BJ Motko	2nd :	Damaris Menchaca
Vote	Yes: Unanimous	No:	
Motion 2:	<i>Move to appoint Patrick Hamblin as the new Vice-Chairperson</i>		
1st:	Kim Gisler	2nd :	BJ Motko
Vote	Yes: Unanimous	No:	
Motion 3:	<i>Move to approve the recommended changes to the by-laws with the follow up that was presented to the Advisory Committee</i>		
1st:	Patrick Hamblin	2nd :	Laurie Eberle
Vote	Yes: Unanimous	No:	

AGENDA / DISCUSSION ITEM: Update from Animal Services

Cassie talked about how COVID through everyone for a loop. Doing mostly normal operations with car side service. So people are only allowed at the shelter by appointment inside the shelter and inside the dog park. But if someone comes up to the gate with a stray dog that they found on the side of the road, we're letting them in and just serving them at their vehicle and not having people come inside. Because if our staff get COVID we have no one to care for the animals. So we're being pretty stringent about that rule, but otherwise business as usual, as far as services go, maintaining our somewhat modified intake but not with regards to stray dogs.

We recently got an award given to us by Best Friends Animal Society. We were the only California shelter to be recognized in the entire nation and only one of twelve shelters to be recognized at all. That was for Transformation. So for the amount of work that we've done in the last couple of years to transform the shelter from where it was to where it is. She is pretty proud of that from Best Friends Animal Society. Which is a pretty big deal and we are at a live release rate right around 90%. Cassie said it's completely been a team effort. There is absolutely no way that she would have been able to do anything without Patrick. They make a really good team, complement each other's strengths and her staff has been really great about going and trying new things to see what happens.

A lot of work is still needed on the education outreach front and that is the next frontier. The first step is to correct in house and figure out what we need to do in house here to save lives. You can't stop the dam with the lake full. So we had to kind of reduce the flow of intake. Try to figure out exactly what was going on and then we can save lives within the shelter.

Now we're going to be branching out and looking at better community programs, better assistance for people to want to owner surrender their pets, better assistance for people who have feral cat problems. All while still trying to maintain our live release rate. That's just one facet of the multitude of things that we have working right now and our live release rate at this point is hanging right around 90% which is considered the no kill mark. But don't get too excited about that just yet because everything kind of ebbs and flows with the seasons, but we've consistently throughout 2020 been in the 89-92% so we are doing pretty well.

We are not giving up on clinic idea. So we are still going to need your assistance with getting the word out and getting some support for when we do plan go before the Board, probably in the next month or two. We have received donation commitments. The donor is still very much on board and very much in with us. We also received a grant from Best Friends for \$40,000 toward part of the first year of a

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veterinarian salary. Also had a donation from one of our partnerships, our chat partner. Gave us \$20,000 toward the installation of the building. So we have a lot of people that are really believing in us and really believe in where we're going and what we're doing with the shelter. Will need their assistance. Patrick said yes on needing support as we did with the bylaws. Our goal is to try and schedule an appointment with our county administrative officer to give him an update on our proposal that we took before him prior to COVID. Worked out figures for 1st and 2nd years. Not need any county funds. To prepare the site and get it ready to install is about \$50,000. We have the resources to cover that at this time and through other means of cost savings.

Scaled down on the proposal. Hire a vet. Use current staffing. For the second year, add an additional staff member. Costs coming in a lot lower than what they were projecting. BAI for mid-October. Amazing opportunity for the county as a whole. A public health matter as well because we'll be able to provide rabies vaccinations and other vaccinations to the community that they do not have access to. Donna G. said Simi Valley is very busy and it is hard to get an appt. They are doing great work over there. Shannon does \$10 clinics with extra funds.

Cassie mentioned obtaining grants when she was at Hope. She had been the assistant director there. Target low income areas that are enclosed. Do high intensity spay/neuter. Low fee schedule. Donna G. said the \$10 clinics are very successful. Oma has heard great things about it. \$40 per cat.

Patrick said the programs can not keep up with demand. Targeted areas, secure transportation, a lot of great ideas. Cassie talked about solutions for feral cat programs. Provide people with some kind of a solution. Donna G said people bring in feral cats in a cage at Porterville and they will do them without an appointment. If they show up and it is a feral in a trap. And it's like \$10 so they are trying to help with all of the ferals in the area. Trying to get them spayed and neutered. Cassie asked if everyone could keep their eyes and ears open for a good vet willing to work in a shelter environment. As far as the shelter is concerned, we have a really low population right now. Sent almost everyone out to adoption or rescue. Making live release options when they arrive. Average population is 20-30 dogs because we're just doing a better job at keeping up, our intake is lower but not so much lower. It's just the fact that we are able to keep up and had that clean break. So we're not just downing in a huge population of dogs.

Oma asked if the shelter was getting dogs that have been taken out of the fire areas. Cassie said they are currently on standby. Not gotten any dogs due to fire. Creek Fire. Cassie has been in contact with the directors at both of those shelters. We offered assistance, people, supplies and trailers. They are ok. The communities are really stepping up and they are getting donations and volunteers.

Kim said they are all proud to be a part of this just because of people like you and Patrick and the staff. That's why we are all doing this. So congratulations. Patrick talked about how fortunate they are to have a wonderful administration in the agency over the years who have supported the radical changes that have been proposed and the new directions we've taking and also the Board of Supervisors. Cassie said she could not agree more. There's no way that we would be able to do anything that we've been able to do in the last few years without having this administration. Everything has just come together in the last few years to get us where we are. It has been a total team effort.

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

Education and Outreach: None

Volunteer: None

Membership: Mary will notify the Board of Supervisors and they will do a posting. Animal Services will also post this on their website. Patrick believes it is a minimum of a 10 day period that the application



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process is open through the Clerk of the Board and then we'll go from there and see what applications we receive. Patrick said Jamie was the lead of the membership committee. Mary will send out the list of updated committee listings because of those who have resigned from the committee. Donna G believes she was on the committee. Mary said yes. Patrick is willing to participate on the committee as well. We can also work with HNSA to have a post to social media that we are looking for applications for our Advisory Committee. And usually when we post it to our social media, then it will be picked up by the county as well. So there's numerous outlets that it will be posted to and we've got the application on our website for anyone who is interested. Did a roll call for the motions. Patrick made a motion to have the chairperson be a part of the membership committee. Lot a few members due to connectivity.

New Committees: None

Motion 1: <i>Move to add Patrick Hamblin to the Membership Committee</i>			
1st:	Laurie Eberle	2nd :	Donna Grigsby
Vote	Yes: Unanimous	No:	
Motion 2: <i>Move to add the Chairperson to the Membership Committee</i>			
1st:	Patrick Hamblin	2nd :	Laurie Eberle
Vote	Yes: Unanimous	No:	

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: Oma asked if instead of a roll call could do a thumbs up. Patrick said for Roberts Rules, a roll call vote is a better approach. Not sure if emojis are recorded.

Damaris said the dumping of animals is getting worse. In fields in plastic bags. Any suggestions? In the Cutler/Orosi area. Dead animals, no vet in their area. Not have any other option. Not sure if these are pets. In the last 2 weeks, there was a dead dog in a plastic bag and a chicken in another. Getting more frequent. Cassie said this is more frequent this time of the year. See it with large animals also. Rendering plants are full. We do small animal disposal. No increase in dumping live animals in plastic bags. The dogs already dead. See it more in the summertime. Need to have a solution. Officers do investigate all calls. Due to COVID-19 we only have 1-3 officers working. 20-30 calls for 2 officers. Time to get to calls. 1 North, 1 South. Might not be an immediate response. Might take a few days. Road 112 in Orosi in an orchard. Marit suggested adding this to the education and outreach. Laurie said that some prices have increased due to COVID.

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

Discussion: Disposal of animals

AGENDA / DISCUSSION ITEM: **Adjourn meeting**

Motion: <i>Adjourn Meeting @ 2:08 pm by Kim Gisler</i>			
1st:	Laurie Eberle	2nd :	Patrick Hamblin
Vote	Yes: Unanimous	No:	