



TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

**THURSDAY, FEB 11, 2021
ZOOM MEETING**

Meeting Called to Order:	1:06 pm by Patrick Hamblin
---------------------------------	----------------------------

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Amy Shuklian, BJ Motko, Bridgette Davis, Damaris Menchaca, Donna Grigsby, Donna Sims, Ivy Ruiz, Laurie Eberle, Mary Dieterle, Michael Cortez, Michelle Hart, Oma Mansfield, Patrick Hamblin, Tricia Stever Blattler

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Kim Gisler

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE: Bonnie Heasley
--

GUESTS PRESENT: Mary Jungwirth, Cassie Heffington, Marit Erickson
--

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGENDA / <input type="checkbox"/> DISCUSSION: Approve the minutes for December 10, 2020
--

Discussion: None

Motion:	Approve the minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting of December 10, 2020
----------------	---

1st:	Laurie Eberle	2nd:	Donna Grigsby
------------------------	---------------	------------------------	---------------

Vote	Yes:	Unanimous	No:	
-------------	-------------	-----------	------------	--

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

Laurie asked if this was under the ad hoc committee for new deceased animals. If you look in the minutes, we were going to discuss making a new ad hoc committee so that's why we put it underneath there. Donna G asked about starting them all over again, creating a new ad hoc committee. We haven't taken any action the last few months because of COVID. Marit said you have options. As she has mentioned before, you don't want to leave ad hoc committees hanging around for too long, where they become sort of standing committees. Today would be a good day to determine which committees are really wanted and which can be dissolved for the time being. They're easy to recreate as long as there's willingness to have people participate in them.

Patrick asked if there was any new business, any new items that anyone would like to bring before the committee at this time for discussion. If none, then we can move on to the update from animal services.

<input type="checkbox"/> AGENDA / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISCUSSION ITEM: Update from Animal Services

Cassie said, hello everyone and I'm sorry if you can hear in the background. We have Redi Rooter here today fixing leaky pipes. They had to dig up all of the pipes on the side of the shelter and replace them, so they are running some kind of machinery at this point. We did our first pet of the week for the Board of Supervisors meeting this week. I took a pit bull that we had here at the shelter, which was amazing that they allowed me to take a large dog and she's already on her way to Oregon to be adopted. So, it worked out. We had phone calls about her which was great, and she was wonderful in the supervisors meeting and loved everybody.

Statistics wise, so we ended the year with an average live release rate at 89% so that the beginning of the year percentages knocked this down just a little bit below 90.

Intake for this month of January was around 300 animals and we responded to 420 calls for service with 3-4 animal control officers and our live release rate was 95% so not bad.

TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

As far as our spay and neuter building, like we expected, COVID has caused a little bit of delays in some areas. So far we're expecting the building to start building out March 1st and probably be delivered sometime in May or early June. We have a couple of potential solutions for veterinarians, but no current applicants for the full-time position at this point. In the meantime, we will probably be looking at filling surgery days with relief vets, so if anyone knows anybody who's working full time at a practice who might want some extra hours. Our contracted veterinarian has agreed to do some surgery days for us so that we can make good use of the building until we can find a full-time staff person and it won't just be sitting. We're also in talks with San Francisco SPCA regarding some relief work. They have an internship program that they're starting for shelter veterinarians, and so they may be sending us a doctor a couple of times a month to do surgeries as well. So hopefully by summertime we will be full swing doing some surgeries and if not full time, then we will start with what we've got.

She was asked to sit on a panel for something called fear free sheltering. It's a newish last couple of years program. Where basically all of our staff was certified in fear free sheltering and if you have any questions about it, it probably would be easier to just look it up, but basically it's a more progressive form of sheltering where we are treating animals as individuals and treating them for their emotional needs as well as their physical ones. So, she will be sitting on that panel on the 20th of February. We also just recently did an interview with Best Friends who wants to do a story that they are going to potentially pitch to some of our local media after going through our county procedures for that, and she did an interview with them last week for that and all of the amazing things that are happening here.

Cassie mentioned that her staff volunteered. Half of our staff has volunteered so far with the COVID vaccination pods for humans, so our staff is helping to volunteer with that. About half of our staff has volunteered at least once and we are continuing to make disinfecting supplies for various departments at HHS and throughout the county.

That is pretty much all I have. Supervisor Shuklian is on now. I talked about pet of the week and Jelly Bean and how amazing that was and Jelly Bean is already on her way to her new home in Oregon. Through one of the rescues that we work with and they already had a potential adopter and we got several calls about her.

Amy said that she really thought the way everybody in the office reacted, that she was going to get taken home by somebody there, but they'll keep working on that. Cassie said there's always more. Yeah and whenever you think there's someone that you know needs to be highlighted just let me know and we'll put it on the agenda. Cassie said that sounds great. Thank you so much for that opportunity, it was really amazing. Hope to see you again soon. Amy said it'll be nice. She's working on getting their meetings actually live streamed video. They just do audio right now so once that happens that'll really help a lot. Cassie said she also received a message from the Visalia Times Delta after the pet of the week segment as well who want to feature any of the pet of the weeks that we do for the Board of Supervisors meetings in the paper. Amy said that we'll do more of them. Thank you Cassie and all of the staff for helping out with that. Cassie asked if anybody had any questions. She is happy to answer them. That's pretty much all she has.

Tricia asked if there are any other ways they can help with recruitment for the veterinarian position. She sees it often posted on social media and so it feels like she's seen it circulate through a lot of different social media posts. She doesn't know if you feel like that's getting any traction. Does the county also provide you with any paid advertisement support for placement and publications or veterinary search engines, job search engines. Are you doing some of that kind of work? Yes, the county did post on AVMA's website which goes out to all of the vet schools and any and all their email list services as well. We posted on most of the vet schools, have free alumni postings and job career site postings so we posted it on a bunch of those as well. And the county is helping with that. This is an issue that is

TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

prevalent all over the country. They are actually doing a symposium talk just on where did all of the veterinarians go and the fact that we're going to have a severe shortage of veterinarians in the next five years. She's not entirely sure why that is, but they are looking into it and looking into the possibilities of maybe promoting our vet techs to be able to do things like of like a nurse practitioner. All kinds of things that they're looking at right now because this is something that is pretty prevalent everywhere.

She has no doubt that eventually they will find the right person and in the meantime we just want to get started with surgeries and fill those days with relief work so that we're not having the building sit there. Anyone that has any connections or anybody that knows veterinarians or wants to put the word out, that would be phenomenal. The more people we get talking about it, the more likely we are to find somebody. Donna G said vets are overwhelmed right now. Cassie said they put out recruitment efforts throughout the country and actually posted on a few international sites as well. Donna G said she saw it on Facebook and asked if it was out on social media. Supervisor Valero actually emailed some of the recruiters at Cornell for us and reached out because that is his alma mater and she really appreciates that also.

BJ mentioned that since they're going to potentially talk about creating some ad hoc committees, is there anything other than that recruitment that you can think of that we could address that would be helpful to the shelter? Or to you or the staff? Cassie can't think of anything right off the top of her head, but that doesn't mean there aren't any. So possible. Asked Patrick if he could think of anything. Patrick said that's one of the things that once we get into the update from ad hoc committees and discussing those we could expend on this conversation. And that will buy you a couple of minutes to kind of think of something real quick there. Hard to hear over the construction behind her. Have porta potties at the shelter today.

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

Education and Outreach: Do we have any updates from this committee? At this point in time is the Education and Outreach something that we want to keep or possibly dissolve or rename it to something else based on the pending construction that's going on with the shelter and the expansion of services by adding a spay/neuter clinic. Marit mentioned if not meeting, it might be better to dissolve. Have these issues put on the regular agenda for discussion and then if there's something that comes up that needs special attention from a committee to brainstorm ideas or put together a plan of action or something like that, then to create the ad hoc committee at that time. Kind of having these sticking around is not great. Would be better to have the whole group talk about stuff and then create ad hoc committees as they're actually needed rather than kind of leaving them floating out there.

Patrick asked if they wanted to shift, especially in lieu of the spay/neuter clinic that has been added to Tulare County to move that as a regular agenda item. Can be a regular topic on things that animal services may be needing assistance with as far as outreach or educating the community on the new services being provided. Recommendation to go ahead and take that approach and then we can dissolve the education and outreach committee because we haven't been able to do anything and that's the same thing with the volunteer committee right now. We're kind of in limbo because of COVID. We don't have the opportunity to necessarily go out and recruit volunteers and bring volunteers to the shelter, especially with a lot of the new state requirements and laws that have recently passed. We even have to limit our vendors that enter county facilities. Right now, there are a couple of committees that are not being needed at this time, but we can move outreach or something like that to an agenda item. Marit said that would be her suggestion from a legal perspective. Patrick asked if that would require a vote. Marit said yes.

TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Patrick opened it up for discussion on what they just talked about as far as potentially dissolving those two committees and then adding an agenda item that talks about education and outreach opportunities and then that would encompass the spay/neuter clinic and any other activities.

Volunteer: And then dissolving the volunteer committee because of our current pandemic it limits what we have the abilities to do and that's what we're opening up for discussion. Donna G said she was on the Education and Outreach Committee and that with COVID and everything there isn't anything that we've done. She thinks that's a good idea. Patrick said we'll take it one step at a time. Does he have a motion on the table to dissolve the Education and Outreach Ad Hoc Committee? Laurie makes a motion and is seconded by Donna G. So, we have a motion to dissolve the Volunteer Ad Hoc Committee? Motion by BJ and seconded by Laurie. Patrick asked if he could have one motion to dissolve these two committees and add the subject matters to the agenda. Marit said to do as one big motion and then there would just be one roll call vote and then if there's an issue with that individually, then we would need to take them out. Patrick was trying to get ahead by making sure he did each one individually. BJ made a move that they dissolve the ad hoc committees and make them agenda items going forward.

Membership: None

New Committees: None

Possible Ad-Hoc Committee regarding deceased animals: Discussed under New Business

After the vote, Patrick said we will be adding those items to the agenda including the deceased animals. Will make it a regular agenda item instead of creating an ad hoc committee at this time. He thinks that is best in our current environment. Everyone is stretched thin and to create ad hoc committees and train and coordinate, so we will just add that as an agenda item. He asked if Damaris was okay with that.

Motion:	<i>Dissolve Education and Outreach and Volunteer Ad Hoc Committees and add them to the agenda</i>		
1st:	BJ Motko	2nd:	Laurie Eberle
Vote	Yes: Unanimous	No:	

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

Discussion: Tricia asked if all representatives are allowed to have an alternate or only certain positions. She knows on other county committees that she serves on sometimes only the county officials are allowed to have an alternate but not the citizens. Patrick said they structured this committee to where every voting member has the ability to put forward an alternate in the event they can't make the committee meeting. Tricia asked about the process. Do they fill out an application? Patrick said you would put forward the name you would like to service as your alternate in the event of your absence and then we do a motion and go from there. Patrick said this is like Hollywood Squares or something whenever somebody shifts on the screen. Names can be typed into the chat. Donna Sims put forth Stephanie Blackmon. Tricia put forth Sandy Nixon. Tricia asked if polling can be used for votes. Michelle asked if on a city board, if they can also be alternate on this. Yes.

Tricia asked if polling can be available for votes. Patrick was going to give everyone an update under additional member comments. During the pandemic process it was realized that teleworking was going to become a major part of people's lives and so they've been transitioning to Office 365 and the Microsoft platform so that in the near future, we probably will be transitioning from zoom meetings to Microsoft team meetings which has a lot more functionality. They have the ability he thinks to raise your hand. He's been on a lot of state calls and it goes very smooth. It's got a little bit more functionality than zoom does and he didn't know about the polling aspect in zoom. We are going to be transitioning to Microsoft teams so we will provide you with sufficient notice. If you have any questions on accessing teams or any of the functionality we will try and put out some kind of literature to make it easier on everyone as we transition. I know for staff that it's been an issue making this transition over to the new platform. Tricia mentioned to Patrick if you hover over the reaction button at the bottom of the

TULARE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

screen you have a yes button and an X button, like for a checkmark yes and an X no and you have a raise hand feature and all those things are under the reactions. Patrick's looks different. Tricia said she has a subscription to the service so maybe it comes with different levels. Others found the reaction buttons also.

Michelle had a question about the alternate. Can they be an alternate if they're on a city animal services committee? Are they able to be here as my alternate or would that be too much of a conflict of interest? Patrick said it shouldn't be. Michelle said she would let her know and if she says yes, she'll let us know at the next meeting.

And then Donna Sims put forth Stephanie Blackmon as her alternate. Voting by thumbs up. Marit is not sure if this is too hard for Mary to keep track of. Patrick counted everyone and got a yes pretty much on everyone with the thumbs up. The thumbs drop off by the time you get to them. Marit asked Mary if she was able to see to get a count for everybody to see whether they voted yes or now. May said she can see it okay. Patrick asked if anyone else on committee had alternates. Michelle said she heard back from her person. She is interested in being her alternate. Can she squeeze it in right now or wait until the next meeting? Patrick said she can squeeze it in right now. She added the name to chat. Patrick asked if we had a motion. Laurie made a motion to approve Jolene for Michelle's alternate. Amy seconded. Marit preferred a roll call.

Motion 1:	Motion to approve Sandy Nixon as Tricia Stever Blattler's alternate		
1st:	Michelle Hart	2nd:	Laurie Eberle
Vote	Yes: Unanimous	No:	
Motion 2:	Motion to approve Stephanie Blackmon as Donna Sims' alternate		
1st:	Damaris Menchaca	2nd:	Oma Mansfield
Vote	Yes: Unanimous	No:	
Motion 3:	Motion to approve Jolene Huckabay as Michelle Hart's alternate		
1st:	Laurie Eberle	2nd:	Amy Shuklian
Vote	Yes: Unanimous	No:	

<input type="checkbox"/> AGENDA / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISCUSSION ITEM: Announcements and Correspondence
Discussion: None

<input type="checkbox"/> AGENDA / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISCUSSION ITEM: Additional Member Comments
Discussion: None

<input type="checkbox"/> AGENDA / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISCUSSION ITEM: Suggestions for Future Agenda Items
Discussion: Talked about the weather and the upcoming vaccine clinics. Patrick said that if they make any changes to our format, they will try and get information out in advance of the meeting so you can better navigate teams. If having any issues will go ahead and stick with the zoom platform at least for the April meeting. He hopes everyone stays healthy and safe especially during these interesting times.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGENDA / <input type="checkbox"/> DISCUSSION ITEM: Adjourn meeting			
Motion: Adjourn Meeting @ 1:47 pm by Patrick Hamblin			
1st:	Laurie Eberle	2nd:	Amy Shuklian
Vote	Yes: Unanimous	No:	