



City of Las Cruces®

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Council Work Session Summary

Meeting Date July 25, 2016

TITLE: ZERO IN 7 PROGRAM.

PURPOSE(S) OF DISCUSSION:

- Inform/Update
- Direction/Guidance
- Legislative Development/Policy

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

See Attachment "A", Proposal for the establishment of a City of Las Cruces Animal Advisory Committee which was provided by the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, Frank Bryce, President.

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

1. Attachment "A", Proposal for the establishment of a City of Las Cruces Animal Advisory Committee.

Proposal for the establishment of a City of Las Cruces Animal Advisory Committee

The following discussion information and proposal are provided by the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico, Frank Bryce, President

Executive Summary

For quite some time, there has been a lack of collaborative and cooperative accomplishment or resolution to a wide range of animal welfare issues between the City of Las Cruces Animal Department, the Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley, the animal advocacy organizations and the Las Cruces residents. Similar communication, cooperation, resolution issues have been and are being addressed by the existence of 26 Las Cruces Boards, Commissions and Advisory Committees. Eleven of these are designated as Advisory Committees.

Despite good intentions, the continuing friction and lack of genuine partnering on the part of animal welfare and animal control entities has not been able to be addressed with work sessions within the City Council due to the inability to bring together the interested and vested parties for open discussion and resolution.

The establishment of this suggested Animal Advisory Committee will allow needed identification of concerns, development of mutually acceptable resolution initiatives, guidelines, actions and plans to present to the City Council for consideration and action.

Several models for the make-up of this advisory committee are provided for review and discussion.

Background Information

For some time the relationship between the community, the animal advocacy groups, the Las Cruces Animal Control Department and the Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley has been disjointed, limited in any broad effort to address issues interwoven throughout the community, the animal control department, and animal advocacy organizations involved. This lack of cooperation and collaboration has contributed to the continuing of less than optimally effective approaches and solutions to animal care and control, and the existence of mistrust and fractious relationships between those entities involved including the animal control department, the animal shelter, city residents and animal advocacy organizations. Creation of an "Animal Advisory Committee" on a model of currently established community animal advisory committees in other communities would provide the opportunity for the "committee" to hear, discuss, develop, and offer appropriate address, resolutions, actions or modifications for animal welfare approaches for consideration by the city council.

Recently, there has been a dedicated effort to consolidate the efforts of the animal welfare organizations to address the issues and concerns shared by those entities. The Coalition for Pets and People, involving most of the local animal welfare groups and concern private individuals, has been attempting to perform such a combined approach to reach their shared goal of "Zero in Seven", no euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals. This group's report has recently been added to the monthly meeting agenda of the Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley. This was suggested in an attempt to expand and contribute to a broader dialogue, understanding and an awareness of issues and encourage cooperation between these groups.

While this is a step in the right direction, there is very limited access to fully and formally discuss, understand, develop and seek action on animal welfare concerns, plans and proposals at city council meetings. There is no current established protocol for those involved to bring a concern, shared proposal or program forward to the city council for their evaluation and consideration other than a City Council Work Session such as we are having today. Unfortunately this approach puts direct responsibility for action on the City Council without prior adequate information, combined input and agreement from the vested interests. The vested interests either fail participate or to continue to be excluded effectively from the development of mutually agreed upon resolutions and actions. The establishment of an Animal Advisory Committee would effectively "assign a seat" at the table for vested interests and responsible government authorities to address concerns and develop actions for the City Council to consider.

The following examples of animal advisory committees have all been successful to some degree and hopefully serve as a starting point for development of the Las Cruces Animal advisory committee. These have been somewhat abbreviated as to committee membership, duties and meetings.

San Jose, California

The Animal Advisory Committee will lead our community in proactive and progressive approaches to end pet overpopulation by promoting low cost spay and neuter, education, and legislative changes.

The Animal Advisory Committee will be a regional leader in taking action where needed in all animal welfare issues for our community.

The Animal Advisory Committee will promote the humane treatment of animals.

The Animal Advisory Committee will be available and responsive to our community concerning wildlife and domestic pet issues.

The Animal Advisory Committee will work with San Jose Animal Care and Services to provide a safe haven for every animal.

\Fredrick County, Maryland

Mission Statement

The mission of the Companion Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (CAWAC) is to ensure that county programs, policies and procedures adequately address the welfare of companion animals and to provide a public forum for citizen concerns and complaints.

Duties of the Committee

Advising the Board of County Commissioners and other county officials on any programs, policies, procedures, laws or ordinances that affect companion animal welfare. The Advisory Committee shall not have a role in the day-to-day operations and management decisions of the Animal Control Division

- Reviewing the operation of the Frederick County Animal Control Center functions and offer suggestions or make recommendations
- Reviewing and evaluating citizen concerns / complaints regarding companion animal welfare issues and make recommendations as appropriate

Sacramento, California
MISSION STATEMENT

To provide vision, leadership, public policy development, and recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council in order to meet the present and future needs of the City of Sacramento community's animal care services.

PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

- To provide advisory recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on strategies, policies, and programs designed to ensure quality care for the animals housed at the Sacramento Animal Care Services Center
- To increase awareness of animals available for adoption at the Center
- To increase awareness of the importance of spaying/neutering animals
- To educate the community regarding the humane treatment of animals and other matters related to Sacramento's animal care responsibilities
- To provide a forum for public discussion of Sacramento's efforts to bring about positive change and improvements at the Center
- To serve as a liaison to the Mayor, the City Council, and the city staff on behalf of the community in matters related to Sacramento's Animal Care Services

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

- Promotes awareness of services, procedures, and compliance with state regulations
- Recommends programs, services and improvements
- There are seven members serving two-year terms. Members consist of one licensed veterinarian, one municipal official, one person officiating daily at an animal shelter / serving as the City of Plano Animal Services Manager, one rep from an animal welfare organization, and the remainder Plano residents

Mesquite, TX

The Animal Control Advisory Committee is a five-member advisory committee established to:

Review operations of the City Animal Shelter

- Provide guidance to the Animal Control Division in complying with all provisions of the Health and Safety Code
- Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the City Council

Murphy, Texas

The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee meets to discuss ideas that will help ensure that the animal shelter is in compliance with the state department of health rules pertaining to animal shelters.

The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee is a Council-appointed committee composed of 1 licensed veterinarian, 1 municipal official, 1 person whose duties include the daily operation of the animal shelter and is employed by the city as an Animal Control Officer, 1 representative from an animal welfare organization and 2 citizens.

Broward County

The Animal Care Advisory Committee does not operate in a regulatory or authoritative capacity, but rather is available to assist Animal Care concerning animal issues or shelter programs and services.

The Committee also helps to administer the Animal Care Trust Fund and accepts and disburses gifts, grants and other awards of money paid to Broward County for the use and benefit of animals in the County.

El Paso, Texas

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee shall act as an advisory committee to the Mayor and City Council in efforts to promote close cooperation between the city and all private citizens, organizations, institutions and agencies interested in the rights and responsibilities of companion animal ownership, companion animal care and public health, and oversight of companion animal issues and protection; may advise the City Council on proposed changes to the city's ordinances; shall perform such other duties as may be requested from time to time by City Council; may annually prepare and provide written report to City Council the provides information regarding the activities and recommendations of the Committee.

There are many more examples of Animal Advisory Committees that can be provided if desired. Most general approaches of these committees are similar and offer the concerned and responsible entities the opportunity to meet and develop solutions and recommendations for presentation prior to City Council consideration.