

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Commission Chambers
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121
August 15, 2013
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: DAVIS, RICK (RD)
 GIPAYA, MARY (MG)
 LAYNE, KAREN (KL)
 PRATER, MICHAEL, M.D. (MP)
 WHITE, DEBBIE DVM (DW)
 VALENZUELA, ALMA (AV)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded

3. Approval of April 18, 2013 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded

4. Discuss emerging issues and information among Advisory Committee Members; and take appropriate action.

DW – in May at my office we had a case of a bat that had tested positive for rabies and we have had two additional bats test positive for rabies. Rabies awareness day is coming up in September and I know it is too late to push awareness but we have a lot of animal organizations so I thought it would be an opportunity to look at our local rabies concerns for pets that are not vaccinated. Bats do get inside the home. This could be a good educational place where we can play a role for pet owners. KL – can we get Roseanne to send this out to all the animal groups because they are usually pretty good at disseminating information? DW – one individual was not aware; they actually brought the bat to my office. SNHD did print, TV and radio ads but it did not get around enough. Maybe letting them know not to go near a bat that looks sick or injured or out during the day. KL – can you provide some guidance? DW – I think it is too late for Rabies Awareness Day, September 28, but social media and other activities.

MP – we discussed the horse tripping debate. Was there a recommendation on that? It is back in the news again. KL – it is not an agenda item tonight so we cannot take action. We would have to request CCAC to put it on the next agenda to take action. We need to make sure that anyone who has something to say about that item will have been notified that the Committee will be talking about it.

KL would like the Committee to think about our term. We have a one-term appointment and one of the things we should propose to the Commission would be to have a two-year term with staggered terms. We have three new members this year and given the number of meetings we have, it is hard to get involved if we only have four meetings in a year. Is that something the Committee would want to put on the agenda for the next meeting? MP thinks continuity is important so yes.

5. Comments by the General Public

KL – when we looked at Preliminary agenda we thought we should look at SB 272 because we had not talked about it before and we recognized that the BCC vote was coming up. We started talking about the agenda last Monday. We knew the BCC vote was coming up on Tuesday and we would not be able to do anything about that meeting so we were going to talk about procedures CCAC would be putting in place if a permitting process were granted. When the BCC decided they were going to deny that proposal and did not take action, there was no reason to put it on the agenda. We put out the agenda for this meeting on Thursday of last week as we have time constraints due to the Open Meeting Law. We found out on Friday the BCC was going to reconsider that item. The items will be introduced at next Tuesday's meeting. There are three items. If you go to the Clark County Agenda you will see those three items. Because they are being introduced, they will not normally take comments. Item 67 talks about a moratorium. That Item will have comments taken at the BCC meeting. Since it wasn't put on our agenda, we cannot take action. We are willing to hear comments tonight if you wish to speak about the horse-tripping proposals. We will make sure that information is provided to the BCC should they ask. If you have concerns about this issue, we urge you to appear at the Commission meetings. The introduction for the two is next Tuesday and then they will be heard two weeks later. There will be another meeting September 3. You can look at the agenda and listen to that meeting.

SUSAN RUSSELL (SR) asked if it would be appropriate to bring up some issues with rescues. Things we see on Craig's List and rescues that are not really rescues that have never been vetted. We are seeing horrific things. I know everyone in this room has seen something they thought was not appropriate and we would like to make recommendations on what we think are good solutions to curtail the behavior. One of which is when an animal is found running on the street, instead of taking it to your rescue and adopting it out at PetSmart, it should be documented through AFI where most people are going to look for their lost animal. They are not at PetSmart and Southern Highlands looking for their pet. We would like to know if we can conduct some meetings so everyone who has concerns about what they are seeing on Craig's List or have experienced with a rescue can sit down and talk and we can put that information together and give you the most detailed information or can we put it on the agenda and open it up to the public so we can comment and more people in the audience will have the opportunity to discuss some of the things we are seeing and how we would like to see it handled?

KL- we may talk about that at the end of the meeting when we set the date, time and agenda for the meeting.

JANICE RIDONDO (JR) – what happened with the Gold Standards? I remember a meeting talking about the procedures we put in place to have rescues be decided by the AAC. I am pleased to hear that you will possibly go more than one year for sitting members. Do you have any idea what the plan is? Is that going to come up again? The BCC can take public comment on the introduction to the ordinances if they choose but there is no way to know if they will or not. If they have a full house, they may take public comment.

GINA GREISON (GG) – I wanted to talk about horse roping which is before the BCC again and which we fought last Tuesday. I hope the members of the Committee have seen the backroom deals, in my opinion, that have occurred for this to happen. I would love for members of the AAC to put forward their own personal opinion not as a representative of the Committee. This is wrong. Allowing the intentional throwing of a rope at a horse's leg is taking a step backwards. It is already banned in our ordinance. We worked very hard for a year to strengthen Title 10 to not allow that. It sends a bad message how this happened with agreements between State Legislators and County Commissioners without the benefit of public input. It sends a message that backroom deals are okay in Clark County.

I also have an issue about lost pets. I know when people find a lost pet they are terrified to take it to Lied. Everybody knows it. A lot of the rescues will take in an animal; find a foster that will take it. I don't know if there is a truly workable procedure for reporting those animals as lost because we know the owners will head to the shelter to look for those pets and if they are in a rescue or foster home and there is a breakdown

in communication.... I know the legitimate rescues run an ad in the paper, contact Lied, but I am not sure everyone knows the processes and how that works. Sometimes people will keep a pet in their home for a couple weeks, put flyers up, try to find an owner and when they can't, two to four weeks later, they are taking that dog to the shelter because they can no longer keep it and the owners have stopped looking. We need to come up with a better way to reunite lost pets with their owners and work with the shelter and rescue groups to have a central location where everyone is going to look.

KL – last year we had multiple meetings throughout the summer with a good representation of rescue groups. We developed Gold Standards for rescue groups trying to commit rescue groups to certain standards since we are having issues rights now. This Committee last year approved those standards as well as a strategic plan that talked about what the rescues were going to do; what Animal Control was going to do, what the County was going to do and what the Animal Foundation was going to do. That was submitted to the Commission. My understanding is it hasn't moved along very far simply because for the first six months of this year we had the legislative session. This Committee has suffered from that in several respects because everybody's been waiting for that legislative session to finish. As far as I know that is still in front of the Commissioners. We were not able to do that much in terms of the rescue groups. I don't know if you are aware that AB60 passed and that gave the NV Secretary of State's office the ability to require certain information from 501c3 and non-profit organizations that are not 501c3s. They will be putting that information on their website and identifying those groups. We hope that will help to some extent. I am not opposed to an agenda item and am looking to the Committee on that to talk about the issue but I have to say there is a forum for that. The meetings we had with the rescue subcommittees that were actually set up to talk about those items, maybe we can reconstitute that. We don't have a lot of time left but we can certainly set up a meeting and notify everyone and the subcommittee can bring back a report to the Committee once they have met. In terms of notification of lost dogs, we are required to notify Animal Control. On the website for AFI there is a place for Lost and Found Pets where you can indicate you found a pet. If we get a photo we usually send it to someone at AFI to let them know we have that animal. We can talk about that process but it goes back to if you have a rescue that is not going to follow through and do what they are supposed to be doing, I don't know that there is a lot the County can do to deal with that.

DARRY DUNCAN (DD) – the law requires them to notify Animal Control if they find a dog. As far as getting a dog back to their owner, I stress to people that if someone is looking for their dog, the shelter is the place they are going to look for it. Without having mandatory laws saying you have to turn it into the shelter, there is not really any way for us to enforce that. KL – maybe DW would volunteer to sit on that Committee with me as the second person. DW – yes absolutely. KL - Maybe you (DW) and AV can discuss some things that can be done in terms of social media regarding the bats. Roseanne has a list of all the rescue groups and she can send something out. If you want to get Animal Control involved and write something, I am sure she would be willing to send it out to the rescue groups. There are 40 to 45 people on that list and they will send out that information as well. DW - that is something within my comfort zone. KL – clearly we don't want to interfere with anything CCAC would be doing. If you and AV want to provide a report about what can be done and have CCAC look at it, and send it out.

6. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the Commission Chambers

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm