

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Commission Chambers
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
April 23, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: **FRANCO, KIMBERLY (KF)** – Veterinarian
 GIPAYA, MARY (MG) – Large Animal Owner or Equine Conservation
 Group, Vice Chair
 SAYEGH, SUSAN S. (SSS) – General Public, Chair
 SMITH, PAMELA (PS) – Animal Breeder or Handler
 VOSS, TIFFANY (TV) – Student

MEMBERS ABSENT: **WILLIAMS, KEITH (KW)** – Non-Profit Humane Group

- 1. Call to Order**
SSS called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call**
Members announced themselves and stated that Keith Williams was absent.
- 3. Public Comment**
SSS opened public comment. No public comment. Public comment is closed.
- 4. Approval of Agenda**
SSS asked for a motion to approve the April 23, 2015 agenda, motion by PS, second by MG, all in favor, no opposition. Motion passed.
- 5. Approval of the February 19, 2015 and November 20, 2014 Minutes**
SSS asked for approval of the Minutes. PS motioned for approval. Jason Allswang (JA), Chief of Code Enforcement, advised that the legally posted agenda listed item #5 to approve both the February 19, 2015 and the November 20, 2014 meeting Minutes. PS motioned to approve February 19, 2015 Minutes, second by MG. Motion passed. MG motioned to approve the November 20, 2014 Minutes, second by PS. Motion passed.
- 6. Discuss Vaccination Clinic.**
SSS advised that this was an item that she had tabled. Vaccination clinics were initiated by Karen Layne. SSS asked if the board would like to see what options were available to try to do this again. JA advised this was a partnership with The Las Vegas Valley Humane Society (LVVHS) and stated that this is a public comment item if Karen Layne would like to provide information. Karen Layne, president of the LVVHS, detailed the previous vaccination clinic that was partnered with LVVHS. Harold Vasko, Heaven Can Wait (HCW), provided the veterinary services and vaccines. Clark County Animal Control (CCAC) provided the trailer for the clinic portion. Karen Layne suggested that the vaccination clinic be in an area that is under serviced. Karen Layne advised that her organization would be willing to contribute to the costs. Harold Vasko advised that they are willing to partner again to do a bigger and better vaccination clinic and provided suggestions. MG offered the use of Horseman's Park. SSS asked about how this type of event was marketed. Harold Vasko advised a Spanish radio station is the method that was previously used. MG advised that the area of Horseman's Park is an area that is in need of a clinic such as this.

SSS spoke that the time of year is a consideration. Janice Ridondo, Clark County resident, advised that Dr. White has shown interest in doing such clinics. Gilcrease is under new management and has shown interest in doing a vaccination clinic. Dr. Martinez, Caring Hands, has offered his services. Karen Layne advised to get a committee together to handle the details. May through August is too hot. JA advised that the Whitney Community center is another suggestion in that area. Harold Vasko offered his clinic as a location. The only issue with the HCW clinic is the traffic. JA advised that only service animals are allowed in county facilities and the clinic would not be held indoors. Target months are October and November. JA advised that a member of the AAC can meet with him and the community partners to organize the event. This is to be a standing agenda item to revisit and discuss any updates.

7. Discuss School Animal Clubs

TV stated that her school, Palo Verde High School, does not have an animal welfare club. An animal welfare club will begin in the fall. If there are 30 students on the committee that would only be 1% of the student population, the hope is for 30 student members. The club would be called, SRPO, Students for Responsible Pet Ownership, and its goal is to teach kids that every pet deserves a home but that not every home deserves a pet. The committee will meet monthly to discuss various animal friendly topics and will have speakers from different rescues, organizations, and hopefully animal control. The committee will do volunteer efforts, perform fundraisers and raise awareness on issues such as spay and neuter and responsible pet ownership. It is this committee's goal to have CCSD make such a group a part of the Clark County curriculum. PS offered to come and speak with the committee. SSS asked if there was any literature that is provided by the club. TV advised that they are working on this. SSS opened for public comment. Janice Ridondo spoke of the loss of Commissioner Giunchigliani's husband and she asked that we reach out and give her our condolences. JA clarified that this is the time for public comment on agenda item # 7. Kat Kyle, President of the Southern Nevada Herpetological Society, stated she would be happy to do a presentation for her committee. Karen Layne advised that there are currently three high schools that have animal groups. The group is called Paws for Change and Tiffany may want to reach out to them for guidance. Public comment closed.

8. Discuss and Provide Recommendations on Emerging Issues

PS stated that she wanted to discuss what a commissioner had mentioned about changes to regulations for larger properties and working dogs being kept intact. JA advised that we cannot take comment, but if the committee wanted to discuss this, we can add it to a future agenda. Title 10 changes are on hold at this time and these issues did not make it into the current changes to code. JA stated that part of the AAC responsibilities is to advise Clark County of suggested code changes and uprising issues. SSS would like to hear public comment and asks that this be put on a future agenda. SSS opened public comment.

Melissa Boyd stated there is an issue with the Home Again microchips that were put in by The Animal Foundation (TAF). Melissa Boyd adopted a dog from the NSPCA approximately one year ago; trying to register the dog was difficult because TAF was denying this due to them claiming ownership. She pays the yearly fee for monitoring. Upon renewal only two of her three dogs were listed. The dog that was adopted from the NSPCA was gone from her account. When looked into, Home Again said that the dog was still owned by TAF. This issue was resolved but other rescues and many other dog owners are now having this same issue. Melissa Boyd attempted to speak with TAF about this issue and was dismissed with the explanation that the problem is with Clark County Animal Control. She is asking for assistance in getting this problem fixed, she is fearful that if the animals get lost or go missing, the chip is going to show TAF as the owner and the proper owner may not get their animal back. Melissa Boyd offered handouts; JA advised that they cannot be accepted as this is public comment on item # 8. JA advised that we cannot get involved in how Home Again does business.

Joshua Cowart, Henderson resident, encourages the committee to put an item on the agenda to discuss the Trap, Neuter, and Release program for feral cats. It is his belief that the program is detrimental to the native species. To release the cats back into the environment goes against Fish and Wildlife Services. JA advised that because KW was not going to be at tonight's meeting, this agenda item was postponed. Public comment closed.

9. Comments By the General Public

Melissa Boyd asked that what she discussed previously be added as an agenda item to a future meeting. JA advised that he would speak to her after the meeting.

Karen Layne stated she is not clear why the Trap, Neuter, and Release program would be brought back. This program was established in 2008 and she believes it is successful in bringing down the number of animals going into the shelter.

10. Adjournment

SSS made a motion to adjourn. Second motion by PS, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.