MEMBERS PRESENT:  GIPAYA, MARY (MG) – Large Animal Owner or Equine Conservation Group, Vice Chair 
PAMELA, SMITH (PS) – Animal Breeder or Handler 
SAYEGH, SUSAN S. (SSS) – General Public, Chair 
VOSS, TIFFANY (TV) – Student 
WILLIAMS, KEITH (KW) – Non-Profit Humane Group

MEMBERS ABSENT:  FRANCO, KIMBERLY (KF) – Veterinarian

1. Call to Order
SSS called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

2. Roll Call
Members announced themselves and stated Kimberly Franco was absent and excused.

3. Public Comment
SSS opened public comment. No public comment. Public comment closed.

4. Approval of Agenda
SSS asked for a motion to approve August 22, 2015 agenda, motion by PS, second by MG. All in favor, no opposition. Motion passed.

5. Approval of the July 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes
SSS asked for approval of the July 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes. MG motioned for approval, second by KW. All in favor, no opposition. Motion passed.

Jason Allswang (JA), Chief of Code Enforcement, explained the Title 10 draft changes have been given to the public and committee. JA recommended questions and public comment be used to make motions of change.

6. Discuss and Make Recommendations on Proposed Changes to Titles 10, 18, and 30 Regulating Animals
MG questioned if 10.04.225 was missing the definition of “rescue organization”. JA stated it is best clarified under 10.04.253. KW introduced himself and would like changes to 10.24.10 clarified. KW expressed concerns about 10.18 in its entirety and the absence of 10.34 concerning exotic animals. He gave a summary of the current 10.06 and expressed the negative outcomes to changing the ordinance. PS questioned tagging livestock in 10.08.070. SSS questioned the removal of imminent danger from 10.06.060. Steve Sweikert (SS), District Attorney, recommended the removal due to its misleading verbiage. SSS would like to see foster permits within 10.08.160. JA addressed concerns of KW. Section 10.18 and 10.34 concerning exotic animals were from previous years and the changes in front of the committee, currently, are changes drafted November of 2012. SS clarified when cats are impounded by citizens with partial identification, the impound fee goes towards providing sheltering services to those cats. KW disagreed with the impound fee approach.

SSS opened public comment.
Karen Layne, Las Vegas Valley Humane Society (LVVHS), expressed her concerns with passing a more substantial ordinance presented to the legislature and financial responsibility should be a big part of the ordinance. Layne would like to see specific changes to dogs left outside in the heat. John Hiatt, 8180 Placid Street, believed there should be differentiation between the definition of exotic animals and household pets, sections 10.04.183 and 10.04.203. He would also like the definition of a nuisance cat to be further explained. Melody Hitzhusen, 1639 North Valley Drive, asked for the permit process in 10.18.010 (c) to be clarified. Heather Carpenter, Regional Administrative Programs Director for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Clark County resident, agreed exotic animals should not be privately possessed. Annoula Wylderich, Clark County resident, would like to see tethering prohibited or reduced to specific hours in ordinance 10.32.140. In section 10.18, Wylderich favors a stronger ban on ownership of wild animals. Susan Easton, 3060 El Camino Road, volunteers for the Community Cat Pilot Program (CCPP) and would like an expansion of the full program. Michelle Quigley, 655 N. Mojave Road and Director of Operations at the Animal Foundation (TAF), explained the successes of CCPP and how further expanding 10.06 will benefit the community. Peter Wolf, Best Friends Research Analyst and resident at 5001 Angel Canyon Road of Utah, supports Return to Field (RTF) of the CCPP in Clark County. He explained the benefits of the program in other areas and urges for support of the program. Kimberly Elman, 4511 Mission Meadows Circle, stated she supports the continuation and expansion of the CCPP. Cheryl Collins, 6550 Monument Point Street, volunteers for the CCPP and would like to see the program become a community-wide effort.

Warren Hardy, representing HSUS, stated the legislature is concerned that the surrounding states regulate exotic animals while Nevada does not. Hardy explained the HSUS edits to the proposed changes and stressed the importance of regulation at the local level. Holly Sizemore, Director of Best Friends Animal Society (BFAS), overseeing the CCPP, stressed the need for humane actions needed to deter cats. Sizemore suggested changes to 10.04.183 and 10.06.010 (i). Stephanie Tracey, 3768 West Flamingo Road and Co-owner of Wild Things pet shop, stated Clark County should follow the state of Nevada’s regulations for rear-fanged snakes. Shane Logan, P.O. Box 817 Moapa, Nevada and Clark County Animal Control Officer, stated he will be speaking on his own behalf. Logan called attention to sections 10.04.183, 10.04.203, and 10.18.010 and believes the exotic permitting needs a different process. Scot Shoemaker, 1787 Nuevo Road, suggested changing the vagueness of the definition from exotic animals to regulated captive wildlife pertaining to liability insurance. Shoemaker suggested changes to sections 10.04.203, 10.18.050, and 10.20. Ken Mitchell, 6223 East Sahara, stated 10.18 section 11 was unclear and vague. Joshua Cowart, 351 Papaya, stated the word “feral” should be more frequent throughout 10.06. Cowart expressed feral cats are destroying Nevada’s native species and would like clarification on “full-grown” in 10.04.203. Janice Ridondo, liaison for Clark County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, questioned if animals are free to rescue in 10.27.080. Ridondo questioned code for potbellies piglets in sections 10.30.140 and 10.08.132. She also agrees with Wylderich: no animals should be tethered. Anne Badue, 5200 South Maryland Parkway, stated the terminology “exotic” and “wild” need clarification. Badue explained she takes very good care of her exotic animals and has not had any incidents in over 100 shows. Shelly Logan, 520 North Larry Street, commented on sections 10.04.183 and 10.18.010. Logan suggested the exotic permit process be regulated by animals’ sizes to better keep track of animals.

MG suggested removing vagueness of wild and exotic in 10.04.183 and further defining “wild”, “exotic”, and “household” in 10.04.203. MG reviewed the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) handout received during public comment. PS suggested horses should be taken out of the household pet category. Heather Carpenter explained the Humane Society would not be as extensive as the ALDF document. Warren Hardy explained the HSUS has provided specific
language documents to JA. Joshua Cowart stated dangerous exotics and household exotics need to be differentiated. MG made the following suggestions: 10.06.010 – adding feral and/or community cat; 10.18.010 – add/define timeframe of permit; 10.18.011 – exclude vaccinations for reptiles; 10.18.020 – Zoological Association of America may not meet standards for exemption; 10.32.140 – add to the definition of confining and change tethering times to the evening.

KW, PS, and TV would like specification of the exotic definition. JA clarified the definition of community cat versus feral cat by request of SSS. MG asked for clarification from a TAF representative on adoption fees for rescue organizations. Michelle Quigley explained the fees were determined by TAF and suggested it be left out of 10.24.080. Discussion was had about including or excluding the rescue fee agreement from the ordinance. SSS decided to leave the language in as proposed.

TV wanted to add a few words and phrases to 10.08.132 (e) and 10.30.140. SSS suggested adding “foster permit” to 10.08.160. JA noted a policy would be put in place to enforce changing microchip numbers on foster permits. Discussion was had about changes to tethering animals and temperature regulations. JA reviewed the proposed changes and SSS suggested adding temperature regulations to the tethering section 10.30.140. Discussion was had between committee members, JA, and SS about cruelty interpretation. JA and the committee agreed upon no tethering if there is a heat advisory warning. He also suggested the committee make a motion as they discuss each section of the Title 10 ordinance.

SSS opened public comment on the HSUS proposal. Jim Tracey, 3078 East Flamingo Road, disagreed banning all pythons and boa constrictors. Tracey also disagreed with banning animals over two feet and heavier than ten pounds. Ledy VanKahvage, BFAS in Kanab, Utah, was concerned about community cats being included in the exotic animal definition. Shane Logan was against banning all species of primates. Logan offered to assemble a list of inherently dangerous animals similar to that of the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and educate the committee about dangerous animal concerns. Stephanie Tracey was not in favor of banning household reptiles or amphibians larger than two feet and ten pounds. Tracey also was not in favor of banning all pythons and boa constrictors. Joshua Cowart suggested classifying specific animals because the suggestions were still too broad. Kat Kyle, President of the Southern Nevada Herpetological Society, 3452 White Mission Drive, did not agree with the two feet and ten pound limit. Warren Hardy explained the list HSUS provided was a comprehensive list and should be further edited with the community’s help. Anne Badue stated any animal is inherently dangerous if you are not a proper owner. She felt the list was unfair and people in the exotic business should have input on the regulations. SS explained 10.18.020 gives due process to any individual that owns any animal whether considered inherently dangerous or not. SS, JA, and the committee discussed creating a list of animals deemed exotic. Robert Hansford, 5040 Marin Circle, explained banning exotic animals is taking away from educational opportunities. SSS closed public comment.

KW developed his own edits to the Title 10 changes. He strongly believes in the RTF program but stated it needs to be integrated into existing programs. KW was concerned that the shelter was solely responsible for returning cats to the field; if the program became failed to be funded, the cats would not return to the field under the new ordinance. MG and KW discussed the community cat ordinance. SSS called for a 30-minute break.

SSS called the meeting back to order. KW continued his discussion with the committee. Carly Scholten, TAF Chief Operating Officer, 655 N. Mojave, provided statistics showing the current Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) program under a central sponsor is not as successful as the new program regulated by TAF. MG asked if the program would continue without funding. Scholten responded TAF is confident in funding to reach their goals. KW stated the largest reason why more cats have not been released under the current ordinance is because he does not have the
authority to release certain cats from the shelter. Karen Layne expressed the need to move forward with a new community cat program. Layne stated her disagreement with 10.06.010 (i) and believes a feral cat should not be euthanized for being a nuisance to the quiet enjoyment of a property. SS explained the phrase “quiet enjoyment” to the committee, stating it dictates noise problems as well as non-noise problems. SS, JA, and the committee discussed community cats and the definition of nuisance. Joshua Cowart wanted to know why adoptable cats were being released back into the community. Cowart does not agree with TNR, but would like to limit the locations of TNR areas of cat colonies. KW, MG, and PS discussed changes needing to be made to the community cat ordinance. SSS discussed with JA and PS to add foster and temporary out-of-town animals to fancier permits 10.08.130.

SSS asked for a motion to pass the ordinances with modifications as discussed. Motion by PS, second by MG. All in favor, no opposition, motion passed.

7. Comments by the General Public
SSS opened public comment. No public comment. Public comment closed.

8. Adjournment
MG made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by PS, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.