

**St. Clair County Animal Services
Minutes for Meeting
At the Courthouse – 6:00 P.M.
October 24, 2016**

Members Present: Steve Reeb, Chairman
Carol Clark
Michael O'Donnell
Michael Baker
Robert Trentman
Fred Boch

Members Absent: Oliver Hamilton, Sr., Asst. Chairman

Others Present: Mark Kern, Chairman, St. Clair County Board
Lisa Porter, Chief of Government Affairs
James Jacquot
Cheri Weaver
Ashley Jett
SCC Animal Welfare Advocates

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Reeb.

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

The roll was called and a quorum declared present.

Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Mr. Boch to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2016.
Second by Mr. O'Donnell.

Vote: 6 yes 0 no

Motion Carried.

Open Comments:

(All of the following questions were directed to James Jacquot, Director Animal Services, unless indicated.)

Q: Michelle Walpole: What is the status of the new hire?

A: We have hired a full- time person.

Q: Shelia Ford: Chairman Kern went on record, on October 18, 2016 saying you would like to see animal control go no kill. That is wonderful. At this time Shelia read the definition of what is a no kill facility. (Source was not identified) Now I ask Mark Kern and Jim Jacquot what is your definition of no kill?

A: Mark Kern: I think and I also speak for Jim that is really what our committee meets on, Ledy is the one that helped us with the sample resolution. So we are going to discuss that, I think we all have acknowledged that our problem or issue is really with the cat population. We are pretty close with dogs. At least that is the way it is right now. With the spay and neuters that have been going on in the county, we hope the trend continues to go that way. But the feline population is the one that we have to work on. So Ledy and all of you together, we will come up with a definition and our goal. And Ledy said it is a five year goal for the facility, and it's going to take a partnership with the community. We are going to need more feline rescues to make it happen. As far as definitive as to what things are, I think that will come out of our committee and recommendations from you. We have all become a pretty good team on these issues. We are serious about this, and Jim traveled to Kansas City and he has some good stories to tell about what they learned, and we are going to continue to move in that direction.

Q: Unidentified: I would like to know about the 70% adoption rate?

A: Mark Kern: 70% Save rate

Q: Unidentified: Was that saved from animal control or saved from the rescues?

A: Mark Kern: The animals that enter our facility, there was a 70% save rate that month. That is the combination of the two. What we adopt and what we send to rescues.

Q: Unidentified: Do you have the number of what you actually did?

A: As for as adoptions?

Q: Unidentified: Yes.

A: Last year we did 312; we sent 1218 to rescues last year.

A: Mark Kern: So we are a big part but certainly there are rescues that are bigger than our adoption center. But all together we are making progress.

Q: Unidentified: It just seems like the rescues do more than animal control does. When ever you talk you are always talking about the rescues. You don't say what you are going to do.

A: Last year we did 312, the Belleville Area Humane Society did 300 hundred and some, and Partners for Pets did 400 hundred and some. The next highest was Gateway doing

140 and the APA did about 100. We used 62 rescues last year. We do what we can do in facility that has 10 kennels. So I think we are doing a pretty good job with that.

●: Ronnie Aguirre: Can you tell me how many of those kennels are being used right now for adoptable animals?

A: All of them.

●: Ronnie Aguirre: There is nothing on the adoption center web site.

A: Yes, I know. All of the animals are being held for an event that we are having November 10, 2016. We are getting them spayed and neutered, vaccinated and healthy for that event.

●: Ronnie Aguirre: That doesn't make any sense. Why would you hold animals for November 10th when somebody might want to adopt one of them before then and you could put another one into your kennels? That makes no sense.

A: Because of our size we have no way to actually publicize our events and get animals out there. We do two events a year. This is one of them.

●: Ronnie Aguirre: Why would you hold animals for the event?

A: It takes about three weeks to get them ready to go to that event. They have to be spayed and neutered, that is the reality of it.

●: Ronnie Aguirre: If you have less than ten to go to the event, so what, and one got adopted. I would not waste the time for that one to take it to the event.

A: The animals that are going there, is not effecting what is in holding. We have animals waiting to go into the adoption center right now.

●: Ronnie Aguirre: Why are those kennels empty right now?

A: They are not empty

A: Mark Kern: Through the event more people come to the adoption center to adopt animals. They get to learn about our adoption facility, and while they are there they may also go to the Belleville Area Humane Society.

A: We got two applications today on animals that are going to the event. We did the same with our adoption event. We let people fill out applications on those dogs with the understanding that they would not be available until after the event. We are doing the same with this event.

●: Ronnie Aguirre: Are they advertised on line.

A: No.

●: Unidentified: Why aren't they advertised.

A: Because we don't want to take all of those phone calls about how come we don't have that animal. It is just the reality of what we are doing. It doesn't adjust our overall adoptions for the year. It never has, we have been doing this for five years.

●: Ronnie Aguirre: Are there protocols on your standard operating procedures, because animals control picks out dogs and holds them for your adoption center, a dog that otherwise could have been adopted out already through a rescue. You will hold them and cause things to be jammed up making other animals get euthanized, because you're holding one that is going to go into your adoption center.

A: We are always holding quite a few animals; we probably have seven dogs that are waiting for rescues to pick them up.

●: Shelia Ford: How many adoptions have you had in the last month, because this is back to back holding animals for adoption events?

A: We adopted 61 in the last two months.

●: Shelia Ford: So not all of the animals are going on line.

A: The ones on line we had for adoption and it said were available. We have ten scheduled for the event; we have already taken applications on two of them.

●: Shelia Ford: Is that the two that are on line?

A: No. People have just come in to the adoption center.

●: Patty Pickering: I am new to this, I called the facility and asked about adopting a dog after the seven day period, and they told me I could not fill out an application. So why couldn't I fill out an application? They said animal control has the first pick, and then I would have to get behind all of the other rescues before I would even have a chance at adopting the dog. If someone calls and says they want this dog, that's one dog you are saving.

A: Didn't we take care of you.

●: Patty Pickering: Absolutely not.

A: Ashley Jett: As everyone has requested we have started an as is adoption. We agreed on letting the person who brought in the animal to animal control fill out an application the day they brought the animal to adopt the animal as is on day seven. You were not the person who brought the animal in; it was someone in the neighborhood that turned in the animal. We bent the rules, and allowed you to come in. On the day that we did a walk through, and I showed you the dog, I explained to you that our kennels were extremely full and that if you were going to adopt the animal I needed the paperwork filled out at that point in time. You said, I need to talk to my husband and I will get back with you. I said I need the paperwork filled out now, because we are extremely full. You said, I am not interested in really adopting the animal as long as it can be saved. I said it is a small breed animal, it is very cute, there will be several rescues who will be interested in the animal if you do not truly want it you can let me know. I told you at that point in time that the Belleville Area Humane Society was there doing heartworm testing, and that we would ask the director if the adoption center would be willing to take the animal. While the Humane Society was there I talked to Katie and also Lisa, and Julie, then I talked to Jim. Jim said, if they want it go ahead and have them take the dog. We were troubled for space right now; we have no room to take in dogs. We had dogs waiting that we could not pick up, because our kennels were full.

R: Patty Pickering: I live in Smithton, and I literally left your facility, because my car was running with my dog inside of the vehicle. I dropped off my dog then called my husband, then called your facility, and they said the Humane Society came in. I said I'm going to adopt it and he said no it is gone.

A: Ashley Jett: It was not fifteen minutes, it was an hour. It was quarter to four when I talked to you when you came in and it was quarter to five when you called us back. We

then told you that we would give your information to the Humane Society. There would be no difference in you adopting the animal from us or the Humane Society.

Q: Patty Pickering: When I left there I asked how soon I have to let you know. You said before five.

A: Ashley Jett: No, I told you I needed to know now, and you told me you would call back before five o'clock and that I could let you know what happened to the animal, you don't care as long as it is safe.

Q: Patty Pickering: Well that is not what happened.

A: Ashley Jett: We gave the information to the Humane Society, your name and phone number, they called you on several occasions and you never returned there call for three days.

Q: Patty Pickering: I called them back the same day you can check my phone.

A: Ashley Jett: That is not what they told us. We were told that they called you on several occasions; you did not call them back for three days. You finally went there and filled out an application, when they called you back on the application you told them you were not interested in the dog but if something was going to happen to it then call you back. They then had someone else come in and fill out an application, which did not go through, they pulled the application. Then they called you and explained what happened, and you told them you were not interested.

Q: Patty Pickering: No, I said to keep my application in there, absolutely. When I originally left my husband said give it two weeks.

Q: Ronnie Aguirre: I thought that the protocol was changing about the seven day hold and somebody that wants to adopt the dog.

A: Only people who turn in the dog.

Q: Ronnie Aguirre: Why would it matter if they were the one who turned it in or not?

A: It wouldn't have mattered in this case because we bent that protocol, and told her she could fill out that application. She didn't want to do it.

Q: Unidentified: Why does it have to be the person who found the dog?

A: Because by law we are not supposed to give an animal to anybody but a rescue.

A: Ashley Jett: When we had the meeting here we discussed and came up with two people who came to animal control, and that is what Jamie said. If a person brings in a dog let's do the three call rule. The two people who came to our facility decided to do an As Is Adoption for the people who brought the animal in.

New Business:

Jim Jacquot advised the committee members of the trip to Kansas City. Best Friends sponsored Ashley, Tabitha, and myself, to go to Kansas City to the KC Pet Project. Which is a municipal shelter, which is run privately through contract with the city of Kansas City. They are the third largest open admissions, no kill shelter in the country.

They take in approximately ten thousand animals a year. They have an extremely large budget; I think their contract with the city of Kansas City is 1.3 million a year. They do no animal control, they just run the shelter itself. They have eighty-nine paid employees, which doesn't include their two full time vets and their techs, which are also paid employees and two part-time vets. They are totally over crowded; they have animals stacked up on top of each other. They have their dogs in cages, they do not segregate any; they have their sick animals with their adoptable animals and with their strays. They constantly have vet care right there all of the time, so they don't segregate. They probably house in the neighborhood of five hundred dogs at a time. The weekend before we went they had an adoption event where they adopted out 281 animals over a weekend, which is really amazing. They have a philosophy that they do what every they can to get the dog out of there. It is quite an operation, very impressive. They are getting ready, they have a bond issue in April to build a new facility, which they really need. They have eight full time trainers; they have seventeen teams that do just certain things. They have a team for everything. The best I can tell they have six-hundred foster licenses, in Missouri they don't have to pay for them. Most of the fosters are for cats. They deal somewhat with rescues, but last year only ten percent of animals went to rescues.

St. Clair County Animal Services had their spay/neuter clinic on October 1, 2016. This was the largest pre-registration event that we have had; we did two-hundred fourteen. We have a clinic twice a year; we have one in the spring and one in the fall. The one in the spring is an open event where we take walk ups and pre-registration. The second one we restrict to pre-registration only, because we have a limited amount of dollars to spend on it. So depending on how large the first one is, it tells us how many we can have in the fall. We had enough money to do two-hundred this fall, but we ended up doing two-hundred fourteen, so we will have to dip in someplace else for that.

●: Shelia Ford: With your trip to Kansas City is there anything that you will start to utilize. You say you have two or three adoption events a year but do you feel going to Pet-Co might be something you might do.

A: The arrangement they have with Pet-Co is, they provide all of the services for those animals. They have people cleaning and taking care of them, within the store itself. They said they have five or six people in each store. That in itself is a fairly large project. They are not big on volunteers, they would rather have the paid employees doing it, because they know they will be at work. They have found out over the course of time it was hard to schedule volunteers. It is not like a weekend event, they are there all the time. It is like an outside location.

James Jacquot submitted statistics to the committee. The statistics are going to be put on the web site each month.

Steve Reeb, Chairman of Animal Services advised the rescues and resident that this is not an open forum. You have to have protocol, we have to ask the questions before the meeting, and then we have our agenda. This is the way it is supposed to work. So we can't have you yelling things out to these guys. We want to hear your questions but we have to do it in protocol.

Q: Unidentified: What is the status on the outdoor kennels?

A: The building commission is handling that, I haven't heard any more about it. I was there when the architect came and the building commission and the engineer was there. But I haven't heard any more about it.

Q: Shelia Ford: Has your new hire started working?

A: No, he starts November 7, 2016.

Q: Unidentified: Dog being pulled by a person you said by law it can only be a rescue. Why is that?

A: By law we can't just give an animal to somebody it had to go through a licensed shelter, or an adoption center.

Q: Unidentified: I see all the time on facebook these dog and they say this is it this is their last chance they are going to be euthanized tomorrow if a rescue does not step up.

A: That really is not the case. They use that to get people to step up. There is no date for that. There hasn't been for a long time. That is why we are always crowded because we are holding those animals for rescues to take.

Q: Unidentified: Why won't the law allow a person to adopt an animal.

A: It is the law.

Q: Unidentified: Why can't the adoption center take them.

A: We have a protocol for that, where they will be held for fourteen days in quarantine, if we don't have room to do that they would be sitting in animal control. We would rather get them out to a shelter rather than have them sit in animal control. People that want to do that we pass that information on like we did with you. When I talked to you I told you I would talk to the Humane Society, which I did. They got your information; we do that all the time.

Q: Unidentified: The area across from you is now for the dogs, have you ever thought about holding an adoption over there, advertise it and have it on a Saturday.

A: We haven't really been able to use it yet. They were putting in the center fence today. The Humane Society will have half of it. We are trying to grow grass, that hasn't been easy. We are hoping we will have good grass and everyone will be able to use it come spring.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Baker. Second by Ms. Clark. Motion carried.

Recap

Month	Calls	Bite Cases	Intakes	Reclaimed	Rescue Pulls	Adoptions	Euthanasia
January 2016	158	29	175	46	71	20	48
February 2016	149	33	198	46	52	24	60
March 2016	218	36	238	39	74	24	94
April 2016	180	29	273	44	100	30	80
May 2016	167	37	290	50	100	29	91
June 2016	201	36	389	37	101	23	192
July 2016	152	39	247	38	132	21	76
August 2016	173	37	361	38	94	34	159
September 2016	146	39	273	43	67	27	109
October 2016	175	24	354	47	105	24	111