

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 5:30 P.M.

May 31st 2022

Members Present: Robert Trentman, Chairman
Lonnie Mosley (via phone)
Robert Wilhelm
Harry Hollingsworth

Absent: Scott Greenwald, Asst. Chairman
Mike O'Donnell
C.J. Baricevic

Others Present: Mark Kern, St Clair County Chairman
Cheri Weaver, Director, Animal Services
Julie Grady, Animal Services
Bob Allen, County Board Member
Dave Langford, County Board Member

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Mr. Trentman

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call and a quorum declared present.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Mosley to approve the minutes of April 25th 2022. Second by Mr. Wilhelm

Vote: Yes 4 No 0 Motion Carried.

Public Comment: None

Cheri Report: The month of April we had a 98% save rate and 14 adoptions. Our kennels are full. As of last Friday, we had 22 dogs that have been available, some since March. That are from the east side health district and 16 from everywhere else in the county. The rescues are not pulling.

Mr. Trentman: I think they're full too.

Julie. Yes this is a national crisis. We're going to get to a point where we have to come up with something else. We are not able to serve the public which in my opinion is the sole purpose of animal control. Rescues can pick and choose what they take, but we are obligated to service the community. We haven't been able to do that for weeks and it's getting out of control.

Cheri: We have a list of calls that dogs are running loose. We are not going out on these calls. We're triaging between humane care complaints and police assists. There been cases with police assists, maybe the owner was arrested, and we get all the info but had to wait to go until we had space.

Mr. Trentman: I'm sure Gateway is full they don't have a lot of space.

Julie: Their building has a lot of space but it's not utilized for housing animals. To my knowledge they are setting up temporary housing in their building in areas they don't normally house animals. BAHS is full. Everyone is full. That's the point. But in my opinion, we shouldn't be in the position to stop taking in animals. Obviously, the immediate solution is to euthanize. It's been brought up before. No one wants to have to do this. We don't, GPG doesn't, well some people with GPG have voiced a different opinion about euthanizing, but I would love to hear any other comments and suggestions besides euthanasia on how we can continue to stay "open" and "no-kill" AND continue to service the public.

Page 3 – St. Clair County Animal Services (May 31st 2022)

Mr. Trentman: How can we make our pets more desirable to adopt out?

Julie: It's not even that. The adoption dogs are fine. It's all the other dogs that the adoption center can't place.

Mr. Trentman: How can we make Animal Control side animals more desirable for pulling rescues. The Humane Society goes other places. Can we have them "adoptable ready"?

Julie: That is a solution, foster programs are a solution, these are all good solutions but require more resources that we don't have. We can try things like that, but we'll need another vet/ more employees and it wouldn't be an immediate solution.

Mr. Trentman: I'm saying if we have a dog that was spayed/neutered and all shots. It would be ready to go for a rescue.

Julie: We had 10 cats that were fully vetted last week. We have several dogs that are vetted. That doesn't mean anything to anyone. They don't have *space*. This is a crisis.

Cheri: And some are taking strays in. We used to take the strays and then they would pull. Now that's changed and is causing a backup.

Mr. Trentman: So, they're filling up with animals that they have nowhere to go with.

Julie: They're doing stray hold like we would do basically. Previously, they wouldn't take a lot of strays. Strays would come to us, then they would pull from us based on time in shelter. Now they're taking the strays and our dogs continue to sit in animal control. We have some dogs with us since March.

Mr. Trentman: Can we get together with everyone and see what we can do?

Cheri: For the month of April, they (GPG) took a total of 8 animals for the entire month. Before, GPG was pulling 8 per week. The Humane Society only took 2 dogs.

Julie: Cats are currently not a problem. GPG took 19 cats this month and 7 dogs. We've had 10 dogs leave our facility this month, besides our adoption center which took 7. So 17 dogs have been moved for the whole month of May. That's it. We have 85 animals to take care of with two people. And we're full. We can't go out into the community to continue to help people. Something has got to give.

Mr. Hollingsworth: What are the dogs that go to be a problem, are they aggressive, Pitbulls, where you want to shoot them?

Cheri: We don't shoot animals.

Julie: Pitbulls. I pulled this sheet on Friday or Saturday, I think. We had a total of 38 dogs and 29 were Pitbull mixes. A lot of rescues would rather pull any other breed of dog before a Pitbull. They are sometimes just harder to adopt.

Page 4 – St. Clair County Animal Services (May 31st 2022)

Mr. Hollingsworth: When I called that day about the Pitbulls were you able to get any of them?

Cheri: No. We went up and down every street. Even the houses that are boarded up. We went to every dumpster station. We didn't see any.

Mr. Hollingsworth: They must have been hiding. Me and the mailman started running. He couldn't even deliver the mail.

Julie: Dogs move fast especially in a pack, they're often on a "route" and can cover a large area quickly making it difficult to find them once they've moved on.

Mr. Hollingsworth: I know you came out.

Cheri: I went out there myself. We only saw one lady going inside her apartment and someone standing out talking by a car, but no animals.

Mr. Hollingsworth: They're smart.

Julie: Yes, they know where they're going and what they're doing.

Mr. Trentman: So we're full and everyone else is full.

Mr. Hollingsworth: What is your suggestion? Will hiring more people help?

Julie: Sure. Having more staff will help with the animals that we have. But it won't create space. It will help relieve the staff that we have. We're struggling. I'll speak for myself, I am struggling.

Mr. Hollingsworth: How many do you need?

Julie: At least one more and we still need an additional animal control officer. We have one animal control officer for the entire county who's on call 24/7 basically. Fortunately (I guess) he can't go anywhere because we don't have anywhere to put animals anyway. Obviously if it's urgent he will still go regardless.

Mr. Trentman: I guess we have to figure out how to make our AC dogs more desirable. I've said it to some of the rescues.

Cheri: Where is the money coming from? We currently don't have it.

Julie: Today, the Humane Society came down to take a couple dogs. They took them outside and because they didn't play enough, they didn't want them today. We have great dogs! We had a dog in the adoption center that was perfect. She could have been a therapy dog. It took 4 months to adopt out. She was a 6-month-old black Pitbull. No one (rescues) wants them because they're harder to adopt. So, what do we do with them? Warehouse them forever? And that's what happens with "No-kill". Sorry, but that's the truth. These rescues have dogs that bite people and have them for 2 years and can't or won't decide to move on, taking up resources, a foster home and meanwhile we have dogs sitting in our kennels that deserve a chance. I mean, I don't know what else to say. This is the definition of "no-kill repercussions". We can't help the

public because everyone is “no kill” and won’t make decisions when they are necessary and that’s the truth.

Cheri: So, we have some (rescues) saying they won’t take dogs because they don’t play enough. Or “We can’t take them because they bark”.

Julie: There’s a big disparity between rescues on criteria. That’s a problem too.

Mr. Kern: Unless we get this message out to the public, we’re not going to be able to change any policies. I would suggest we post something. “We went ‘no-kill’ several years ago because it was the right thing to do, but now we need your help in order to stay ‘no-kill’”. We’re going to have to get some dogs adopted out. Leave it up to the public. We don’t want to make any difficult decisions, but at least we’re saying, “Help us to stay “no- kill”.

Mr. Hollingsworth: Then you’ll get some kind of feedback.

Mr. Kern: Maybe they’ll come in and say we want the county to stay this way so they’ll start adopting. We need to make a plea. Whoever does the social media needs to make a plea. I know that when rescues post these adorable pictures, that dog has already been adopted out. It’s just to get people to contact them.

Cheri: Ashley sends out our newsletter. It lists every available animal with their picture and information.

Mr. Kern: For some reason, I don’t get that.

Cheri: That just goes out to the rescues and she says most of the emails aren’t even opened.

Mr. Kern: Send it to us, but it’s got to be posted on facebook so we can share it. I’ve got 3500 followers, so it can get out there. Let’s see if we can at least open the clog. If this is a nationwide thing, we’re really going to have to struggle. But I agree with getting additional help at animal control.

Mr. Hollingsworth: Some people probably want the challenge of getting some of those Pitbulls. They’re mad and mean their selves. They want the challenge to tame them.

Mr. Kern: We don’t keep those dogs if they’re aggressive. “No kill” doesn’t account for a sick dog or a mean dog. These dogs are ready to adopt out.

Cheri: This month, we’ve had to euthanize for aggression. It’s getting that time of year and we’re getting animals coming in, hit by car.

Julie: This time of year, our cat euthanasia rate is always up. They’re out and about and getting crushed by cars, falling over dead. When they arrive they are already almost dead. These animals are euthanized to prevent further suffering. This is accounted for in “no-kill”, meaning usually less than 10% of our incoming animals are euthanized for these types of reasons. Otherwise, we don’t euthanize for space.

Page 6 – St. Clair County Animal Services (May 31st 2022)

Mr. Trentman: Maybe we should get with Shelly, President of the Humane Society and with Gateway and come up with a solution sooner than later.

Mr. Kern: We need to post our story, so we are building our case. If we are “no-kill” were going to end up with these animals that we have in a cage for years.

Julie: Multimillion-dollar facilities are struggling too. If these animals are un adoptable, they should be euthanized. That’s the whole point. No one does that.

Cheri: There are plenty of animals that adoptable, but the first step is getting them out of the shelter.

Unknown speaker: Does anyone have any contacts with the news channels? Is there anyone who could be convinced to do a weekly segment showcasing the animals? Or do something in the newspaper once a week about adoption.

Julie: We’re also trying to get the community to be proactive. For instance, what you should do when you find a stray animal prior to bringing to a shelter. Yesterday a dog was found in Fayette County and was brought to St. Clair County and taken to O’fallon PD. Please don’t do that. If a dog has a collar with a tag, call us, call the owner. Don’t bring it into animal control. If you find a cat, it’s likely your neighbor’s cat. Knock on a few doors. People are pulling animals off their own front porch. Unfortunately, people want an instant solution. They don’t want the animal there. They want to save it. These animals end up at animal control and don’t get reclaimed when there’s an easier solution

Mr. Trentman: So we’re going to make something shareable on facebook, correct?

Mr. Kern: We all put ourselves in this situation to be “no-kill” and now we need help.

Mr. Trentman: Ok and the county board members will share it.

MOTION: by Mr. Wilhem to approve Cheri’s report

2nd by Mr. Hollingsworth

Vote: Yes 4 No 0 Motion Carried.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Wilhelm Second by Mr. Hollingworth Motion carried.



Kennel Statistics

Intakes from 5/1/2022 to 5/31/2022

	CAT	DOG	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL	72	55	127
BORN	4	0	4
NO SUBTYPE	4	0	4
CONFISCATE	0	6	6
OWNER DIED	0	1	1
OWNER DUTY	0	3	3
POLICE	0	2	2
EUTH REQ	1	8	9
OTC OWNED	1	8	9
OWNER SUR	7	5	12
FIELD	0	3	3
OTC	7	2	9
STRAY	60	36	96
FIELD	0	6	6
OTC	60	30	90



Kennel Statistics

Outcomes from 5/1/2022 to 5/31/2022

	CAT	DOG	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL	50	46	96
ADOPTION	1	7	8
REFERAL	0	1	1
WALKIN	1	1	2
WEB	0	5	5
EUTH	2	12	14
BEHAV OBSV	1	3	4
MEDICAL	1	9	10
RELOCATE	7	8	15
NO SUBTYPE	7	8	15
RTO	1	9	10
MICROCHIP	0	3	3
TAG LIC	0	1	1
WALKIN	1	5	6
TRAN IN ST	33	10	43
NO SUBTYPE	33	10	43
TRAN O ST	6	0	6
NO SUBTYPE	6	0	6



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Intakes from 5/1/2022 to 5/31/2022

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL	47	8	30	42	127
BORN	0	0	0	4	4
BELLEVILLE	0	0	0	4	4
CONFISCATE	5	1	0	0	6
CAHOKIA	2	0	0	0	2
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
MASCOUTAH	2	0	0	0	2
WASHINGTON PARK	0	1	0	0	1
EUTH REQ	8	0	1	0	9
BELLEVILLE	4	0	1	0	5
EAST ST LOUIS	2	0	0	0	2
LEBANON	1	0	0	0	1
MILLSTADT	1	0	0	0	1
OWNER SUR	5	0	7	0	12
CAHOKIA	2	0	0	0	2
CASEYVILLE	0	0	3	0	3
E CARONDELET	0	0	2	0	2
EAST ST LOUIS	2	0	0	0	2
NEW ATHENS	0	0	1	0	1
SCOTT AFB	0	0	1	0	1
STATE PARK	1	0	0	0	1
STRAY	29	7	22	38	96
BELLEVILLE	12	2	10	19	43
CAHOKIA	3	4	1	11	19
CASEYVILLE	3	0	1	0	4
CENTREVILLE	0	1	0	0	1
DUPO	1	0	2	2	5
EAST ST LOUIS	3	0	1	0	4
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	2	0	2	0	4

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
MILLSTADT	2	0	0	0	2
NEW ATHENS	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	1	0	1	1	3
SHILOH	0	0	1	1	2
SMITHTON	0	0	1	0	1
SWANSEA	0	0	2	4	6
WASHINGTON PARK	1	0	0	0	1



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Outcomes from 5/1/2022 to 5/31/2022

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
GRAND TOTAL	39	7	17	33	96
ADOPTION	5	2	0	1	8
BELLEVILLE	2	2	0	1	5
CASEYVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	0	1
EUTH	12	0	2	0	14
BELLEVILLE	6	0	1	0	7
DUPO	1	0	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	2	0	0	0	2
LEBANON	1	0	0	0	1
MILLSTADT	1	0	0	0	1
SHILOH	0	0	1	0	1
WASHINGTON PARK	1	0	0	0	1
RELOCATE	6	2	0	7	15
BELLEVILLE	3	2	0	7	12
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
MILLSTADT	1	0	0	0	1
RTO	9	0	1	0	10
BELLEVILLE	2	0	1	0	3
CAHOKIA	3	0	0	0	3
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	0	1
MASCOUTAH	2	0	0	0	2
MILLSTADT	1	0	0	0	1
TRAN IN ST	7	3	8	25	43
BELLEVILLE	1	0	1	6	8
CAHOKIA	3	2	1	11	17
CASEYVILLE	0	0	1	0	1
E CARONDELET	0	0	1	0	1

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
EAST ST LOUIS	0	0	1	0	1
FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
LENZBURG	0	0	1	7	8
MILLSTADT	0	0	1	0	1
O FALLON	1	0	1	1	3
STATE PARK	1	0	0	0	1
WASHINGTON PARK	0	1	0	0	1
TRAN O ST	0	0	6	0	6
BELLEVILLE	0	0	3	0	3
DUPO	0	0	1	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	0	0	2	0	2

Animals Left In Shelter
on 05/31/22

DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
44	3	25	30	102