

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 5:30 P.M.

April 17th, 2023

Members Present:

Robert Trentman, Chairman
Scott Greenwald, Asst. Chairman
Lonnie Mosley
Robert Wilhelm
Mike O'Donnell (excused)
G.W. Scott
Harry Hollingsworth

Others Present:

Ashley Jett, Animal Services
Phil Henning, County Board member
Lexi Cortez, Belleville News Democrat
Randy Pierce
Robert Allen, County Board member

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Trentman.

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call and a quorum declared present.

Public Comment:

Mr. Trentman: Please keep your questions or comments to about 2 minutes and direct them towards this chair.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Wilhelm to approve the minutes of February 27, 2023. Second by Mr. Hollingsworth.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Ashley Report

Mr. Trentman: Ashley, what do you have?

Ashley: Not too much. We are at 94% save rate for the month of March. Pretty slow on transfers out. Our adoptions we did, 9. We just finished up with all of our – we just had the new rooftop units put on. So, I think today, or they might be back tomorrow to finish up the wiring, but all of that should be replaced and we should have some really good heat and AC in our kennels now. They came in again and fixed the kennels because the paint was peeling, so we just had them there today as well to finish those. So we should be done with any sort of renovations for a while. That's pretty much it. We don't have a lot going on – we are full – but we are working on some new initiatives for ourselves to get animals out of there. Kind of like an as is adoption for some of them, or rescue pull – so we are getting them fixed and ready to go either way. So if we have interest in them being adopted, then we can do it through us and if not then if a rescue wants to pull them then they are ready to go. The microchipping is going good. We still have people coming in to do the \$10 microchipping. I don't really have a whole bunch more.

Mr. Trentman: So, Sheila Ford came down and spent the day with you?

Ashley: She did. She spent 2 days with us, took some pictures, and really got to see it from a different perspective finally. It was good. She and Gillian, another one of the advocates came down when we were in the midst of having employees in the adoption center, they came in and spent a lot of time with the dogs and got them out. They got to walk them, and play with them, and take new pictures and do play groups and it was good. She has a whole new aspect now for what it really takes to be in a shelter for even 4 hours.

Mr. Trentman: I got to admit, every time I come down that road I see someone walking a dog.

Ashley: It's nice.

Mr. Trentman: Everytime. Even today, someone was coming across the road with a dog, and I had to slow down.

Ashley: Yeah. It's nice. We have playgroups that are scheduled, an enrichment schedule now. We have specific days were the dogs get specific treats, or some sort of extracurricular mental activity. They get playgroups outside, if it is not 2-3 times a week – totally shocked. They get walked 3 times a day. So our people are busy busy.

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Mr. Trentman: So, we could use volunteers too?

Ashley: Yes.

Mr. Trentman: Lexi, volunteers. Randy, volunteers.

Ashley: We would love for you to promote that because we want to start a big volunteer program and start getting some people in there. My people are busy all day long, they don't get to sit. They are working! If we have more people in there, we could do much bigger playgroups or more playgroups. Get them out. It's nice outside and the dogs need to be outside.

Mr. Trentman: Is there anything happening with the astroturf?

Ashley: I was just talking to G.W. about that. We know how much there is available. We know how much, or the general cost of what it might be. I was going to ask if we – I don't know how big those pieces are, so I don't know how much to get.

Mr. Scott: Just let me know when we can get away and I can meet you there anytime.

Ashley: Ok!

Mr. Scott: It's off of Bethel Rd, Hollywood Heights area.

Ashley: Perfect

Mr. Trentman: Do you have a connection for some.

Ashley: Yeah, he sent me some pictures of a gentleman he knows how has some big bales or rolls of it. I just don't know how much, or how wide they are, or how much we would need.

Mr. Trentman: They were selling some on Facebook, I tried to get the guy to donate a couple of rolls and he wouldn't. I made him feel guilty about it.

Ashley: This is super reasonable.

Mr. Scott: This guy, he is just trying to cover his cost of hauling it from where it was to his house.

Ashley: Its super reasonable. Nothing extreme. If we can get a couple rolls of that, then we can put it down. The only other thing that we are throwing back and forth is that fundraising event with Herb.

Mr. Trentman: Oh, the wrestling thing.

Ashley: I did talk to the chairman and he is good with it. We are going to try to put on a wrestling match down at the fairgrounds and Herb is going to do it and then the donation will come to us.

Mr. Trentman: So we don't have a date yet?

Ashley: No, we are going to look. We were thinking July, end of July(ish) but we don't know if that date is still available yet. So Herb is going to see what we've got.

Mr. Trentman: So if we can get a date set, maybe we can let Randy know and Lexi know.

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Ashley: Yeah!

Mr Trentman: Could you guys promote it in the paper, Lexi?

Lexi: We have the events section.

Mr Trentman: Ok, good.

Ashley: I should have something, maybe even by the next board meeting, county meeting. Or maybe Herb will post it on facebook or social media. He does a whole lot of the promoting himself, so. It was so nice of him to think of us, because that's huge. That could be the beginning of the donations for the foundation we want to create for older dogs, so this could be huge.

Mr Trentman: Is the adoption side full of animals right now?

Ashley: We just actually moved two more dogs and a cat over today. So we have 10 dogs available for adoption. We are still kind of transitioning from not being able to use both sections of kennels but after today we should be ok. We can start using our quarantine area, but we moved some of the dogs that the humane society fixed for us last week so they are ready to go for adoption.

Mr Trentman: Would you like to explain to us maybe how or what we are doing with the spay/neuter or whatever.

Ashley: So, we have our vet that we have contracted through the county and he provides our spay/neuters but he can only accommodate 2 per week and the creates a back up with us sometimes because if we have a litter of 5 kittens, it takes us 2 and a half weeks, almost 3 weeks to get them all fixed. So, the humane society has offered on Thursdays as well to do 5 surgeries for us. So, our adoption center is taking first priority, if we have anything over there, we will get them fixed first, but then we are working on long timers in the stray section on the AC side of the building that have been there for a long time. Then we are going to do available for rescue or like as is adoptions. So, we are going to promote them for adoption or rescue transfer. Whichever comes first.

Mr. Trentman: So, if they are spayed or neutered then that is less that the rescue organization has to do.

Ashley: Its actually benefiting us already because the dog that we pulled today was fixed last week so we don't have to put it through the quarantine to sit there and wait for its surgery and then wait for it to heal and be ready to go. So it's already benefitting us.

Mr. Trentman: So they are adoption ready.

Ashley: Yes. They are always adoption ready but we do a quarantine for 7 days first from the stray side of the building to the adoption side of the floor. So 7 days where they are in the center section were they are getting vetted, where I can knock that down to 3 days now or even

less. They are getting vaccinated upon intake and that's the huge thing. So they already have a vaccination seven days in their system before we are moving them or fixing them. That's the timeframe for infectious disease transmission. It seems to be working ok.

Mr. Trentman: Does anyone else have any questions?

MOTION: by Mr. Wilhelm to approve Ashley's report

2nd by Mr. Scott

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Mr. Trentman: We have no ordinances or resolutions. Any other business to come before this board. Does anyone have anything? Ok. Thank you all for coming.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Scott.

2nd by Mr. Greenwald.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.