

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 5:30 P.M.

June 27th, 2023

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Ashley Jett, Animal Services Director
Ken Sharkey, County Board member
Lexi Cortez, Belleville News Democrat
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. G.W. Scott to approve the minutes of May 30th, 2023 meeting. Second by Mr. Wilhelm.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Ashley Report

Mr. Trentman: Report from our AC director, Ashley Jett?

Ashley: Nothing too much. We are full on dogs and cats. We have dogs and cats everywhere. We are getting a lot of requests for owner surrenders that we cannot help with. We probably have 5-10 people calling every single day trying to surrender their pets and there is nowhere that can help them because everyone is in the same boat. Nobody has space, the adoptions are down. Animals are coming in left and right. We are removing more animals from humane cares, abandonments, evictions than I have ever seen. People are just leaving their pets and move. By the time we get the call, it's about 2 weeks in and it's a dire-needed situation where we are having animals that we have to remove because no one is feeding them.

Mr. Trentman: How is that I feel like I should know, but having the police pay us a little bit.

Ashley: I'm still waiting for the State's Attorney's Office to draft that ordinance.

Mr. Trentman: So, it's not done yet.

Ashley: I've checked in with them, before last month's meeting, and he said that he still hadn't time to work on it. I actually just got notice last week when I was checking in on a couple of felony charges, owner duties charges that he is no longer my point of contact for the State's Attorney's Office. I assume that I will be starting over on getting that accomplished.

Mr. Trentman: I guess the air conditioners are working, ok?

Ashley: Yes, they are perfect.

Mr. Trentman: Ok.

Ashley: So, we had, well this is for the month of May. Just to put this into perspective, we had 93 strays come in, 40 owner surrenders, 4 confiscations – and we had 4 animals reclaimed by their owner.

Mr. Trentman: So, you had how many come in?

Ashley: Between everything put together, removals from homes or vacant properties plus owner surrenders plus strays there were 137 animals that came in. And 4 of them got reclaimed. So, 4 animals out of all of that went home. So that's a perspective as to why our kennels are full. We did 22 adoptions, which is great. We moved 24 of those animals to the adoption center for adoption and then we transferred 71 of them to rescues. So still left with about 50 something animals which is our average for the month at any given time. I'm not sure what to do. I am

sure that you all seen my facebook post about the deceased dog that we found behind our dumpster last week. That was gut wrenching.

Mr. Trentman: Did you see the dog walking signs that we put up?

Ashley: I did. They are nice. I didn't know that you guys put them up. I figured humane society or Shelly had something to do with it.

Mr. Trentman: It was the St Clair County Township Road District.

Ashley: Thank you. I did see them. I like them. They are very easy to see too.

Mr. Trentman: We are down there working on the bridges right now.

Ashley: Are you?

Mr. Trentman: Fixing them up a little bit.

Ashley: Perfect. So yeah, I don't know how to fix it. I say this every single month, but it is getting drastically worse.

Mr. Trentman: So, are the summer months kind of the bad months?

Ashley: Summer months are always hard anyways, but now it's even worse. I answered the phones this afternoon to help out the office girl since the other office girl was gone. I answered probably 27 calls, 7 of them on my own were people trying to relocate or rehome their animals, and of those 7, 5 of them got upset with me because of my answer. We will eventually get those dogs as strays, and we won't know anything about them. They might be dumped at our front door or tied to the gate down the street or found running in a parking lot somewhere. But there is nothing that we can do right now. So, it's just a no-win situation for us.

Mr. Trentman: It would be nice, if somehow, even if we can't take the dog, if we could microchip it and give it back to them. Tell them to come down for a free microchip.

Ashley: That way we know if the dog is found running loose.

Mr. Trentman: Maybe down the road when they turn it loose, maybe it would be more adoptable if it's microchipped or something.

Ashley: What we have been doing is anytime that someone is posting on the lost and found pages, the yard sale sites, or something of that nature. Or reporting a dog found and they submit a picture, if they have something matching that description under their name, we have been trying to just keep a record of that and print them out – kind of like a warning photo. If the dog shows up as a stray, this is who it belongs to because we told them that we couldn't take their dog.

Mr. Trentman: So, the total intake for the month is how many, total?

Ashley: 137

Mr. Trentman: What do you do with that many animals? Where do you go with them?

Ashley: 40 of them were owner surrenders. And a lot of them were cats and kitten, but we did have dogs that were brought in as owner surrenders.

Mr. Trentman: As owner surrenders, what is the biggest reason that they bring them to you?

Ashley: Moving, can't keep them, don't want them, don't have a way to feed them, some for behavioral issues that just magically appeared but they don't have the money to take them in for medical treatment or something of that nature. We try to defer them as much as we can. We don't have the resources to do that either and if they are telling us that this animal is aggressive or has a medical concern in some way, shape or form, I can't adopt that animal out. A lot of people just don't care, for lack of better words. They don't have the money to take them to a vet to get a diagnosis, and at that point they are so frustrated that they just don't care what happens. We had a 7-year-old cat that was just owner surrendered the other day. We were not going to take it because they refused to take it for medical treatment. The cat is 21 pounds, and extremely overweight. He was supposedly becoming aggressive with a new cat that they just brought into the household, and they don't want to try to work on anything to intermingle them together. Well, that's not our fault first off, and there are ways to fix that. They just refused and told me that they were going to leave it in their car until they could figure something out or let it go. Now, why would I allow that to happen.

Mr. Trentman: I'll go down and talk to that cat, tell him to stop drinking soda.

Ashley: We have him on a diet currently.

Mr. Trentman: You put him on a diet.

Ashley: 21 pounds is a huge cat, and he barely fits in our kennels, and he is extremely stressed out and big cats like that, who are overweight anyways and you take them out of their home and put them in a kennel are the first ones to not make it.

Mr. Trentman: Ok.

Ashley: We do have a big Bissell Empty the Shelters adoption event for pretty much the whole month of July. They are doing it from the 6th of July through the 31st. They are sponsoring the events again, which is partially the reason we had so many adoptions for the month of May because we did one in May too.

Mr. Trentman: Who is that now?

Ashley: Bissell, the vacuum company. We have participated in 11, or this will be our 11th one that we have done over the years. They are becoming more frequent because they understand that everyone is full and they essentially sponsor, they reimburse you \$50 for every dog adoption and \$20 per cat adoption, and then we can charge up to \$50.00. We make our money or what we normally would with a dog or cat adoption. It just helps get them out.

Mr. Trentman: Nice.

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

2nd by Mr. O'Donnell.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Mr. Trentman: We have no ordinances or resolutions. Any other business to come before this board or anything else from any other board member? Harry, you got anything.

Mr. Hollingsworth: Oh no.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Mosley.

2nd by Mr. Scott.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Intakes from 6/1/2023 to 6/30/2023

	DOG	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL	21	7	34	62
CONFISCATE	4	0	0	4
BELLEVILLE	2	0	0	2
LEBANON	1	0	0	1
MASCOUTAH	1	0	0	1
EUTH REQ	4	0	0	4
BELLEVILLE	3	0	0	3
CENTREVILLE	1	0	0	1
OWNER SUR	0	4	6	10
BELLEVILLE	0	0	4	4
CASEYVILLE	0	0	2	2
FREEBURG	0	3	0	3
MASCOUTAH	0	1	0	1
RETURN	1	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	1
STRAY	12	3	28	43
BELLEVILLE	5	3	24	32
EAST ST LOUIS	4	0	1	5
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	0	0	1	1
MASCOUTAH	1	0	2	3
NEW ATHENS	1	0	0	1
SWANSEA	1	0	0	1



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Outcomes from 6/1/2023 to 6/30/2023

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
GRAND TOTAL	22	1	6	37	66
ADOPTION	5	0	1	6	12
BELLEVILLE	1	0	0	4	5
CASEYVILLE	0	0	0	2	2
CENTREVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	0	0	1	0	1
MASCOUTAH	1	0	0	0	1
SCOTT AFB	1	0	0	0	1
DIED	1	0	0	0	1
WASHINGTON PARK	1	0	0	0	1
EUTH	7	0	1	0	8
BELLEVILLE	3	0	1	0	4
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
CENTREVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	0	1
SCOTT AFB	1	0	0	0	1
RELOCATE	3	0	0	8	11
BELLEVILLE	1	0	0	6	7
CASEYVILLE	0	0	0	2	2
MASCOUTAH	1	0	0	0	1
SWANSEA	1	0	0	0	1
RTO	2	1	2	0	5
BELLEVILLE	0	0	2	0	2
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
LEBANON	1	0	0	0	1
SWANSEA	0	1	0	0	1
TRAN IN ST	4	0	2	23	29
BELLEVILLE	2	0	1	16	19

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
CENTREVILLE	0	0	0	4	4
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	0	0	0	1	1
LEBANON	1	0	0	0	1
MARISSA	0	0	1	0	1
NEW ATHENS	0	0	0	2	2

Animals Left In Shelter
on 06/30/23

DOG	CAT	KITTEN	Total
38	5	23	66