

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 6:00 P.M.

February 26th, 2024

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Ashley Jett, Animal Services Director
Robert Allen, County Board member
Ken Easterly, County Board member
Sue Gruberman, County Board member
Herb Simmons, Director of EMA
Phil Henning, County Board member
Genie Mergard, Gateway Pet Guardians

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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.

Ms. Mergard: No, always happy to help, but honestly I just read these every month and wanted to join.

Ashley: Making some sense as to what we have to say.

Ms. Mergard: Yeah.

Ashley: Perfect.

Mr. Trentman: Gateway does a great job.

Ms. Mergard: I will say you guys do great work. The conversation is always helpful and I appreciate it as someone who lives in the county.

Mr. Trentman: You guys do an awesome job down there.

Ms. Mergard: It is a great organization.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Wilhelm to approve the minutes of January 29th, 2024 meeting. Second by Mr. Greenwald.

Vote: Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Ashley Report

Mr. Trentman: Reports from our great AC director, Ashley Jett. What do you have Ashley?

Ashley: Lets see here. We are starting to pick up again as of this last month, January. We had a 92% save rate. We have been able to help with owner surrenders a little bit more. We are helping with hoarding type situations. Trying to help people get out from problems that they have been harboring in since over the winter – like cats. Cats are a big one. Our adoptions have also picked up. We are probably on schedule this week, I know its Februarys numbers but this week we are on schedule to do 14 adoptions, just this week. We had a whole litter of kittens, and we are down to 3 dogs in our adoption kennels right now. We are just waiting for surgeries to catch back up so we can re-fill our adoption center kennels. We moved 31 animals into our adoption center last month, which is were we used to be and it feels good to be back where we used to be. Return to owners are still absolutely terrible. Transfer numbers are still really low. We had 20 this last month, which we should be at least 90. Getting that many transferred out. Hopefully it picks back up. We've been doing the surgeries still on the stray side of the building and making those animals available for adoption. So if we have anything that comes in that's already neutered or spayed or if Belleville Area Humane Society can fit us in for surgery, we have been doing that and then making them available on the adoption side floor. We've been doing heartworm treatments with some of the dogs through GPG's help. We raised money to do one of our adoption center dogs, Cooper. He's amazing! And Kim Huth, she actually paid for his sponsorship to get him treated for his heartworms. So, we took him down, and he is in foster, and he is going through his pre-heartworm treatment and then he will get his first

injection on the 19th of next month. That's good. We had our first delivery of food. We started our foster to adopt/foster for long-timer program, so we ordered some food to be able to give our fosters food who are taking animals. But we are going to start advertising for help. If anyone needs food, no questions asked, just come, and get it. We are here to help. We would rather you keep your pet than not have access to food for the month. We are also doing our low-cost vaccination clinics. I just posted our March 13th clinic, and we are full already. We are going to start booking for our April clinic, which we have our date for that too. Still working on the low cost spay neuter clinic. Just finding a vet is really tough and trying to work out the logistics of voucher systems as opposed to something other than a voucher system. So that will be in the midst here soon too. We are picking up, we are getting there, we are coming up with solutions or trying to come up with solutions. Calls are still coming in like crazy but that's to be expected. We are still taking in animals. As soon as we have a kennel open, we fill it with a stray. People are becoming a lot more understanding that this is just not an us problem, it's a whole nation's problem. When you actually sit down and explain it to them after they are upset about finding a dog and having to hold onto it because we don't have space, they are more apt to hold onto it, and they are like "now that you have explained it to me, I understand". We have been having a lot of those conversations. That's pretty much all I have.

Mr. Trentman: Is our building, the air conditioners and?

Ashley: Everything's perfect. Knock on wood.

Mr. Trentman: So, we are in good shape?

Ashley: Yes. We are good. Air conditionings work, heat is working.

Mr. Trentman: It's supposed to be like 78 tomorrow.

Ashley: Yeah, 80s. 80s today. It was nice. The dogs loved it.

(unadible)

Mr. Trentman: Do we have any organizations pulling animals?

Ashley: Partners for Pets pulled a few cats. GPG has pulled a couple of the dogs, the ones that GPG are able to help right now, because they are overflowing with taking in strays, are the injured ones. When we have injured animals that are coming in, I just call Sara, or Amanda, or whoever and they are saying either "yay or nay" or we are holding them pending injuries for a day or so until they are able to take it. We will temporarily treat them until they are able to get them. I do have to say that I went on my first stray call the other day in East Saint Louis, and I bawled like a baby. I couldn't do that. There was someone who called about a stray dog that was across the street from MEI, right past the junkyard fence, there is a big open field and was a dog just sitting there. Well, he had left work the night before, this was last Thursday before it snowed really bad on Friday. So, he called last night and said that there was a dog sitting here. He is tied in the middle of the field, and we just couldn't get there. So, I had someone drive by there, but they said he wasn't there, or they were unable to see him. So, Friday we had a hoarding situation type call that we went to in Millstadt and before since the weather was getting so bad, I said why don't we just head down there really quick, its right off Missouri Ave.

And we pulled up and this little dog was sitting in the middle of this field, and I bawled like a baby. It was absolutely terrible. He walked right up to us and jumped right into the back of the truck. He had a big gash on the side of his body, and he was just the sweetest. I give props to the guys who do this every single day, because I couldn't do it. There is no way. The GPG folks, no way. I couldn't do it.

Mr. Trentman: So, where's the dog now?

Ashley: He is with us. He's perfect. His name is Mardi. We named him after Mardi Gras. He is a little brindle pittie and just amazing. So sweet, we gave him treats and he just crawled right up into the truck. It was awesome. I probably won't do that ever again, but it was nice. It was nice to appreciate what the guys do on a daily basis. That's about all of the wardens experience I need to have.

Mr. Trentman: I need a motion to accept Ashleys report.

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

Vote: Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Mr. Trentman: We have no ordinances or resolutions. I do have this, under some new business. Mike O'Donnell has got with the shop teacher from Belleville West, and they are going to build some doghouses. Hank's Excavating is going to donate the material for them. Mikes been kind of working on that. Mikes met with Hanks, and they donated the material.

Mr. O'Donnell: It's the shop guys new first class, so they are new to woodworking, but they can make it work. We will see what we can do. We are shooting for 10 but going to try and get 20.

Mr. Trentman: Just order the material Mike.

Mr. O'Donnell: Oh yeah. They have the material. We have a place to store it.

Ashley: That's awesome.

Mr. Trentman: Nice work. And we are going to donate them to Gateway, right? We do not have anything else to come before this board. Anything else from any other county board member on this committee? Before I do that, Herb Simmons stepped in, and Phil Henning from Smithton. Mark Kern did stick his head in as well.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. O'Donnell. Second by Mr. Mosley.

Vote: Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion carried.



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Intakes from 2/1/2024 to 2/29/2024

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL	38	13	11	2	64
CONFISCATE	10	7	0	0	17
BROOKLYN	2	0	0	0	2
CAHOKIA	7	7	0	0	14
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
EUTH REQ	2	0	0	0	2
BELLEVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	0	1
OWNER SUR	4	0	8	0	12
BELLEVILLE	0	0	5	0	5
MARISSA	0	0	2	0	2
MILLSTADT	2	0	0	0	2
O FALLON	0	0	1	0	1
SWANSEA	2	0	0	0	2
RETURN	1	0	0	0	1
(no jurisdiction)	1	0	0	0	1
STRAY	21	6	3	2	32
BELLEVILLE	6	6	1	1	14
CAHOKIA	2	0	0	0	2
CASEYVILLE	3	0	0	0	3
CENTREVILLE	0	0	0	1	1
EAST ST LOUIS	5	0	1	0	6
FREEBURG	1	0	1	0	2
MARISSA	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	1	0	0	0	1
SHILOH	1	0	0	0	1
SWANSEA	1	0	0	0	1



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Outcomes from 2/1/2024 to 2/29/2024

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
GRAND TOTAL	38	11	15	16	80
ADOPTION	6	1	2	14	23
BELLEVILLE	1	1	1	13	16
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
MASCOUTAH	0	0	0	1	1
MILLSTADT	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	0	0	1	0	1
SWANSEA	2	0	0	0	2
EUTH	4	0	1	0	5
BELLEVILLE	3	0	0	0	3
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	0	1
O FALLON	0	0	1	0	1
RELOCATE	7	3	0	0	10
BELLEVILLE	2	3	0	0	5
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
MILLSTADT	1	0	0	0	1
SWANSEA	1	0	0	0	1
RTO	10	0	0	0	10
BELLEVILLE	4	0	0	0	4
CAHOKIA	4	0	0	0	4
MARISSA	1	0	0	0	1
SHILOH	1	0	0	0	1
TRAN IN ST	10	7	12	2	31
BELLEVILLE	3	0	6	1	10
CAHOKIA	6	7	0	0	13
CENTREVILLE	0	0	0	1	1
EAST ST LOUIS	0	0	1	0	1

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
FREEBURG	0	0	2	0	2
MARISSA	0	0	2	0	2
MASCOUTAH	1	0	0	0	1
SWANSEA	0	0	1	0	1
TRAN O ST	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	0	1

Animals Left In Shelter
on 02/29/24

DOG	PUPPY	CAT	Total
44	3	4	51