

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 6:00 P.M.

January 29th, 2024

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Mark Kern, County Board Chairman
-Ashley Jett, Animal Services Director
-Robert Allen, County Board member
-Sue Gruberman, County Board member
-Annie Markezich, Director of Zoning
Lexi Cortez, Belleville News Democrat
Randy Pierce, Mascoutah Harold
-Herb Simmons, Director of EMA
-Jim Gomric, State's Attorney

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.

Mr. Trentman: Alright, there is none.

Approval of Minutes:

**MOTION: by Mr. Hollingsworth to approve the minutes of December 18th, 2023 meeting.
Second by Mr. Scott.**

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Ashley Report

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

Ashley: Pretty much the same report. Kennels are full. Our adoption numbers are coming back up. We did 10 adoptions last week alone, so we are getting there. Hopefully they pick up soon. We had a long timers adopted last week so that was nice. All of our kitties are almost gone, so we are doing good with that. Our return to owner are picking back up again, so we are just trying to make sure we can get some of them out and be available with kennel space when we need it. Not as many rescue transfers as I would like to have still, but we are figuring it out I guess. I've been reaching out to a lot of different places, so I've got a dog leaving to go to Iowa next week and then hopefully another one to go more towards the Chicago area the following week. It's just about reaching out and getting them to different places.

Mr. Trentman: What organizations are pulling our animals? In quantities? Do you know?

Ashley: For the most part we have had some cats going to the Humane Society, and then a couple dogs going to Gateway Pet Guardians, and then we had a couple of dogs leave and go to Helping Strays of Monroe County in Columbia. That's pretty much all I have for rescues as of right now, but we have breed specific rescues that we reached out to for a couple of dogs and that's the ones that are leaving this next week or so. So, we will have a couple kennels open up.

Mr. Trentman: So, the rescues are not pulling a lot of dogs right now?

Ashley: Everybody is just kind of stuck in a, we are all just stuck where we are right now. It's just adoptions are down, too many animals, people returning animals and just not really giving them a chance. We have adoptions that are coming back after they have been gone for a week because they are not perfect. Like, we told you told you that. You have to have patience with them. We started a foster to adopt program for that purpose, so we are trying to give people the benefit of the doubt, give them a test run, like a week to make sure. That way we do not have to do paperwork like 3 times. Then trying to do a foster program, we are starting on that. I just had some food delivered from Urban Feed where we get our food. Smaller bags of food so that we can do some community outreach, start gearing ourselves towards that for people who

need help with food. Fosters, to be able to send that home with foster animals. Different things like that. We are just going to gear ourselves in another way to try to help the community more just because I think that's what we need. We still have our vaccine clinic. We just secured two more dates, one for March and one for April so we are still consistent on doing one of those a month, which is where I would like to be. And then, we are still trying to find a community spay/neuter, low cost spay/neuter or something to put together whether it's a voucher program or like a mass day spay/neuter event and just to help that way too.

Mr. Trentman: Are we talking about charging the individual cities to help with their animals? Or are we still working on that?

Ashley: We still don't have anything yet, but still working on it.

Mr. Trentman: Harry, do you have a question?

Mr. Hollingsworth: I was wondering if you were getting any kind of donations in? That's the number one question, and secondly is we, probably coming up with any kind of program to help E St Louis, the one that we got in E St Louis. They have been doing a magnificent job of lots of stuff and you know they falling and I'm sure we are too, but anything there that we can see them with, any kind of help to them.

Ashley: I mean not really. They have a lot more money than we will ever have. Their operating budget is a lot more than we have. They get grants, they have donations, they get free things all the time which is how they can do most of their programs, so they can apply for large grants and they usually get a lot of large grants and financial help through different organizations. Plus they have their own little clinic so they make money that way too with their adoptions, grooming facility, they have a pet pantry. When they need help with things, they reach out if they think we can help, but I mean we lean on them a lot when it comes to things. They can offer the community so much more than we can. Our goal and initiative is to try to do some pop up clinics to where we can do some vaccines clinics in different places like Lincoln Park or even like Marissa or somewhere out in that area where people don't have a veterinarian that's super close to them, to hit some of those little parks or things of that nature where we can just help get animals vaccinated and up to date on their rabies vaccines and registered with the county, and microchipped. That's our big initiative right now is just to help. We offer the \$10.00 microchip, come in and get your pets microchipped and we register them. Its been pretty successful. We have done 103 animals that have come through in the last few months just to be microchipped. We have also done over 100 through our low cost vaccination clinics in the four months that we have had them. We are completely booked for February and I imagine that we will be booked for March and April too. Everybody loves it. We have had nothing but praises to send for that.

Mr. Hollingsworth: Thank you.

Mr. Trentman: To add to that a little bit. I did get a donation of 200 bails of straw from Hanks Excavating & Jacobenberger from Lenzburg and we took that down before that cold snap, so we took that down to Gateway. They were appreciative and we actually as soon as I pulled up with the trailer we started unloading it.

Ashley: I think that it was gone that same weekend too. I think they distributed all of that. They were definitely busy.

Mr. Trentman: They had people coming in and they were loading it on their trucks- straw and doghouses and then they were sending people up there to get straw. So that worked great

Mr. Hollingsworth: Thank you.

Mr. Greenwald: I've got a question. Do you just have to call up to the office to get an appointment for the upcoming vaccine clinics?

Ashley: Yes, we schedule them every 10 minutes. That way they have enough time to get their pets in to get the vaccines – and I do the paperwork and have it ready to give to them. That way they are done by the time the pets are done and can get them out before the next people come through. It's been pretty easy. We haven't had any issues. We have a couple appointments left for the February clinic still and then I'll post the March and April dates.

Mr. Greenwald: Thank you. I've been telling people to call up quick because they run out of appointments quick.

Ashley: I try to fit everyone in who calls. I schedule every 5 minutes sometimes, but we are able to get them in and get them out pretty quick.

Mr. Trentman: Ashley has a tough job. I'm sure you take it home with you.

Ashley: Yah, I mean its kind of hard not to. I try not to but sometimes it just follows me.

Mr. Trentman: You're doing a great job.

Mr. Kern: We are very lucky.

Ashley: Thank you.

Mr. Trentman: Oh, and Chairman Kern was present for the meeting as well. If we do not have anything else for Ashley, I need a motion to approve Ashley's report.

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

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Mr. Trentman: We have no ordinances or resolutions. We do not have anything else to come before this board. Anything else from any other county board member on this committee?

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Greenwald. Second by Mr. Mosley.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Intakes from 1/1/2024 to 1/31/2024

	DOG	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL	35	11	39	85
CONFISCATE	6	1	0	7
BELLEVILLE	1	1	0	2
CAHOKIA	2	0	0	2
CASEYVILLE	2	0	0	2
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	1
EUTH REQ	5	0	0	5
BELLEVILLE	1	0	0	1
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	1
COLLINSVILLE	1	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	1
OWNER SUR	6	4	32	42
BELLEVILLE	2	2	32	36
FREEBURG	0	2	0	2
MILLSTADT	2	0	0	2
SWANSEA	2	0	0	2
RETURN	2	0	0	2
BELLEVILLE	2	0	0	2
STRAY	16	6	7	29
BELLEVILLE	3	2	0	5
CAHOKIA	3	0	0	3
CASEYVILLE	1	1	0	2
E CARONDELET	0	0	7	7
EAST ST LOUIS	5	0	0	5
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	1
FREEBURG	2	0	0	2
MASCOUTAH	1	0	0	1
MILLSTADT	0	2	0	2

	DOG	CAT	KITTEN	TOTAL
SWANSEA	0	1	0	1



Kennel Statistics, Including Animals Left

Outcomes from 1/1/2024 to 1/31/2024

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
GRAND TOTAL	33	2	21	31	87
ADOPTION	5	2	4	8	19
(no jurisdiction)	0	2	0	0	2
BELLEVILLE	1	0	2	0	3
E CARONDELET	0	0	0	4	4
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	3	0	0	0	3
FREEBURG	0	0	0	4	4
MILLSTADT	1	0	1	0	2
O FALLON	0	0	1	0	1
EUTH	11	0	0	0	11
BELLEVILLE	2	0	0	0	2
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
COLLINSVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
E CARONDELET	2	0	0	0	2
EAST ST LOUIS	2	0	0	0	2
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	2	0	0	0	2
FOSTER	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	1	0	0	0	1
RELOCATE	7	0	1	23	31
BELLEVILLE	2	0	0	19	21
CASEYVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
E CARONDELET	0	0	0	4	4
FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
MILLSTADT	2	0	1	0	3
SWANSEA	1	0	0	0	1
RTO	4	0	1	0	5
CAHOKIA	2	0	0	0	2
EAST ST LOUIS	2	0	0	0	2

	DOG	PUPPY	CAT	KITTEN	Total
O FALLON	0	0	1	0	1
TRAN IN ST	5	0	15	0	20
BELLEVILLE	3	0	3	0	6
CAHOKIA	1	0	0	0	1
CASEYVILLE	0	0	3	0	3
EAST ST LOUIS	1	0	0	0	1
FAIRVIEW HEIGHT	0	0	7	0	7
FREEBURG	0	0	1	0	1
SWANSEA	0	0	1	0	1

Animals Left In Shelter
on 01/31/24

DOG	CAT	KITTEN	Total
44	8	13	65