

Metro Animal Care and Control Advisory Council Meeting Minutes September 11, 2013

Present:

- Members:** Metro Council Lady Karen Bennett, Jon Cole's designee Susan Cole, Phran Galante, Judy Ladebauche, Shannon Poindexter, Dr. Tobe Singleton, Marc Stevenson
- Guests:** Natalie Corwin (UPAW)
- Staff:** Dr. Brent Hager, Tom Sharp, Becca Morris; Martha Bickley, recorder

Dr. Paul called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of July 17, 2013 Minutes

Council Lady Bennett made a motion to approve the July 17, 2013 minutes as written. Phran Galante seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MACC Update

Dr. Hager announced that 10 MACC employees attended the SAFER training course and are now in the process of videotaping to complete their certification.

The first two months of fiscal year 2014, when compared to last fiscal year (FY13), are showing some promising trends that include:

1. Overall adoptions increased 34%;
2. Cats adoptions increased 127% helped by the \$5 adult cat adoption temporary 90-day fee reduction, which ends in October; and
3. Transfers to rescue organizations increased 450%.

Rebecca Morris provided an update on the three projects she is spearheading at MACC:

- Facebook and twitter presence launch very soon;
- Volunteer expansion: infrastructure changes are in process, will be partnering in October with Hands On Nashville, and Phase I will launch in October. The volunteer program currently has eight active volunteers; the application, the background check and orientation and onboarding processes are begin streamlined; and
- Saving Lives Through Photography: Items are being purchase and spaces for indoor and outdoor photography have been identified.

Tom Sharp announced that a resolution recognizing October as Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month and discounting all dog adoption in October by \$25.00 would be presented to the Board of Health on September 12, 2013.

Legislative Update

There was no update. Council Lady Bennett continues to work toward introducing modifications to the tethering ordinance.

UPAW Update

Phran Galante said that UPAW had been helping HSUS with a farm amendment bill.

UPAW is partnering with the Pet Community Center to help with spay/neuter clinic that is being built.

She also asked that MPHD and MACC reconsider the Red, White and Blue Special Adoption Event during evening hours that had been proposed. She advised that she would send information to Tom Sharp about the event.

Partnership Between Pets and People

Ms. Beach was not present. [She asked that the following information to be shared with the members: ROVER has spayed or neutered 335 animals at Metro since January.] Ms. Ladebauche said that ROVER is visiting MACC twice a month. Dr. Paul advised that this item would be named differently on future agendas.

MACC Intake Fees for Out-of-County Residents and Commercial Trappers

Dr. Paul said that in FY12 MACC received 676 animals from non-Davidson County residents, and noted that most municipal shelters charge some fee to those surrendering animals from outside their municipality. Mr. Sharp briefly explained the material presented to the members.



Council Lady Bennett asked if a conversation could be held with one of the commercial trappers who regularly surrender animals to MACC to gather input on a surrender fee for commercial wildlife or nuisance animal removal services. Ms. Ladebauche agreed that a conversation could be held.

A consensus was reached by members and staff present that a nominal fee was desirable and that repeat surrenders may warrant increasing fees.

Other Business

- Shannon Poindexter met with MACC officers six weeks prior to review how the criminal system works in regard to animal welfare laws in Davidson County, and provided them with materials to help them identify cases in the field in which Ms. Poindexter can become involved. She will meet with office staff in early October to help them identify cases which might warrant her involvement and discuss aspects of cases that would elevate to her attention.

- Ms. Ladebauche noted that MACC had been voted third place in Nashville Paw Magazine's Readers' Choice Awards in the Animal Control Facility category; the awards will be announced in the December issue.
- Ms. Ladebauche also noted that the first 15 people who adopt a black dog weighing more than 25 pounds in October would receive a copy of Emmylou Harris' recording of "Big Black Dog."

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled on **Wednesday, November 13, 2013** at 3:00 p.m. in Room 212 of the Lentz Public Health Center.

Please mark your calendar for the next meeting date, November 13.

The following dates are currently scheduled for 2014:

January 8
March 12
May 14
July 16
September 10
November 12