

Metro Animal Care and Control Advisory Council Meeting Minutes May 9, 2012

Present:

Bill Paul, MD, MPH
Phran Galante
Councilman Phil Claiborne
Joy Beach
Dr. Brent Hager, PhD

Judy Ladebauche
Marc Stevenson
Teri Zweifel
Council Lady Karen Bennett
Tom Sharp
Martha Bickley, recorder

Dr. Paul called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. He acknowledged visitors Dr. Alicia Batson, member of the Board of Health, and community member Laura Love. He asked members of the advisory council to introduce themselves, which they did.

Approval of March 14, 2012 Minutes

Karen Bennett made a motion to approve the March 14, 2012 minutes as with the following corrections as noted by Councilman Claiborne: Councilman Claiborne was listed as being in attendance but he was not; and the next meeting was listed as being July 11 instead of May 9. The motion passed unanimously.

MACC Update

Judy Ladebauche distributed a report and gave a brief summary.



050912 MACC
Report.pdf

Dr. Paul surmised the reduction in numbers of rabies vaccinations might be due to pet owners vaccinating their pets every three years, while license renewal is required annually.

Councilman Claiborne asked if any funds had been used for animal welfare, i.e., spay/neuter. Judy said that none had but she would like to use some of the monies to fund Rover being used at MACC quarterly for spay/neuter. Councilman Claiborne reiterated that the purpose of the allocation was first for animal welfare and second for education.

Phran Galante suggested that MACC, NHA, UPAW and Lovie's Legacy collaborate on the educational program. Ms. Ladebauche recommended that she, Ms. Galante and Ms. Beach have a meeting specific to that purpose.

Councilman Claiborne asked about the responsible pet owner school. Ms. Ladebauche indicated that many of those who are ordered to attend the class do not suffer any consequences if they do not attend and ultimately pay the citation fine lieu of attending the class. Councilman Claiborne and Council Lady Bennett said they would look into a meeting with Referee Todd to discuss how attendance could be encouraged. She noted that of

those who have attended the class, there have been no repeats. Councilman Claiborne asked for numbers of those who had been ordered to attend, those who attended, and a sample of comments of attendees. Ms. Ladebauche suggested that those who fail to attend the class when ordered be allowed to pay their fine but also be required to attend the class, pay a penalty and possibly a fine for contempt.

Ms. Galante noted that the adoption number accounts for 20% of the intake euthanasia number, and asked what accounted for the difference. Ms. Ladebauche explained that not everything that is taken in can be moved to the adoption rooms, for health or temperament reasons.

Mr. Stevenson asked of the cruelty complaints investigated, how many that are seized have to be euthanized. Ms. Ladebauche said she would provide a correct number instead of guessing. She said that cruelty cases in which the animal is seized are always prosecuted.

Mr. Stevenson asked if invisible fences are effective. Ms. Ladebauche offered a number of reasons for her opinion that invisible fences are not reliable.

Dr. Paul asked if every animal were evaluated for adoption. Ms. Ladebauche stated that temperament testing does take time, but in general all animals are evaluated, and health or medical problems do not necessarily eliminate animals from consideration for the adoption floor.

Council Lady Bennett asked that a report be provided that would indicate temperament, health, breed, etc. as issues that prevent animals from being placed on the adoption floor. Dr. Paul asked that the report be included in the quarterly reports that are shared with the group.

Ms. Ladebauche briefly compared the staff of Knoxville and Chattanooga shelters and their intake/euthanasia numbers.

Council Lady Bennett asked why there had been no contract formulated that would allow MACC to send adoptable animals to rescue organizations. Judy stated that while efforts had been made in that regard for more than two years, state law will not permit MACC to release fertile animals under any circumstances; the law applies only to shelters and Judy is not aware of a similar law that applies to rescue organizations. Rescue organizations seeking to receive fertile animals from MACC at reduced or no cost are no. Dr. Paul asked for a formal report on rescue transfers, in particular at what stage the contract is, what has been done so far, what has been learned so far, and whether the issue is resolved.

Dr. Paul also recommended a report on three-year licensing but advised that it might not be available at the July meeting.

Legislative Update

Councilman Claiborne reported that Council is preparing to enter the budget process.

Dr. Paul noted that the Health Department's budget in the Mayor's proposal is smaller than the previous year, and that an Animal Control officer position that had been requested to replace the position funded by the CPPW grant was not included in the Mayor's proposal.

UPAW Update

Phran Galante reported that UPAW had been working toward defeating the horse slaughter bill. She said the bill was sitting on the desk and could be reintroduced at any time and was expected to return next year. Councilman Claiborne asked who the sponsor might be since Rep. Sontany would be retiring; Ms. Galante said that Gary Odom had been approached.

Ms. Galante also noted that the education program is going well, with a summer education program underway. New volunteers are undergoing thumb printing and background checks, shadowing some of the therapy dogs in the community and going through summer sessions; in August approximately 10 teams will be going into the Metro schools.

A dry cleaner is soliciting used blankets and other items that might be thrown away and cleaning them, stitching the edges and offering them to rescues, shelters, etc. for bedding for animals. She offered those she had in the car to Ms. Beach and Ms. Ladebauche.

Data Collection Update

Ms. Ladebauche did not have an update but said another meeting is in the works; the committee consists of her, Ms. Beach and MPHD's Dr. Sandra Thomas.

Dr. Paul invited members to visit www.healthynashville.org, a site MPHD subscribes to that brings various data pieces together and puts them in a dashboard format. We have the capacity to create one on Animal Control so that the chosen key indicators will be put into a page with a dashboard. Dr. Paul said he would recommend that the person who is working on that project meet with the Data Committee.

Update on Partnership Between Pets and People

Ms. Beach reported that the project continues in 37207 and 37013.

Through April 26, 645 animals have been altered in 37013: 217 female dogs, 179 male dogs, 134 female cats, and 115 male cats.

Through April 26, 509 animals have been altered in 37027: 170 female dogs, 155 male dogs, 100 female cats, and 84 male cats.

Combined total numbers: 1154; 387 female dogs, 334 male dogs, 234 female cats, and 199 male cats.

In August the next two zip codes that create the most running at large complaints for MACC will be examined and targeted.

Dr. Paul asked how long it would take to see the impact of the program. Ms. Ladebauche said that it is seven years before significant impact is expected. In FY09, FY10 and FY11 there has been a very slight decline in intakes; the summer months (puppy and kitten seasons)

usually yield higher intake numbers, and she hopes that August intake will reflect a greater decline.

Council Lady Bennett asked if complaint-driven addresses had been targeted. Ms. Ladebauche said that every household in the areas had been contacted, but also that officers had been giving cards provided by Nashville Humane Association to residents at addresses on which complaints had been received.

Councilman Claiborne asked if the complaint-generating addresses could be broken out according to council districts. He thought councilmembers might be called on to raise awareness.

Ms. Beach provided the phone number to schedule spay or neuter services with Nashville Humane Association, 354-6343, so that Council Lady Bennett and Councilman Claiborne could share it with their fellow councilmembers to share with constituents who receive public assistance and who are in need of spay/neuter services. Council Lady Bennett and Councilman Claiborne offered to announce the service in their Council public announcements which also appear on Channel 3.

Dr. Paul noted that an online article in Washington D.C. stated that Obamacare Prevention and Health funds were being used to spay and neuter animals in Nashville. The article came to the attention of the White House. Corrected information was published in the online publication The Hill, but the original article had been shared with the misinformation. Dr. Paul clarified that the spay neuter program was funded by the PetSmart grant and only Joe Pinilla's participation as facilitator was paid for by federal funds; his position was part of the obesity prevention action plan of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant, and noted that animals running at large had been identified as a barrier to physical activity for residents in the 37013 and 37207 zip codes.

The Big Fix 2020

Ms. Galante said a meeting had been held with six veterinarians and Dr. Phillips. Differential licensing was discussed.

Evaluation/Other Business

Councilman Claiborne asked for a follow up on the question of whether a veterinarian might be appointed to the Board of Health. Dr. Paul recalled raising the topic with the Mayor but did not recall a response. Dr. Paul said that he would review his notes and provide follow up.

Teri Zweifel expressed concern that the contract proposed by MARS to provide food for the shelter at no cost to MACC had not been executed. Ms. Beach stated that NHA has been presented with a similar contract and there are issues that have prevented NHA from agreeing to the terms of the contract. Dr. Paul explained that Metro government had signing authority, not MACC, and that the city's primary concern is protection of the city's interests. He noted several aspects of the contract that were not advantageous to the city or to MACC from a policy standpoint. He promised to keep the council informed of updates or changes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Next Meeting

Due to a conflict in Dr. Paul's schedule, the next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday, **July 18, 2012** at 3:00 p.m. in Room 212 of the Lentz Public Health Center, instead of July 11. Please mark your calendars!

Remaining 2012 meeting dates are:

July 18

September 12

November 14