

Approved
June 8, 2017

1. Call to Order

Dr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

A. Roll Call

Present:

Tamara Barrick
Christy Holliger
Barry Gillaspie (Chair)
Kristin Almquist
Erin O'Donnell
Andrew Squire (Late)
Pat Hubbard (Vice-Chair)
Dan Eckstrom
Erin O'Donnell (Late)

Absent:

Rhonda Pina
Gail Smith
Suzanne Droubie
Jose Ocano (Non-Voting)

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Dan Eckstrom led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Adoption of April 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Hollinger asked to have a change to the minutes that says, "the HVAC was relocated to PACC" to "will be relocated to PACC." Motion to make this change was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hollinger asked that her statement be changed from "there is only one electrical drop" to there are insufficient electrical drops" in the tent. Also, change "if there was a way to get another, so a fan can be plugged in when needed" to "if there was a way to get more, so fans and coolers can be plugged in when needed." A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hubbard asked that to have the PDART spelled out to Pima Domestic Animal Response Team. Motion was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the revised minutes and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Standing Item

A. Data Summary – Questions/Comments

Ms. Holliger asked if cats coming in for TNR counted as intake for cats. Mr. Davis said they were. Mr. Gillaspie asked about the drop in numbers for new licensing. Mr. Gallick said that they have not caught up with processing new licenses. Once they are all processed, the numbers will catch up with prior year numbers. Ms. Almquist thanked PACC for the great job on the increase in donations.

4. Old Business

A. Tent Failure/Summer Contingency Planning Update

Mr. Davis said a lot has been accomplished since last meeting. The final version of the draft policy has been sent out to other county stakeholder departments for review. Once he receives confirmation from the other departments, the draft will become final and public. Once that happens, he will get a copy to the Committee members. Facilities Management came to do a power load on the tent to determine how much power is drawn on each circuit in order to determine how much additional power is still available. It was determined that there is still some additional power and they were able to run more circuits to the northwest corner of the tent. Facilities Management has looked at the HVAC trailer, used for emergencies, to determine its usability. So far, it looks like the unit is serviceable and put into use during emergencies and periods of extreme heat. Facilities Management has been able to route the power, as it is a 3-phase system. They are working to get it set up so that the cold air from the HVAC gets into the existing cooling system. As the tent collects hot air at the top of the tent, Facilities has come up with an idea on how to vent it out and circulate the air in the tent. It is working well and so far, the tent is cooler than in past years. He has identified four sources to obtain portable generators. These are listed in the draft SOP. These sources include the County, State and TEP. In the event of a catastrophe to the tent, PACC has identified three possible scenarios. They are loss of utilities to the tent, structural damage to the tent and evacuation of the tent. These scenarios are addressed in different ways. In the event of power and natural gas loss, the use of portable generators would be employed. As the tent is old and past its intended life expectancy, damage to the tent due to weather is very real. PACC is looking at different ideas on ways to segregate the damaged area of the tent and still use the portion of the tent left intact. There is also an evacuation plan in place. Emails were sent to volunteers, staff and friends in the community asking for help in the event of an emergency to temporarily foster a tent animal. The response was overwhelming and Mr. Davis feels that the tent could be completely evacuated in a short time. He expanded the list to include Pima Domestic Animal Response Team (PDART) so in the event of a disaster, any animal can be relocated to a foster home temporality.

Mr. Gillaspie asked now that there is more power outlets can more fans be used until the threshold is met to use the emergency HVAC. Mr. Davis plans to discuss with Facilities Management the plan

to increase air movement, which includes the use of more fans to try to get the cool air up off the tent floor.

Ms. Holliger asked if TEP would need to come in again and determine if the power is adequate. Mr. Davis said that the first and only time PACC asked TEP for help was when PACC was bringing in additional portable air conditioning units to run but found they had a lack of connections from the power bus to the trailer. TEP brought another small generator with a bank of plugs to help augment the existing system. The existing system did not fail but maxed out at the panel. Facilities made some changes to the panel to bring in additional power to increase it with four additional circuits at the panel and recently just ran a couple more. The animals packed into northwest corner of the tent were moved to the center of the tent, which is cooler. In addition, relocating the dogs from the hotter area allows for more air movement in the tent.

Mr. Gillaspie asked what factors determine the need for additional coolers in the tent. Mr. Davis said clinical staff determines when heat in the tent is at critical level for the dogs. They are constantly monitoring the temperature in different parts of the tent throughout the day. Once it is determined that the tent temperature is excessive, the dogs are moved in order of need; the older ones and the medical dogs are moved first and once they are relocated, the other dogs are moved. Dr. O'Donnell mentioned that PACC staff would recognize dogs in heat distress and would triage accordingly.

Ms. Almquist asked if training is required in order to foster a dog during an emergency evacuation. Mr. Davis said that he has a list of 98 names of people who have gone through some training and would come in to get a dog in the event of an emergency. If more fosters are required, the media would be notified to let the public know to come down and foster a dog home. No training is necessary. Before any dogs leave PACC, they are vetted to insure they are healthy and safe to send home.

5. New Business

A. Volunteer recognition certificates

Mr. Gillaspie announced the PACC Volunteer recipients for April 2017 - Wesley Csop and Kevin Leaser. Justin Gallick received the awards for the two recipients. He told the Committee that Wesley is a committed adoption counselor who works evening and weekend shifts. He endeavors to get as many people and pets together. Kevin ensures that the post-op medical care and behavioral needs dogs get out for exercise enrichment and takes the time to get to know the dogs. When it comes time for the dog to be adopted, he knowledge of the animal becomes a valuable resource.

B. Transition to new custodial contractor

Justin announced that on May 28 the inmates no longer will be used for any cleaning services at PACC. On May 29, Central Pet will be taking over and cleaning all areas except the quarantine row.

In order to ensure a smooth transition Central Pet is already onsite training and they will work two shifts - morning and an evening with a floater in between. There will be one full-time supervisor monitoring all PACCs protocols and standards for disinfecting and cleaning.

PACC plans to use Central Pet as a short-term solution until PACC puts the contract out to bid and a permanent company selected later this summer.

Mr. Gillaspie asked if PACC is monitoring Central Pet to ensure the new SOPs are followed. Mr. Gallick assured him that they are. He said that Central Pet are professionals who have had years of experience cleaning kennels. Dr. Garcia added that because they are a professional organization, PACC relies upon them to augment their current operating procedures. Mr. Gillaspie asked how the central Pet Staff interacts with the volunteers. Dr. Garcia said that interactions with volunteers would be better than it has with the current regime. He is not sure of the parameters yet, Central Pet will be providing input in terms of their interactions with the volunteers and the public.

Ms. Almquist asked if the inmates would provide any other services after Central Pet takes over. Mr. Gallick said that PACC would not have any inmates on the premises. Mr. Davis added that even though PACC is moving away from using inmate cleaning crews, This in no way reflects on the effectiveness of the Sherriff's Department staff and it was not their fault the system was destined to fail.

Ms. Holliger asked about Central Pet's schedule, specifically the floater, wondering if that person will be filling in during the two shifts. Mr. Gallick said that is the current schedule but may actually vary depending on the time of year, as they will downsize if the population is lower or pump up the staffing during heavier times. Ms. Holliger also expressed her desire to have the feedings stay earlier in the day so the animals do not have to wait until the evening for the best thing to happen to them all day. Mr. Gallick said that he wants to give Central Pet some time before the decision is made as to the when the best possible feeding time is.

6. Announcements

A. Management Report

a. New Veterinarian

There is a third veterinarian starting on June 11. Her name is Dr. Karen Wesley and she is graduating from Colorado State. She is originally from Phoenix. She will begin by cross training within each department and Dr. Wilcox will cross train her on the medical side.

b. Pet report moved to July

Dr. Garcia said there is not enough data to present a pet return report at this meeting but PACC is collecting new information regarding the reasons behind the returned adoptions and a report will be ready for presentation at the July meeting.

c. Declawing SOP

Ms. Figueroa said the new SPOP will help greatly. When a potential adopter requests a kitten declawed, the live release team will provide a thorough explanation of the surgery process hoping to deter them away from the procedure. The hopes is that by education, PACC can change potential adopters' minds. If they are adamant about wanting that procedure, PACC will decline the adoption. PACC is also looking at compiling a list of declawed cats currently housed in the shelter that potential adopters mind want.

Ms. Hubbard said that many people that came to the Humane Society originally wanted to declaw a cat and were surprised when they learned what the declawing procedure involved and changed their minds. Mr. Gallick said they are working on materials to give to people interested in adopting a cat so they can read it and make an educated decision on declawing.

Mr. Gillaspie said that he wants to go on record that he does not support using County money for declawing cats. Dr. Garcia said that PACC does not declaw cats. Dr. O'Donnell asked if the education is for a person adopting a shelter cat to declaw it once adopted and not that PACC is doing the declawing. Dr. Garcia said that is correct. Dr. O'Donnell said that a cat tree helps solve behavioral problems as well as clawing issues. She asked if it was possible to get some help to put together cat trees to provide to a person who wanted to turn a cat in as a possible alternative solution to the problem. She also said that not all veterinarians declaw cats. She said she will do it but only after, she has provided them with education materials and other alternatives. She said that her philosophy has always been to keep the animal in the home; so when she declaws a cat she has a pain management protocol that minimizes pain. She also wanted to go on record that she supports PACC is new declawing policy.

Ms. Holliger asked if handout packages provided to adopters contain materials regarding declawing procedures to read at home. Mr. Gallick said the packets sent home include many materials including declawing literature. Ms. Holliger asked if a section could be added to the Adoption Contract to include declawing. Mr. Gallick said the Pima County Attorney Office is currently reviewing an attestation statement the adopter would sign that includes declawing.

Mr. Squire offered to work with PACC regarding a messaging campaign to include licensing, spay/neuter information. The public would then have information before they come to PACC to adopt. He asked to meet with Justin regarding the City of Tucson's channel 12 Adopt a Pet segment where a different dog and cat are highlighted each week for adoption. Mr. Squire will reach out to Justin to discuss during the following week. Ms. Hollish said that PACC would definitely like to get more involved with outreach messaging and PACC would like to work with the City's PIO team to accomplish this. Dr. Garcia express enthusiasm for the working with the City of Tucson to get the messaging out.

B. Committee

Ms. Hubbard announced that there have been three clinics in Ajo. The services include Spay/Neuter and animal welfare check. She also said that she found the Ajo kennels are clean, large and in good condition.

C. Chair (Gillaspie)

None

D. Volunteer Representative (Holliger)

Ms. Holliger said that with Jose gone, leadership is spread thin; therefore, it is even more important that the staff and volunteers work closely together during this challenging period. The evening closing procedure is an issue as volunteers are short staffed and there are only a few available to clean the kennels and ensure the animals have water before the staff needs to leave. She feels the new cleaning contract will help alleviate this problem but thinks that everyone needs to work hard to ensure PACC is meeting their own guidelines for animal welfare.

PACCs adoption policies and practices are concerning to the volunteers. It is important that they be strictly followed so the animals are placed correctly.

Ms. Almquist asked Ms. Hollinger if the volunteers are short staffed due to the summer months. Ms. Holliger said there are less volunteers in the summer as students and snowbirds leave during this time but PACC is always short staffed throughout the year but with Jose gone, staff has to pick up the slack as well as the volunteers. Dr. Garcia said that PACCs staffing model is lean and built that way to be responsible to our Jurisdiction partners and to be good fiscal managers for the resources that PACC has; which means that if someone is out, PACC has to work doubly hard to get the job done. He is very grateful to the senior leaders for stepping up and working hard to fill in the gaps even though it has not been easy with the construction going on and unexpected challenges. He said that relief is in sight with respect to getting a new director on board. The County Administrator has granted him flexibility in terms of how the hiring process is conducted. He is hopeful that by the June PCACAC meeting there will be an announcement.

7. Call to Audience

Jane Schwerin – Adoption Suitable Home, Adoption Returns and Strengthen Adoption Contract

Ms. Schwerin said she had three points about adoptions to make. The first is the law actually says that you do not have to adopt an animal out unless it is a suitable home. Even though the term suitable home has not been defined, PACC can make their own rules as to what is suitable and what is not. The second point is regarding adoptable animals that are returned to PACC do not include the population of animals that have not been returned but abandoned; therefore, the adoption numbers will not

accurately reflect how well the adoptions are going. The third point refers to the revision of the Adoption Contract. A clause needs to be put into the adoption contract that would allow an animal to be returned if PACC finds out it is not treated properly.

Jo Wishnie – Adoption Returns, Survey

Ms. Wishnie said that looking at the Data Summary for the month of April; she was pleased to see that there was not a huge increase from last year to this year in pet returns; however, the number of strays has had a huge increase. The volunteers recognize many of the strays as animals that had been sent out as adoptions. She asked that PACC continue to look at the adoption process and include strays that should be in that category. The first draft of the revised adoption survey does include a signature line but not all the items the volunteers asked for are included. This means the adopter's signature will not be covering those important items such as keeping a dog inside. As the adoptions are conversation based and not everything said is documented, it is important to have these items on the survey and attested to at the time of the adoption.

Sandy Holland – Declaw/Adoption

Ms. Holland is very thankful with PACC staff for reviewing the declawing policy and deciding it was not all right to remove the toes of cats. She asked that a policy be put in place for PetSmart, as there is not a live release team there. This has been an issue with cats going there and there is not any declawing counseling occurring before an adoption.

8. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Almquist said she would like to see a copy of the adoption packet.

Mr. Gillaspie said there should be an agenda item to discuss a replacement for Jose Ocano. Dr. Garcia said that the plan is for the new Director to fill that position so it will remain empty until then.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.