

Animal Services Board Meeting,

February 17, 2022

5:30 Community Enrichment Conference Room

Board Members:

Present: John Rolich, John Sorich, Jim Kambich, Tyler Pullman & Carl McQueary DVM

Absent: Pete Cassidy & Judy Kruzich, Quorum present? Yes

Also present: Lynette Hogart, Animal Services Coordinator, JD Santifer

Proceedings

- 5:30 pm -Meeting called to order -John Rolich
- Reading/Approval of the October 19, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes-John Sorich made a motion to approve minutes, Tyler Pullman seconded, all members in favor, minutes approved.

Public Comment: - none

Communications: - none

Animal Services Report- Lynette reported 2021 Numbers: Dogs Intake- 434 Reclaim- 424, Cats Intake-309, Cats Recalim-292, Total for 2021 Intake=743 Reclaim = 716

Lynette reported on today statistics: **Dogs-** 23 Total 15 adoptable, 8 court holds, they will be transferring a few on Monday. **Cats-** 26 Total 10 adoptable, 10 feral/ready, 6 feral need to be altered. Lynette spoke about the "Foster to Adopt" program that they've put into place. It's been hard getting spay/neuter, so this has been a solution to get animals into homes and out of the shelter without waiting to be altered. They bring them back to the shelter on the day of their spay/neuter appointment & then we finalize the adoption when they pick them up. Dr McQueary asked if we are still having trouble scheduling spay/neuter appointments & I responded yes. He suggested that Butte Vet would be interested in taking some of our animals & that I should reach out again.

We've also been allowing trial periods for animals & have been thinking outside the box to get animals into homes.

John Sorich asked about volunteers being allowed into the shelter & I told him that we do allow them into the cat rooms and for cleaning, dog walking and we even have a volunteer answering the phones and helping in the office, but we do not allow them into the dog area because of the safety concerns we have. Tyler Pullman asked about allowing volunteers into the play yard & I told him that at this point we don't.

Chairman Rolich asked if there were any other questions for Lynette and Tyler Pullman said he had a few: Is there any further news on the fundraising? I said not from me because it's not my department, I'm not involved in it & don't have any information about it. I said I thought it was a different committee run by Stephani Sorini, and that he should check with Chief Executive Gallagher. Chairman Rolich said that at our last

meeting it was tabled, and I said that as far as I knew there were no plans to actively fundraise for a new shelter.

Tyler asked about our hours- I said that our hours are Tuesday-Saturday 1-4 by appointment but we always accommodate people without an appointment if we can. He suggested we look at the website and also check our Facebook pages as there seems to be some discrepancies with the hours and the number of dogs posted as available: I told him that I would have IT check into it and that I was the one that posted the dogs and cats and that I do the best I can. He wanted to know where we are at with hiring a veterinarian. I told him that it's hard to find a vet anywhere in the right now. Dr. McQueary spoke to the lack of vets across the country. I told Tyler that it is something that is very much on our wish list

Old Business:

1. **Kennels-Lynette-** Delivery of the kennels is expected on April 15, 2022, with an approximate delivery date of May 1, 2022. We will be tearing the shelter kennels out in early April so that the kennels can be installed in early May. John Sorich asked about the number of kennels-there are 6 kennels for Dog Room A and 20 kennels for Dog Room B.

New Business

1. **VCA Animal Hospital Tour-** We had a group of doctors come to the shelter on December 9th and take a tour of our facility. They spent about an hour here and saw the way we do things in the shelter with what we have. Dr. McQueary asked if they are helping us & I said yes. I told him that we are getting bumped quite a bit because of how busy everyone is. It's frustrating to have animals sitting in the shelter waiting to be altered. Dr. McQueary asked what other shelters do and I told him that a lot of them have vets on staff. Tyler suggested a voucher program & I said it's too expensive and that only one vet in town honors our prices. There was discussion about why other vets don't do business with us. It's a lack of vets.
2. **University of Wisconsin Shelter Medicine Fellowship-**Lynette reported that She applied for and was accepted for a 10-month fellowship. The shelter is one of 11 shelters in the Northern Tier, and it teaches best practices for how to run a good shelter. It runs for 10 months and there is a lot of networking and professional's that you're allowed to network with. John Sorich asked if I would recommend another employee take it- I said I would definitely recommend it to another employee next year. I also talked about my project being a foster program.
3. **ASPCA Housing Grant-** This is a grant that was from 2021 but we were finally able to order the 9-unit house for the cat room. It will be delivered at the same time as the new dog kennels and will be installed at the same time.
4. **Shelter (Operators) Union Contract Approved-** Lynette reported that it was signed and went into effect 11/1/2021.

Public Comment-None

Meeting Adjourned- Carl McQueary made a motion to adjourn, John Sorich seconded, all members in favor, meeting adjourned