

Sustainable Animal Control Review Committee

October 8th, 2015

Members:

Francis Roberts, William Hutt, Sherry Bess, Casey Moss, Dorothy Sherwood

Representation by the City of Homer: Patrick Lawrence, Asst. City Manager.

Notes:

10A. Each member of the newly formed committee introduced themselves and elected Francis Roberts as Chair and Casey Moss as Vice Chair.

10B. Schedule for future meetings to be 5:15 pm on October 22, 2015 and November 5th 2015 and will schedule following meetings at next meeting.

10C. Volunteerism – consider the value of volunteer help in the operations of the shelter. This topic was moved down the list at this time to move forward with looking at other topics.

The contract with Sherry Bess to provide the management services of the shelter was then examined.

10D. Fees charged by Sherry to the individual owner if called out to resolve an animal control issue could be increased to \$75 possibly. If an animal is impounded then charging more also for this step.

Understood that the vehicle used by Sherry Bess is her responsibility as the contractor.

Liability insurance is required to be held by all contractors providing services to the City of Homer was confirmed by Patrick Lawrence.

Appendix A of Contract:

Inspections outlined to happen on a regular basis are not happening as far as members knew. Public Works do come to do repairs as needed using a work order process. Clarification was sought to understand the goal and details of such inspections as mentioned in the contract. On page 12/14 the building safety in terms of security comes under the control of the Homer Police Department.

A more detailed inspection that would address concerns/issues related to health and safety once monthly at the shelter.

Dorothy Sherwood offered to have a staff veterinarian from Homer Veterinary Clinic to do pro-bono monthly visits to help with health and welfare of animals at the shelter and would discuss this with Sherry Bess in more detail.

V11: Fee collections. Discussed the collection of animal control fees and that there is an itemized record etc with cash/check envelope given to HPD monthly. Licensing fees are not been paid by most of the general public was discussed.

D: Donations to the animal shelter are directed to Homer Animal Friends. There is a donation box at the shelter and goes into the HAF Shelter Fund for providing care including veterinary care for the animals. Coastal Animal Care is not a non-profit so cannot accept financial donations which all must therefore pass to HAF.

Non financial donations such as goods and bedding etc do not really become city property as they have a relatively short life span but do help with reducing costs of providing for the animals at the shelter.

V111: Animal Control Code and Enforcement

Discussion around the prospect of Sherry Bess having Peace Officer status reinstated to allow her to actually issue citations for infractions of Animal Control Code and then attend court hearing if needed would ultimately save time and dollars for the City by reducing need to have HPD go out and issue citation or take time to attend Court hearings. William Hutt said he would follow through with the Chief of Police to see what could be done regarding this role for Sherry.

Licensing fees for animals within the City of Homer were then discussed and suggestions made included making payment of license fees available on-line on City of Homer website and including information regarding licensing with city issues utility bills for example.

Animals from the Kenai Peninsula Borough in the past were not accepted at the shelter but perhaps with increased space at the shelter these animals could be admitted and then fees brought in from this.

BOARDING – placed on next meeting agenda.

Fee increases for all licenses, kennel licenses, impound etc were discussed and placed on next meeting agenda to allow the committee to explore comparable fees from other cities in the area/Alaska.

Actual collection of fees was discussed with very few people in the community understanding that there are licensing laws for pets kept in the city and information and education of the public regarding these fees and then actually putting systems in place to allow people to collect fees would be a worthwhile goal for responsible pet ownership and increasing revenue to support animal control activities.

10C. Volunteerism

Casey Moss outlined HAF Buster program by which volunteers from HAF go to the shelter and work with dogs to increase quality of life and decrease stress at intake and then help match people with a suitable dog for their lifestyle etc which ultimately leads to more successful adoptions and reduced turn ins to the shelter.

Providing enrichment for the cats in the colony room with volunteers.

Dog walking – is there liability issues here.

Currently volunteers at the shelter do not sign any paperwork regarding understanding their role nor any liability waivers nor receive formal training. There are no Standard Operating Procedures in place for the variety of tasks volunteers may be asked to help with either.

Before the next meeting we would find out more about how other shelters organize volunteer support and find out who is liable for any injuries etc to volunteers at the shelter.

The following items were placed on the next meeting agenda:

- Shelter Contract – any additional input into this on review.
- Shelter fees and licensing fees to be discussed in detail.
- Volunteerism especially with regard to liability issues and training of volunteers who can provide support to operations.
- Any new business – adoption process, screening etc.
- Sustainability – look at expense of running a shelter.
- Energy costs and space utilization – are there areas of the actual operation of the shelter that could be looked at.

These are very brief notes made during the course of the meeting. There is audio recording of the complete meeting also available for further clarification and detail.

Dr. Dots Sherwood
Sustainable Animal Control Review Committee