

**Sandy City Council**  
**\*\*\*PLANNING MEETING\*\*\***  
**April 1, 2014**

**Present:**

**City Council:** Chairwoman Linda Martinez Saville, Scott Cowdell, Steve Fairbanks, Chris McCandless, Kris Nicholl, Stephen Smith, Dennis Tenney

**Mayor:** Tom Dolan

**Administration:** CAO Byron Jorgenson; Assistant CAO Korban Lee; Deputy to the Mayor John Hiskey; Communications Director Nicole Martin; Public Utilities Director Shane Pace; Public Utilities Engineer Richard Benham; Risk Management Chase Parker; Community Development Director Mike Coulam; City Attorney Walter Miller; Parks & Recreation Director Scott Earl; Public Works Director Rick Smith; Fire Chief Bruce Cline; Assistant to the CAO Scott Bond; Assistant Police Chief Kevin Thacker; Police Captain Bill O'Neal; Animal Control Director Sharon Dennison; Council Office Director Phil Glenn; Council Office Director Executive Secretary Wendy Downs

**a. Administrative Report** [5:26:24 PM](#)

- **Richard Benham** showed a presentation on the progress of the Pepperwood water tank. He said that this project should be finished the end of May 2014.
- **Scott Bond** gave an update on the upcoming remodel of the council chambers.

**b. Legislative update [Hiskey]** [5:28:50 PM](#)

- John Hiskey gave a brief recap on the recent legislative session. He said that in this session there were 786 bills, and resolutions that were introduced, and 486 were passed. There was a procedural change this year that eliminated the standing committees at the beginning of the session. This procedural change had a large impact on the session, resulting in 45% of the bills were passed down in the last two days of the legislature.

**c. Report – No Kill Animal Shelter, Sandy Police Presentation [Sharon Dennison]** [5:56:29 PM](#)

**Sharon Dennison** gave a presentation on no kill animal shelters. [attached exhibit “A”]  
Discussion was held regarding the Sandy City Animal Shelter and the interest in looking further into no kill shelters.

**Scott Cowdell** said his main concern with the concept is the catch and release of the feral cats. He is worried this would create a larger cat population and the spread of diseases.

**Dennis Tenney** thanked Ms. Dennison for her presentation saying it was very educational. He is also concerned with the spread of diseases.

**Stephen Smith** expressed concern with the cost of transitioning the animal shelter into a no kill shelter. Salt Lake County has an interlocal agreement with other cities to help pay for their no kill shelter; he suggested working/contracting with the County if Sandy is seriously interested in pursuing a no kill shelter.

**Linda Martinez Saville** said that a no kill shelter is a lot of work, but would like to further research the idea of a no kill shelter. [6:22:37 PM](#)

**Chris McCandless** would like to see more statistics on the feral cats that have been trapped, neutered and released. [6:29:20 PM](#)

Chairwoman Saville asked if the Council was willing to further research this idea. All the Council members expressed willingness to look further into a no kill program.

**d. Liability Update** [6:34:12 PM](#)

**Chase Parker** gave a presentation on the history of Sandy City's Risk Management. He briefly discussed claims management and lost history. He noted that 88% of all claims come from storm water, water line breaks, litigation involving police, and other litigation. The Council was very complementary of Risk Divisions efforts.

**e. Administrative Staff Report on Conditional Use Appeal, Viz: Community Center & Preliminary Site Plan (8768 S. 280 E.) Consideration of Appeal Procedures** [6:55:08 PM](#)

**Steve Fairbanks** led this discussion as vice chairman.

**Mike Coulam** reported that an appeal was filed of the recent approval of a conditional use for the new Sandy Club for Boys and Girls in Historic Sandy. Since this has happened, the Sandy Club has expressed interest in another location in Historic Sandy, adjacent to the existing site of the club. The Sandy Club Board and City staff are currently researching this idea, and feel that the club could work well in the new location. He said that the Historic Sandy Community #4 will hold a meeting on April 16, 2014 to discuss the alternate site. Those who filed the appeal seem to be pleased with the new alternative. He asked that Council's thoughts on the new proposed location.

**Scott Cowdell** said he is supportive of what the Sandy Club Board decides to do. He feels the Council should delay the appeal, until this new alternative location is explored. [7:01:13 PM](#)

**Steve Fairbanks** also feels the appeal decision should be made until the new alternative is further discussed. [7:01:20 PM](#)

The consensus of the Council was to delay the hearing delayed for the conditional use appeal.

1. Mayor's Report – Held during the regular City Council Meeting.
2. CAO's Report – Held during the regular City Council Meeting.
3. Council Office Director's Report – Held during the regular City Council Meeting.
4. Other Council Business – Held during the regular City Council Meeting.

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Linda Martinez Saville  
Chairwoman, Sandy City Council

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Wendy Downs  
City Council Executive Secretary

## SANDY CITY ANIMAL SERVICES NO KILL-SHELTER

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### Defining No-Kill

- Actually means *low-kill*. All shelters put down sick/injured, etc...
- To be considered *no-kill* a shelter would have to euthanize fewer than 5 Animals per 1,000 citizens.

Estimated population in Sandy City **89,834**

89,834 = no more than 445 animals euthanized regardless of the reason.

### 2013 Statistics

- Incoming Animals Combined: 2,706  
(Stray, Wildlife, Livestock and Owner Turnover)
- Animals Euthanized: 520 (89 of the animals were wildlife and livestock)  
432 dogs and cats that were euthanized.

Based on the 2013 figures, Sandy Animal Services would have met the goal of becoming a no-kill shelter.

### Abandoning Traditional Services

In order to become a *no-kill* facility a number of changes must be made. The most dramatic is the shift from a traditional *open-admission* shelter to a *limited-admission* shelter model.

### Open-Admission vs. Limited Admission:

**Open-Admission:** accepts every animal it receives.

Currently Sandy City operates a traditional open-admission shelter accepting all stray animals, owner turnover/euthanasia requests, and nuisance/injured wildlife within the corporate city limits.

**Limited-Admission:** Refuses to admit animals that are turned over by the owner for such reason, as old age, sickness, or they can't take care of them anymore.

The benefit of the limited-admission restrictions results in fewer animals euthanized per year, however it will come at a cost.

## **Expansion and Cost**

The goal is to eliminate the unnecessary euthanasia of adoptable and treatable animals. In order for Sandy City Animal Services to house, treat, and care for such animals the following will need to be considered.

### **Termination of the lease of space to Cottonwood Heights.**

(All kennel space must be reclaimed for housing animals found in Sandy City.)

Total # of animal from Cottonwood Heights in 2013 was 177

### **Building Expansion**

Additional Cat rooms will need to be added along with a sterile treatment room for veterinary care.

### **Vaccinations and Veterinary Treatments.**

To prevent the outbreak and spread of common disease vaccinations and additional treatment will need to be provided. All animal brought in would have to be spay or neutered after the 5 day holding period. A contractual or staffed veterinarian will need to be acquired.

**Equipment, Food, Litter, and Cleaning Supplies.** Additional animals held for longer periods would result in the increased consumption of these items. Additional Cat kennels must be acquired.

**Additional Staff.** It would become necessary to increase the staff with kennel technicians to clean and care for a larger population of animals. If volunteers were used to clean and care for the animals a volunteer coordinator would need to be hired to oversee the volunteers.

**Trap, Neuter, Return.** To avoid euthanasia, feral cat colonies must be allowed to exist, once the animals are sterilized and vaccinated they are returned to the area they were trapped from. Though updating vaccinations will be near impossible.

## **Could Sandy Animal Services be a sustainable model?**

Can the idea of a *no-kill* city shelter be maintained for an extended period of time?

There are not any traditional *no-kill* shelters older than 10 years.

**Open Admission Shelter:** In 2008, the Humane Society of Tacoma and Pierce County, in Tacoma, Washington, backed away from its no-kill commitment, acknowledging the difficulties encountered in trying to keep animals alive. In announcing his or her decision, the shelter director stated that because we are an open shelter that will accept every animal that comes to us, regardless of its medical or behavior problem, no-kill status would never be a reality. The shelter has now reverted from no-kill to a traditional shelter model.

**Limited Admission Shelter:** In Oklahoma the cities of Collinsville and Jenks operate no-kill shelters. They achieve this by routinely sending unwanted animals and euthanasia request to Tulsa. The Tulsa City Animal Shelter accepts about 4000 animals per year from surrounding communities for euthanasia. In effect, no-kill has not been achieved; only the burden has shifted from one city to the next.

### **Evolution of Animal Control:**

Advocates of no-kill call it the evolution of animal control. However, it can be seen as an abandonment of traditional animal control practices and services.

We maintain that there must be an enforcement arm to animal control. There must be oversight for rescue groups managing shelters within a community.

There must be enforcement of laws and restrictions governing nuisance and dangerous animals.

Sandy Animal Services has set a departmental goal to reduce the number of animals euthanized, and increase adoption and/or rescue. We will continue to work toward this goal.

We are now working with 5 established and stable rescue organizations that rescue from our stray and unwanted animal population.

It is likely that Sandy could reach a no-kill status level each year. However, because we remain an open-admission shelter and law enforcement entity, we cannot commit to that status nor guarantee to maintain it.

### **In Conclusion:**

The price to carry the title no-kill is high. Aside from the monetary expense There would be a cost to the community. In shifting from an open-admission shelter model to a limited-admission shelter there would be a loss in service that our community has come to expect and appreciate.

We believe that a balance can be achieved through our current direction. By working with respectable rescue organizations and promoting our adoptions, we can limit the number of euthanasia's performed each year. Though we may not always meet the no-kill standard we will maintain the traditions of animal control enforcement and meet our community's expectation for service.