

North Utah Valley Animal Services Special Service District
Pending Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
August 29th, 2024
71 East 200 South, Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

American Fork- Stuart Fore
Cedar Hills- Chandler Goodwin
Highland- Scott Smith
Lehi- Chad Ray
Lindon- Orlando Ruiz
Orem- Kris Pease
Pleasant Grove- Carl Nielson
Saratoga Springs- Owen Jackson
Utah County- Steve Alder
Utah County Sheriff's Office- Yvette Rice

OTHERS PRESENT:

Director-Tug Gettling
Legal Counsel-Laramie Merritt
Minutes- Janeen Olson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alpine
Eagle Mountain
Utah County
Vineyard- Don Overson

OTHERS ABSENT:

OPEN THE MEETING:

1. Welcome and Introductions: Chair Yvette Rice thanked both Carl for once again hosting our meeting, and the public in attendance for their interest in our District. Tug noted Eagle Mountain has contacted him advising they are in the process of appointing a board member and the meeting was opened at 10:06 a.m.
2. Prayer/Thought- Offered by Chad Ray

WORK SESSION ITEMS:

1. No Items.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

1. No Items.

GENERAL MEETING ITEMS:

1. Public Comment-

Kayla Lyman advised she had just started volunteering at the shelter, noting it has been a good experience however she feels some improvements could be made. She noticed times that volunteers are not logged at the shelter, staff is not able to provide information on which dogs have been taken out and believes some are not taken out in weeks and suggested cards be placed on the kennels to provide a means to log that. Kayla also stated no form of social media, she advised both the West Valley Shelter and the North Utah Valley Shelter both have volunteer run pages, that would be simple to do, and she offered her services believing it could help with adoptions.

Aimee Charlton is a current resident of American Fork; however, she raised her family in Pleasant Grove and is happy to hear about citizens wishing to volunteer and reinforces the idea of making it easy to do so. She relayed her personal stories of having free roaming cats and hopes the shelter can be more open to options, so cats are not euthanized for the reason of more space or even be in the shelter in the first place. She advised other programs in addition to the Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) Program and believes if the shelter would take on the TNR, and take control over, in time

the population would reduce. Aimee teaches courses that are university backed and the main program that shelters across the nation are utilizing is the Community Cat Program, which sees immediate results. She also advised there are working cat programs for rural areas where they could be placed in barns and fields.

Karen McCoy advised that she had the same issues with not knowing which dogs had been walked, so her and the other started a group text so they could relay which dogs had been walked and which weren't noting it was a simple fix. She stated she has been familiar with TNR since 2005 and believed it worked well relaying her personal experiences with it and thinks it's a great program and hopes we consider it.

Loni Bigelow resides in Lindon and relayed a story of a stray cat they took in 10 years ago, that subsequently had kittens which they were able to take to Best Friends in Orem to get vaccinated and neutered at a discounted price and found them all homes. The mother cat proved a little more difficult to get fixed, eventually through the TNR they were able to get her neutered and returned to their home. Education on how early cats can get pregnant and realizing how easily they can multiply without being fixed is what got her involved and passionate about the TNR program and has seen how it works in a positive way.

Holly Sizemore is with Best Friends Animal Society and wanted to thank Owen Jackson, Chandler Goodwin, and Tug Gettling for meeting with them since the last board meeting, she appreciated the conversation and hopes to have productive dialog in the future. The general sense she is getting is continued skepticism around supporting Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return (TNVR) even in a pilot fashion. She advised Best Friends continues to hear from local elected officials that the NUVAS Board opposes TNVR, and they are deferring to the board's expertise on the issue, however when she talks to individuals on the board, she is advised they are merely representing the position of their elected. Holly advised Best Friends is committed to working more closely with the elected officials to find out where they stand. She also advised they have revised their proposal after some feedback and now want to focus on offering their free pilot TNVR programs to individual cities that are interested in piloting this concept. Holly advised their offer still stands to NUVAS to do a comprehensive shelter assessment conducted by their national shelter support team. She also stated she is still working on the questions that the working group had submitted and will have that shortly. Holly also brought with her copies of the actual survey questions and went over a couple of them with the group, she will also send it electronically.

Austin Skousen is a resident of American Fork; he relayed a personal story of adoption of two cats from another shelter and when he had to have one of his euthanized and the impact he felt. He has heard the Utah County is euthanizing healthy cats for a lack of space and believes as care takers we need to do better and hopes that we make it a no kill shelter with less than 10% of the healthy cats euthanized.

Heather Eliason thanked the board and everyone that attended today to help to provide solutions. She advised her cat Poppy was obtained through TNR; however Poppy's kittens lost their lives at NUVAS, Heather is encouraged today as she sits here with everyone and their leadership and commitment to the betterment of the communities we live in. She advised she is grateful for the options and hearing those presented for the first time that we can take advantage of. Heather believes it all comes down to leadership and collaboration from everyone and thanked everyone for their time.

Nancy Copes lives in Pleasant Grove and adopted a dog from NUVAS fourteen years ago and it's the best thing that ever happened to her. She believes we have a moral obligation to these animals, and it's our responsibility to advocate for anyone that is vulnerable. Nancy is also a proponent of TNR, she has researched it and seen it work and there should be no reason we are taking the lives of any of them. She also advised she is willing to volunteer in any capacity that would help and thanked the board for their time.

Bobbie Loader advised everyone prior to her has covered what she was going to discuss.

Megan Walker advised she didn't have anything more to add to what has already been said but she wanted to express her support for TNR and creating different ways for volunteers to be able to serve. She feels the community is more than willing to step up, it is just knowing ways they can. She suggested maybe a comment box for volunteers to add suggestions and liked the idea of a group text or anything that helps the volunteers come together.

Others in attendance from the public were; Caroline Fox, Sydney Larrabee, Ashleigh King, Dianne Loft, Vezenia Herrera, Brittany Taylor, Tom Sinnott, Salina Pheap, Sonya Schiffman, Annalee Harmon, Kristin Halliday, Becky Halliday, Pat Shelley, Astrid Mosquera, Arlyn Bradshaw.

Madam Chair closed the public portion of the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

2. **Review and Approve Minutes from the June 27th, 2024, North Utah Valley Animal Services Special Service District (NUVASSD) Board of Directors Meetings.** Scott Smith moved to approve the Minutes from the June 27th, 2024, North Utah Valley Animal Services Special Service District Board of Directors Meeting. Stuart Fore seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.
3. **Review and Approve Minutes from the July 25th, 2024, North Utah Valley Animal Services Special Service District (NUVASSD) Board of Directors Meetings.** Scott Smith moved to approve the minutes from the July 25th, 2024, North Utah Valley Animal Services Special Service District Board of Directors Meeting. Owen Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.
4. **Financial Report-** Tug reviewed the July Check Register, stating nothing out of the ordinary, the larger items were for utilities, medication and vaccines all of which is standard. He noted 15.6% of the year has passed and our Income line item- Participation Fees is at 68%, currently we still have not received fees from American Fork, Alpine and Utah County. Under Expenses, line-item Supplies Medicine & Vaccines at 22% is above what we budgeted for; however, it is still early in the year and if the animals need those, we will provide them. Telephone & Communications is also above at 28.5% due to the purchase of the new cellphone. He noted overall our totals look good, with Income at 52.4%, which the participation fees throw those off a little, and Expenses at 11.5%.
5. **Shelter Progress Report-** Tug Gettling
 - Physical Facilities- We had a problem with our roof top unit one which provides air to the lobby and a few of the offices during the triple digit heat, the County has since repaired it. Tug gave an update on the replacement of the roof that was slated for 2025, he received a call from Utah County Public Works stating the roof inspection went well and the roof was good for at least three more years before it will need to be replaced. He advised that will give us the option during the next budget cycle to decide how much we want to put aside, last year we set as \$50,000 and we could probably decrease that amount unless things change.
 - Personnel- We are currently fully staffed.
 - Operationally- Tug advised this year our animal numbers continue to be different from the previous years, with the dog numbers elevated and the cat numbers decreased. In comparison during this time in 2023 we had 40 dogs, currently we have 63, and 153 cats in 2023 and currently we have 82, he advised we are ecstatic that they are that low. Tug also wanted to address some things that were commented on by the public. It was stated that we euthanize cats for space, that is not true, he advised we have not euthanized any animals due to lack of space since 2013 and we hope to continue that, he is not sure how the misinformation is getting out there, but it is incorrect.
 - Tug sent out the dog licensing flyer with the QR codes, he is asking the board pass those along to get those distributed out to their citizens in whatever form they feel appropriate. He also sent the Clear the Shelter flyer, that runs from August 10th through September 10th, which they have seen an increase in adoptions.
 - Stats from the beginning of July until earlier this week-
 - Dogs- 169 redeemed, 56 adopted, 9 rescued.
 - Cats- 27 redeemed, 86 adopted, 99 rescued.

- Tug advised we are still in the final stages of getting the software for the animal licensing, in a zoom meeting earlier this week we ran into an issue that they stated if SUVAS who is partnering with us, does not pay their bill that NUVAS has to pay it. Tug advised we can't obligate our district to pay for their district, so we are still trying to iron that out so we can get it implemented soon.
- Tug has an upcoming meeting with a veterinarian to do some in-depth training for us, he will be able to provide all kinds of training and will be a change from hearing from the same person over and over again.
- He has begin scheduling times to go visit other shelters in the state to network, gather ideas and best practices, he did this about ten years ago as well and went earlier this year to the south shelter.
- Community Outreach -They have several scheduled or working on; in September they have a health fair for a private company, and Cal Ranch also expressed an interest in doing something. In October we have a "Barking Me Crazy" and a "Pet Palooza" event. November will be another health fair with a different company, Tug noted that these events don't always garner a lot of adoptions, however it is a good networking, and individuals get contact and information so when they are ready to adopt, they know where to go. Spectrum Academy in Pleasant Grove has also set up some field trips for their students. We also had an Eagle Scout that contacted us initially in April wanting to do a project, not sure what that will be yet but look forward to working with him.
- Tug noted as part of our Clear the Shelter project, one newer company, Pet Supplies Plus has agreed to give a bag of dogfood to anyone that adopts a dog during that time.
- Volunteer Programs- we are in discussions with Easter Seals about the possibility of having regular volunteers come in which would be beneficial for both them and the shelter as well. We also have an individual doing an internship for 40 hours to complete one of their dog behavior certificates.
- Tug advised we are still working with a lot of rescue groups which is fantastic.

6. **Best Friends proposal update-** Owen provided an update on the meeting with Holly and a few people from her team, advising it was a good dialogue. He also stated from his, Chandler and Tug's perspective it was an information gathering meeting, so they did pepper her with a lot of questions. Owen requested the board review the amended proposal that she sent out the end of last week. He also advised he is in the process of scheduling to meet with some of the other shelters that are already doing the TNVR program to find out the pros and cons and invited any of the board members that wish to attend as well. Owen also mentioned, as Holly had already suggested that they would be focused more on working with the individual cities that are interested in doing so, we just need to look at contractually how that would work with the Special Service District, noting we are still open for the dialogue. Chandler advised that like Owen he appreciates Holly and Best Friends willingness to sit down and discuss things and that we did throw a lot of questions her way and agrees that we need to do our due diligence as representatives of our cities and meet with other shelters and see how things are operating. He advised he is holding a lot of space for the information provided back from their questions, and see what that is, and then to take that back to our representative to have that conversation with them. Chandler believes until we get those questions answered he doesn't have a lot more to add. Yvette advised that as many board members that are available and interested should join them visiting the other shelters. Owen stated he is going to try to arrange with Sandy, Salt Lake City and Davis County shelters and see what works with his schedule. Yvette agreed we still have a lot of unanswered questions, and she is interested in seeing what Holly provides. She also appreciates that Best Friends was willing to listen to their concerns and present a different proposal than the first. As a board we need the time to digest the proposal and look at what is presented, she also stated some of those decisions we may not even be able to legally make for our cities. Laramie advised he sees significant advantages for approaching individual cities allowing each citizenry to give feedback on what they want for their own city. Owen advised Laramie he would be emailing him some specific legal questions that need clarification. Once Owen has dates scheduled, he will reach out to the board for those that want to participate. Scott voiced his main concerns as both a representative of a city, and as a citizen himself that has feral cats himself and loves cats, however with escalating costs and short of raising property taxes what is the long-term costs and how that gets paid when grants run out, who does pay for it. Owen advised that is one of the questions they want to address with other shelters and get a full picture. Yvette advised she had those same concerns and although it might not be super-fast moving forward, we are taking it seriously and we want to make sure we do our due diligence and keep moving forward.

7. Other business- None.
8. Adjourned- Meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

CLOSED DOOR SESSION:

1. No items

Next Meeting: September 26th, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.