

North Utah Valley Animal Services Special Service District
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
January 31st, 2019
193 North 2000 West, Lindon, Utah 84042

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

American Fork- Josh Christensen
Alpine-David Boerner
Cedar Hills-Jenny Peay
Eagle Mountain-David Mortensen
Highland- Scott Smith
Lehi-Jeff Magnusson
Lindon-Jeff Acerson
Orem- Trent Colledge
Pleasant Grove-Carl Nielson
Saratoga Springs-Owen Jackson
Utah County-Toby Bath
Utah County Sheriff's Office-Yvette Rice

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Utah County- Steve Alder
Vineyard

OPEN THE MEETING:

1. Welcome and introductions: Chairman Toby Bath welcomed the Board Members and the Public to the meeting and called it to order at 10:06 a.m. Laramie Merritt, with Hansen Wright, the Law Firm that represents the Special Service District was introduced, he previously served for the Board for about a year.
2. Prayer/Thought- Offered by Yvette Rice
3. Pledge of Allegiance- Lead by Owen Jackson

WORK SESSION ITEMS: No Items

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS: No Items

GENERAL MEETING ITEMS:

1. Public comment –

Heather Rindlisbacher- Heather handed out a copy of a response on a GRAMA request, she also requested clarification based on the amounts given how the Shelter is at or near a No Kill Status? Also, if there are any objectives on how to reach that status. Tug gave a brief explanation on the totals, stating they do not extract owner surrender for euthanasia or feral cat euthanasia.

Scott Smith entered the room at 10:13.

Bobbi Anthony- Bobbi had a question as to why no citizens were on the Board and feels like if two were added there would be more transparency. She also questioned if a citizen group had been formed previously? Tug advised her previously a group comprised of individuals from the rescue communities, citizens, a Board Member, other groups with interest such as Best Friends, Humane Society, etc., and Tug met informally to discuss issues. For various reasons they have not had any meetings since, however the issues that the meetings were initially designed to address have been worked on and resolved. Yvette gave a brief explanation on how the Board works, how it is comprised and the cities and counties involvement. It was also noted that one member, Toby Bath is a citizen and serves on the Board. She was advised that citizens can bring item to be put on the agenda, just like Lydia today. Owen made the suggestion to check our By-Laws on the specifics for adding agenda items. It was also explained to Bobbi that at times it is not possible for a quick turnaround depending on other priorities and needs of the cities.

Heber Leftgren- Advised he is from San Antonio, Texas and is the Director of Animal Care Services, which impounds 31,000 cats and dogs each year. He also works with a Board on a regular basis, stating he understands the position and responsibilities the Members have. Heber advised he is here with Best Friends to talk about the TNR Program and had the opportunity yesterday to sit down and meet with Tug. Because San Antonio adopted the TNR Program seven years ago, he can answer and provide insight on what was the perception from the residence, and how they adopted it and made it successful. Heber

also wanted to note that he had a chance yesterday to do a tour of the facility with Tug and stated we have a very clean facility and was very impressed with the care of the dogs and cats. He was also impressed with how plants have been incorporated in the cattery and took photos to take back for his agency. He also asked for our policies be forwarded to compare with his on how the evaluation of the potential for aggressiveness of the dogs is done systematically. Heber advised Lydia will talk more about the program, but he will be here to answer any questions about the operational side of things. His perspective and experience of working with a Board and knowing the challenge of finding the balance between Public Safety and positive placement is difficult and he wanted to express his Thanks and state that in the short window of time he was here he seen a lot of positive and good things going on.

Kade Tyler was in attendance, no comment made.

2. **Review and approve minutes from October 25th & November 15th, 2018 Meeting.** A Motion was made by Yvette Rice to approve the Minutes from the October 25th & November 15th, 2018 NUVASSD Meetings. Owen Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.
3. **Feline Return to Field Pilot Program proposal-** Lydia LaSalle advised she is the City Director of Best Friends for Salt Lake City. She thanked Tug for meeting with her about a month ago and his openness and putting her on the agenda today. Her proposal is a pilot program for minimum of 6 months, however a year would be great it gives it a little more time to start working. Lydia gave a quick overview, explaining the program is; any cat that is deemed a feral community cat that enters the Shelter will be fixed, vaccinated, ear tipped and returned to the community. It gives a non-lethal alternative for controlling the cat population, Best Friends has been partnering with other agencies in the State and has adopted and had success in; Cache County, Weber County, Davis County, (except for Clinton), West Valley City, Salt Lake County, South Salt Lake, Sandy, West Jordan and Murray. Lydia advised it is a very common practice and at the national standard, adding that other cities in other States such as; San Antonio, Baltimore, Las Vegas, Coachella Valley, have partnership as well. What Best Friends can provide for this pilot program is; it will cost absolutely nothing to your city, they will assist with ordinance support, through the Community Cat Act, Utah Code (11-46-302) which deems a community cat, feral stray cat, unowned and it does not have to stay the 5-day stray hold. Best Friends will go to the cities to do presentations. They have a spay and neuter clinic in Orem that will provide that service for free. They will also provide employees or assist with obtaining a grant if needed. They provide trainings and mediation and conflict management, Lydia noted conflict management is an area Heber has a lot of information on and was one of their hurdles when they adopted the program. As a last resort they can also help with relocating the cats back into the community and do targeted areas for TNR going door to door. They want to help build bridges between those in the community, realizing that there are some that want the cats and those that don't. She pointed out this reduces the number of animals in the Shelter and reduce operating costs, reduces colony size, last but most importantly it helps reduce compassion fatigue in your employees. She stated Tug has been open and transparent with giving statistical information to Best Friends. With the latest figures she got from Tug for January through November 2018, the save rate for the Shelter is around 70% for dogs, 54% for cats. Tug thanked Lydia & Heber for their presentation and stated looking at the TNR program for just the Shelter's perspective it would reduce our animal intake, will reduce the cat illness and benefit the staff by not having to euthanize. He thinks we are all on board at working towards a no kill status, if we can make this TNR work that is beneficial to the Shelter he is for it. To his knowledge none of the cities have ordinances that oppose this, Tug also noted he was not sure if the cities were aware of how many feral cats from their cities come into the Shelter and what happens to them. In reviewing statistics Tug advised over the last 13 years, the numbers have not gone down and so now may be the time to try something else. Stating a pilot program is just that, if we implement it and it has a negative effect we are not bound by anything to continue. However, we won't know until we try if it will work and he believes it is worth our consideration. A request to get the numbers of feral cats brought into the Shelter from which cities was requested. A short discussion about mapping the area was had to which Best Friends also advised they could assist with that. Heber noted that over the last 7 years since they implemented the program, 90% of the concerns stemmed from 3 things; concern about overproduction, the spraying and smell, and the yelling at night. The last 2 concerns go away if the cat is neutered and they found the population also goes down. He also noted feral cats in a community is the symptom of a problem, not the problem itself. So, you need to focus on what the core of the problem is, which they found theirs was resource based and educating the community. Lydia advised she would also put together data from the other Shelters regarding the ups and downs of the partnerships. She also noted

that West Valley, Davis County and Salt Lake County have now left the partnership and incorporated it into their budget, which is ultimately the goal of Best Friends to be able to leave the Shelter's and have the cities do it on their own. Owen requested if she could provide an approximate cost if, for whatever reason, Best Friends steps out what would be a best guess of the fiscal impact down the road that would then be placed on the cities. Lydia also clarified that the TNR cats are reintroduce to the same location from their intake. A discussion on the cost involving reintroducing them to areas farther out such as Eagle Mountain was also had and possible solutions.

4. **Financial Audit/Agreed Upon Procedures Report-** Ian Robbins thanked the Board for letting him present the Agreed Upon Procedures Report for the Shelter. He stated what the procedures do is help ensure that the State Auditors Office gets the communication they need on the financial data, and the financial data you communicate is consistent with the internal data that is generated on the financial statements. And that the laws and other compliance issues that the State Auditor's Office are worried about, are reviewed and gone through and there are no exceptions to what they want you to be doing. The report lists all the procedures the Shelter is requested to do, and we had no finding with those procedures, the Shelter is in a good position with our uniform procedures. Ian thanked everyone and advised they would be back after June to do this again. He also advised this was available on State Auditors website, and his contact information is on the report he handed out and will answer any questions. A clarification was made that number of 8 out of 13 Board Members had the required training was still in compliance, at the time of the report the other 5 hadn't met the time deadline of a year to have it completed and did not have to have it done by then.
5. **Financial Report-** Tug advised in looking at monthly totals on the Financial Statement they look pretty good, however he noted one blip on the line item under Income-Donations-General showing a minus 104%, he has left a message for Brandon with Orem City to try to find out what that means. Under the Expenses- Professional & Technical Services is a little high at 72%, most of those come from our legal office, he was unable to pinpoint why so will continue to monitor that as well. As for the two Check Registers, nothing was out of the ordinary.
6. **Shelter progress report-** Tug Gettling
 - Physical Facility- We had our hot water go out a few times, the County has been here working on that.
Still having heating and cooling issues from our roof top unit # 3, the County has also been here several times working on that.
 - Personnel- We have been super shorthanded from October through December, we were down 2 full time and 2 part time employees. We have been fully staffed for about two weeks, however we know we are losing another full-time employee in about a month (she is leaving for a Mission), hoping to have that position filled with a little overlap to train the new hire.
 - Our animal numbers in the Shelter have been really low due to adoptions and rescues. So low in fact we had one day last week that we had a four-hour period we had no cats available to adopt out and only two dogs to adopt out, which is fantastic.
 - Tug confirmed with the Board Members that our July 25th meeting would not be a problem where it falls the day after a Holiday, no one had any concerns and it will be left as is.
 - Tug noted a change to our website, every animal that goes up for adoption is listed on the website currently, there will now be a link that will advise the outcome of animal when it leaves. Hopefully, this will alleviate some of the frivolous GRAMA request we keep getting for what happened to the animal. So far for January we have posted 67 outcomes.
 - We will be rotating our volunteers, had a lull in December we went from about 15 a week coming to just 1, so we have started going through that process to pull from the list of those waiting.
7. **Review and approve Cedar Fort Interlocal Agreement-** Tug Gettling/Laramie Merritt- Tug stated that Brian drafted this Agreement and it was reviewed back in November, however we didn't have enough for a quorum to vote. Laramie noted he had discussed it with Brian and it is more a contractual relationship than them joining with a Member on the Board and he sees no problems with it, other than what he believes is a typo with them stating their name as Cedar Fort of Cedar Fort. A Motion was made by Owen Jackson to approve the Cedar Fort Interlocal Agreement. Yvette Rice seconded the Motion. Roll Call; Toby Bath-Aye, Jenny Peay-Aye, Yvette Rice-Aye, Owen Jackson-Aye, David Mortensen-Aye, Trent Colledge-Aye, David Boerner-Aye, Josh Christensen-Aye, Jeff Magnusson-Aye, Jeff Acerson-Aye, Scott Smith-Yes. All were in favor. Motion passed.
8. **Other business-** None

9. Adjourn- A Motion was made by Jeff Acerson to adjourn. Scott Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

CLOSED DOOR SESSION: No Items.

Next Meeting: February 28th, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.