

MINUTES

BRENHAM ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

May 7, 2024

A regular meeting of the City of Brenham's Animal Services Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, beginning at 11:05 a.m. at the Brenham Animal Services Center Conference Room, 1804 Longwood Drive, Brenham, Texas.

Board Members Present:

Megan Gray, Jeana Bellinger, Sharon Guelker, Lori Sladek, Erin Christian, Dr. Kristine Rockey

Board Members Absent:

Carol Doersom

City of Brenham Staff Present:

Morgan Koehn

Citizens/Others Present:

None

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Citizen and Visitor Comments

None were heard.

3. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Approval of the Minutes from the April 23, 2024 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Sharon Guelker and seconded by Dr. Kristine Rockey to approve the Minutes from the Brenham Animal Services Advisory Board Meeting that occurred on April 23, 2024.

4. Discussion Related to the Purpose and Scope of Brenham Animal Services and Shelter Statistics as of April 30, 2024

Megan Gray passed out the current statistics. Dr. Kristine Rockey asked about the number of county intakes and inquired about the Animal Services intake process for the county. Jeana Bellinger explained an Interlocal Agreement was made years ago between the City and County. The Interlocal Agreement states that the shelter will accept animals from the county as long as the shelter isn't full. She also explained that Animal Services runs several calls in the county and that there is a potential need for an ACO that is just for county calls and paid for by the county but works under Manager Gray and the City of Brenham Animal Services Dept.

Dr. Rockey stated that, in the several years she has worked with Brenham Animal Services, she has seen a need for a behaviorist for the animals who are in the shelter for a significant amount of time, because she has seen them behaviorally worsening and deteriorating mentally during their stay.

Jeana Bellinger informed the committee that the shelter needs City Council's support for any large decisions.

Statistics that were handed out at the beginning of the meeting will be available on the Brenham Animal Services website later in the week.

Jeana Bellinger stated that donations to Animal Services have increased which supports the idea that citizens are seeing the improvement in the department and that the effort to mend broken relationships from previous management is being recognized by the community. She also stated that it will take time to reverse the bad cycle and get a good reputation across the community again.

Dr. Rockey advised that animal handling experience is needed and would be great for Blinn College students interested in vet-tech courses.

The topic of social media posts was discussed in hopes of getting long stay animals out of the shelter. Dr. Rockey recommended pulling on the heartstrings of people and making depressing posts to help them get adopted. Manager/Chairman Gray stated that she tries to keep the social media pages positive and uplifting.

The current adoption events were discussed as well as the save rate with emphasis on April's 100% save rate.

5. Discussion and Presentation on the Current Fiscal Year 2023-24 Animal Services Budget

This discussion was led by Jeana Bellinger. The current budget is \$671,000. 53% of this budget has been used thus far in the fiscal year which ends September 30, 2024.

Veterinary services, shelter supplies, cleaning supplies, and radios/cameras have gone up. The estimated total for the year is \$761,000.

Manager/Chairman Megan Gray spoke about the potential spay/neuter voucher that the shelter is looking to implement next fiscal year. Jeana Bellinger stated that they will request \$10,000 in the budget for this program. An estimated 60-75 spay/neuter vouchers could be given to citizens for their personal pets. Vouchers would only be for City of Brenham citizens.

Dr. Rockey stated that, for shelter spay/neuters, several of the vets in town would potentially give a discounted price to the shelter if given a reasonable offer/guidelines. She stated that a protocol outline should be drafted by Animal Services and formally presented to the veterinarians.

Veterinary fees are currently estimated to be \$140,000-\$150,000 for the year.

6. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Meeting Dates for 2024

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday August 6, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

7. Staff Updates

➤ Administration

Fee schedules and ordinances will be discussed at the August meeting.

➤ Animal Services

A generator for the building is an item for the capital budget plan.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28pm.

Megan Gray

Chairman

ATTEST:

Morgan Koehn

Staff Liaison