ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE **JANUARY 5, 2016** MEETING

The Animal Services Advisory Commission (ASAC) of the City of Farmington met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at the Executive Conference Room, 800 Municipal, Farmington, NM. Roll call was taken with attendance as follows:

Members Present:	Summer Jakino-Whistle, ASAC Chair; John Roe; Wendy Rogers; Shiela Noyes, DVM
Members Absent:	Leslie Jedrey; Ken LaCasse
PRCA Staff Present:	Cory Styron, PRCA Director; Stacie Voss, FRAS Welfare Director; Tasha Soce, PRCA Administrative Aide
Guest Present:	David Fosdeck

CALL TO ORDER / MINUTE APPROVAL

Summer Jakino-Whistle called the ASAC meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 3, 2015.

- November 3, 2015 Minutes – John Roe requested grammatical modifications. With no further discussion, Ms. Jakino-Whistle moved to accept the minutes as modified, Wendy Rogers seconded, the minutes were approved as amended.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussion Item

CHANGE FORMAT OF THE COMMISSION – Ms. Jakino-Whistle asked Ms. Wendy Rogers if she had any feedback in regards to dissolving the commission; Ms. Rogers stated she did not. Ms. Rogers stated she personally believes they need to come up with a large project that they agree on to take to the commission or limit the meetings to as needed.

Mr. John Roe voiced his concerned that there are still issues to be resolved within the commission, such as dealing with animals at FRAS that are being taken in from outside the city's limit. Mr. Roe asked Ms. Stacie Voss if FRAS has reached an agreement with Aztec or Bloomfield; Ms. Voss replied that it is being handled by the City Manager's office. Mr. Cory Styron mentioned they are waiting for additional data and this topic is an administrative discussion. Mr. Roe continued to voice his concern for other entities needing to accept their responsibility for dealing with these animal issues that are being taken in by FRAS; Mr. Styron stated that if other entities and the county have a different view of animal welfare than the residents of Farmington then it is going to be an issue. He continued to state the county has a different thought process on animal welfare than the City of Farmington and FRAS can only control what is within the borders of the city limit. Mr. Styron continued to mention as an individual or as a group the commission could help by swaying the county as they did with the City of Farmington council. Mr. Roe went on to state there is still unfinished business that needs to be dealt with; Mr. Styron replied FRAS is working within the framework of the City of Farmington and cannot dictate what Aztec, Bloomfield, and the county's version of animal welfare is.

Mr. Roe continued to state to the commission that Ms. Voss still needs their help with the decision of turning away animals that are brought in from outside the city limits of Farmington. Ms. Voss replied that in the next couple months they should know what direction they will have to go based on the county's decision but as of now it is on an administrative level. When the subject is listed on the county commission's agenda, Ms. Voss stated FRAS could send out an alert to invite citizens to voice their concerns and support. Mr. Styron stated to the commission that the city is not in an agreement on what level animal welfare should be between the entities including the county. He continued to state to ASAC they will have to convince our City Council to go down a notch or convince the other entities or communities to come up to where we are at. Mr. Styron stated he does not think City Council is willing to continue to subsidize county animals at the rate they're being subsidized at now.

Dr. Shiela Noyes asked about the process of taking animals from outside the city limits; Mr. Styron replied that FRAS take the animals and charges the county. This will most likely run through June 30, 2016. Ms. Voss stated they do not refuse any animals but encourages citizens from Bloomfield to next time take their animals to the Aztec Shelter as they have a contract with them. Mr. Styron stated the county is looking for ways to reduce the cost for this and that a gap in service is created since Bloomfield has a contract with the Aztec Shelter to take their animals. He went on to mention that it is about $100K to subsidize these animals that are being brought in from outside Farmington city limits and more importantly should Farmington citizens subsidize? Mr. Styron stated the animals lose in this situation.

Dr. Noyes stated there should be an option of transporting animals being brought in from outside Farmington's city limit to Aztec; Mr. Styron replied that FRAS would need a funding mechanism for this. FRAS would need a dedicated van and dedicated staff that take one to two trips a day to Aztec Shelter. Dr. Noyes stated it would still be cheaper than taking care of them; Mr. Styron stated it may not be because FRAS would still need to pay employee benefits and fuel for the van. He continued to mention to the commission that this could be an option that City Council could look at.

Mr. Roe asked what is making FRAS more expensive than Aztec Shelter and is there anything that FRAS could do differently when taking outside city limit animals and still do it as humanely as possible; Ms. Voss replied no and that FRAS does not treat any animals differently. Ms. Voss continued to state that it cost $11 to vaccinate any animal that comes through its doors and that FRAS now has more square footage, more staff on hand, they offer more programs, have longer working hours, intake more animals, and have a veterinary on staff. Ms. Voss stated until the county commission has budget meetings on the agenda this topic is behind the scenes at this point.

Ms. Jakino-Whistle suggested possibly holding ASAC meeting on a special meeting basis or possibly semi-annual meetings. The commissioner's suggested if there are no projects, meetings could go quarterly, twice a year, or even hold special meetings when needed. Mr. Styron stated if they recommend doing anything other than the current format the commissioner's would need to go to City Council as a request to modify the ordinance at a night session. The ASAC would need to present why they want to change the format and the change could take approximately up to six weeks to take effect. Mr. Styron suggested the commissioners table this discussion item a few more times until they decide how often they would like to hold ASAC meetings. Mr. Roe motioned to table the change of format of the commission, Dr. Noyes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

NM HUMANE CONFERENCE – Ms. Voss presented to the commission the EmanciPet presentation. It stated what cultural norms are, the root problems of animal welfare, citizen assumptions on why issues are happening, and who have you talked to test those assumptions? Ms. Voss went over several slides that gave an example of the root causes of social problems. She continued to state to change social norms you have to find systemic issues and a big issue in this area is poverty. Ms. Voss continued to state that she cautions that with any kind of campaign to know what the assumptions of why or why not issues are happening. EmanciPet suggest that campaigns should not come from a place of judgement.

EmanciPet helps with deciding on the root cause to be address, it then implements a process to understand the cultural norms and checks assumptions, a solution is then designed based on what is learned, and in conclusion the solution is tested and refined.

SHELTER REPORT – Ms. Voss stated the FRAS has received 90 more animals this year than previous years. Adoptions are going good and euthanasia is down. The live release rate increased for the month at 80%. Spay and neuter surgeries were low this month due to the holidays. The year to date total number of intake is 4400 animals. Ms. Voss stated adoptions are up with puppies and kittens getting adopted out. Fosters are still in extreme need for FRAS. Projects coming up are World Spay Day and Bark in the Park.

COMMISSIONER'S BUSINESS

Ms. Rogers suggested a poster and/or flyer for promoting the social behavior in the City of Farmington. The poster and/or flyer would include acceptable behavior versus unacceptable behavior in regards to animal welfare. An example of unacceptable behavior would be a dog chained in a yard or an animal not spayed opposed to acceptable behavior of a dog being enclosed in a fenced yard without a chain or a spayed animal. Ms. Rogers asked other commissioner's to think about this project that could possibly be presented to City Council along with asking for funding assistance.

Mr. Styron included that procedurally ASAC would need to make a recommendation to City Council to have a program that would be part of the budget process. The budget process happens once a year and the recommendation would be to provide contract money or additional funds from a line item that would be managed by a department from the city. The ASAC would provide guidance on the program or topics that could be set on a quarterly, semi-annually, or annually meeting. Mr. Styron does not see this project as being a topic at every monthly ASAC meeting. He continued to tell the commissioners that the new budget year starts on July 1, 2016 and if they wanted to present the project to City Council it would be recommended and become an issue after July 1 of next year or it would cease with their recommendation if they choose not to fund it.

Mr. Roe asked if this could be a project that the San Juan Animal League (SJAL) or Humane Society could take on as City Council would not be involved; Ms. Rogers replied it would be a good project for anyone to take on if they would like to use their funds versus the City of Farmington using their money. Ms. Rogers stated the City of Farmington

has more resources to accomplish this project. Mr. David Fosdeck, a board member for the SJAL stated their annual meeting will be at the Farmington Civic Center on January 16, 2016 if anyone is interested in going. He continued to state that resources at SJAL are tight and does not see them taking on this project.

Ms. Rogers stated this was an idea that was put forth and if they're not all on board then it does not need to happen. After listening to the EmanciPet presentation, Ms. Rogers then asked the commission if the project would be worthwhile or if they should drop it; Ms. Jakino-Whistle asked if they wanted to think about. Ms. Rogers voiced her concern that they would not be able to change social behavior because of the one person that sees differently. Ms. Noyes stated she believes Ms. Roger's project is a good idea. Ms. Voss stated heartworm in animals would be a good campaign to take on.

If the commissioners decide to continue with Ms. Roger's project, Mr. Styron stated they would need a proposal at the March meeting and possibly present to City Council in April or May. The proposal should include the plan, budget for the project, production of the poster/flier/commercial, and the delivery mechanism. Ms. Rogers asked if there was anyone in the Parks and Recreation Department that could help the commission come up with some prices in regards to marketing; Mr. Styron replied that Ms. Jody Carman would be the contact person. If this project is a go, the commissioner's recommend continuing with monthly meetings. Mr. Styron believes the commissioners could make a compelling case of this project. The commissioners will continue the discussion at next month's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Jakino-Whistle moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Summer Jakino-Whistle, Chair

Tasha Soce, PRCA Administrative Aide

January '16 Board Report

January Intakes	Dog	Cat	Total
Owner Surrender	101	33	134
O/S Return	3	0	3
Seized	7	2	9
Stray	178	111	289
Total	289	146	435

YTD Intake	Dog	Cat	Total
Beginning Count	143	257	400
Owner Surrender	900	818	1718
O/S Return	28	17	45
Seized	41	7	48
Stray	1375	1249	2624
Total	2487	2348	4835
Others- rodents, birds, turtles			36

January Outcomes	Dog	Cat	Total
Adoption	95	58	153
RTO	40	3	43
Transfer	132	114	246
Euthanasia	47	62	109
(-) Owner Requested	-7	-4	-11
Died	9	2	11
Total	316	235	551

YTD Outcomes	Dog	Cat	Total
Adoption	813	614	1427
RTO	418	25	443
Transfer	701	466	1167
Euthanasia	346	987	1333
(-) Owner Requested Euth	-86	-37	-123
Died	30	86	116
Missing	13	18	31
Total	2235	2159	4394

Live Release Rate	Dog	Cat	Total
Live Release Rate MTD	81%	56%	72%
Live Release Rate YTD	85%	54%	71%

* Taking in ~ 14 animals/day
* Adopting out ~5 animals/day
* Euth ~3.5 animals/day

Jurisdication Breakdown	Dog	Cat	Total	YTD Total	YTD %
City	165	91	256	2418	55%
County	60	41	101	1210	27%
Navajo Nation	64	19	83	701	16%
Out of County	6	0	6	23	<1%
Out of State	2	0	2	50	1%
Unknown				18	<1%

Spay/Neuter Surgeries	City	County	NN	Total	YTD Total
Dogs	14	41	3	58	364
Cats	20	34	4	58	379
Total	34	75	7	116	743
Free Surgeries				108	646