

NORMAN ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER OVESIGHT COMMITTEE

September 12, 2011

The Norman Animal Welfare Center Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the City Council Chambers on the 12th day of September, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. The notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray Street on the 8th day of September, 2011. The meeting was also posted on the City of Norman website.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairperson Mark Howery called the meeting to order at approximately 5:35 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL.

PRESENT: Board Members – Chairperson Mark Howery, Vice-Chairperson Jennifer Golden, Council member Carol Dillingham, Ginger Noble, D.V.M., and Ms. Michelle Carey

ABSENT: Joe Carter D.V.M. and Ms. Sandra Rose

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Shelley Raney, Norman Police Department
Major JD Younger, Norman Police Department
Ms. Jeanne Snider, City of Norman Legal Division
Mr. John Bowman, Animal Welfare Supervisor
Ms. Kim Fairbanks, Citizen
Ms. Moira Waterbury, Citizen
Ms. Meg Schmidt, Citizen
Ms. Kathryn Hodges, Citizen
Ms. Barbara Schindler, Citizen
Mr. Mark Campbell, Citizen
Dr. Mathews, Citizen
Ms. Joy Hampton, Citizen
Ms. Jennie Mook, Citizen

III. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 25, 2011 MINUTES.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Michelle Carey and seconded by Ginger Noble, D.V.M. The motion was carried.

IV. MONTHLY STATISTICS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2011.

Mr. John Bowman discussed the statistics from the Norman Animal Welfare Center. Euthanizations are down for the year in both cats and dogs.

The committee discussed City Pet Licenses and their availability. The committee members have discussed several times about getting an on-line payment for the licenses. At this time, the form will be added to the website but it will not allow for payment. Software will be added to the system in a few months to allow for more information to be entered on Animal Welfare calls and incidents. The City of Norman will then be able to track calls and incidents more efficiently.

V. DISCUSSION OF BOND.

Chairperson Howery discussed with the Animal Welfare Oversight Committee about the City of Norman holding a bond election to expand and renovate the Norman Animal Welfare Center. The committee discussed things they could put together to pass along to the new non-profit organization New Shelter Now for Norman to assist in advertising for this election. The committee was made aware of the fact that it can't as a committee be an advocate for the bond election. However, Jeanne Snider of the City legal department did state that, as a individual citizen, committee members can advocate for whatever position they personally chose, they just can not as a committee through the City of Norman.

The City of Norman will be adding the Tevis report and the "Norman Animal Welfare Educational Presentation" to the City of Norman website. Citizens will then be able to go in and look at these items without attending a meeting. The committee hopes this helps to make more citizens aware of the situation.

The committee discussed having a "special meeting" in order to televise the Norman Welfare Educational Presentation so that it can be added to Channel 20. Ms. Raney will check on the availability of the Council Chambers and contact the committee members with the available dates.

Ms. Fairbanks commented to the committee that there has already been over one hundred signs made for the bond election. All of the signs except a very few were already spoken for and placed in peoples yards and this all happened in two days. She

V.DISCUSSION OF BOND (CONTINUED).

also gave the website to go to and order the signs if people have not ordered theirs yet. A citizen asked the committee how the dollar amount on the new Animal Welfare expansion was determined. The Tevis report was completed in 2008 and all the figures are based off of that year. Chairperson Howery commented that Tevis added to their report that in 2008 the cost was \$2.7 million dollars with four percent inflation per year. Major Younger encouraged the citizens who attended the meeting to go online to the website and look at the Feasibility Study. The study does have line items posted so that you can see the costs. Major Younger reminded everyone that Tevis has built new facilities for Edmond and Broken Arrow. The design is one used by Tevis to illustrate a possible alternative in the feasibility study, however, there will be RFP's received from other companies for the design of the expansion.

A citizen asked about staffing and adding new employees if the new expansion was approved. Chairperson Howery explained that at this time there has been nothing done regarding adding staff at Animal Welfare. Currently, there are five Animal Welfare Officers, one Pet Adoption Coordinator, one Administrative Technician II, one Full-Time Kennel Attendant, one Part-Time Kennel Attendant and one Animal Welfare Supervisor.

A citizen commented that a lot of people don't feel comfortable going to Animal Welfare and hopefully after the expansion, if approved, more citizens will come down and look at animals. She commented about having more volunteers come in to help with some of the duties. Volunteers usually aren't available 09:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. daily which is the hours of the welfare center. She would like to see the days of the welfare center change to be open Tuesday through Saturday. Chairperson Howery and Vice-Chairperson Golden discussed the fact that the welfare center was open from 1:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. on Saturdays and they changed the days it was open to allow for off-site adoptions on Saturdays. The adoption rates didn't decline when the welfare center closed on Saturdays, so the welfare center continued to be open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Chairperson Howery explained that the feasibility study would use all the buildings that are now standing, however, there would be additions and renovations to the buildings. Major Younger explained to the committee that there would be at least three tours for people in the community to come and see the Animal Welfare Center and see what the conditions are like. These tour dates will be set up at a later time.

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ADJOURNMENT.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ginger Noble, D.V.M. at 7:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council member Carol Dillingham. The motion was carried.

ATTEST:



Mark Howery, Chairperson