

Animal Care & Control



AD HOC TASK FORCE

BUDGET & FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE

April 1, 2015 from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

The Chair opened meeting and the notes from the March 18th meeting were accepted without change.

Since the subcommittee is nearing completion, there was discussion on the final report and presentation. Given the number and overlapping nature of several recommendations, once the subcommittees have formally concluded, the Chairs will meet with Ms. Beckett to better organize the recommendations for presentation. Ms. Beckett explained the final report will be posted on the CitizensForPets.org website; however, due to presentation time constraints to the Board of Supervisors, the presentation will focus on the recommendations of highest priority. Ms. Beckett stated that the Supervisors will have the full detailed report a minimum of two weeks prior to the presentation. Ms. Beckett asked for the members trust in that all recommendations noted during the meetings will be included in the final report even if the order or grouping appears different. Members indicated understanding and agreement on how this will be approached by the Chairs.

A member asked, "What happens after the presentation?" Ms. Beckett stated that following a task force process in other departments, a standing stakeholder group was established with the Director, i.e., Air Quality has the Clean Air Council, Flood Control District has the Floodplain Stakeholder Group, Environmental Services has the Cutting Edge Forum. The frequency of the meetings depends on the need and interest from the stakeholders. The meetings are a channel for citizens to raise concerns, share observations, to make suggestions as well as for staff to provide an update on their efforts and seek input. It was suggested that this type of forum may be better than a formal set advisory board as noted in another subcommittee. Members, who also serve on the Process & Service subcommittee, indicated they support this type of recommendation in order to keep lines of communication open between public and staff.

The discussion circled back to CitizensForPets website in that it could be utilized to post updates and for those who subscribed to the site will receive a notification that additional content has been uploaded. Additionally, this site could continue as public portal for citizens to submit recommendations or comments. This recommendation will be incorporated into the item referencing providing quarterly updates to the stakeholders.

In the prior meeting, members were asked to review the recommendations. The members identified a couple of recommendations that were duplicated or could be combined.

In regard to the recommended U.S. Humane Society of \$8 per capita spending, the issue of removing Arizona Humane Society from the previous calculation was discussed. Dr. Silva stated there has not been a change in shelter intake since AHS has changed their intake policy in late 2014.

A member asked if an ultimate goal had been established for the task force. The member offered, "to eliminate euthanasia of all adoptable dogs." Another member stated a goal statement had not been formalized, but could be as simple as "we're here for the animals in our community." The Chair indicated that as the presentation is developed, the mission and focus will be clear.

The recommendation of including a license requirement and fee for breeders and studs should be included in the fee recommendation.

Another member stated that with the exception of the veterinarian recommendation, all of the recommendations for specific staffing should be combined.

In the recommendation for increasing the number of grants, it should include or be combined with the recommendation for a grant writer on staff.

With respect to Spay & Neuter vouchers, it was stated the recommendation should be to explore ways to increase vouchers and to develop a way to make low cost / at cost vouchers available.

Gene Palma, the new Deputy Director, was reintroduced for those members who were unable to attend the last meeting.

The Chair asked if the members are in agreement to formally close the subcommittee process. Members agreed that this would be the last meeting.

Ms. Beckett advised that when the Process & Service subcommittee also concludes, information on the final meeting will be sent via email to all the members.