

DRAFT

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gillaspie called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

A. Roll Call

Present:

Kristin Almquist
Suzanne Droubie
Dan Eckstrom
Barry Gillaspie
Christy Holliger
Rhonda Pina
Gail Smith
Tamara Barrick
Erin O'Donnell
Andrew Squire

Absent:

Pat Hubbard

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Gillaspie led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Adoption of July 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were unanimously adopted as written

3. New Item

A. Introduction – Director – Kristen Auerbach – vision and initial action

Mr. Gillaspie introduced PACC's new Director Kristen Auerbach to the Committee. Kristen told the Committee a little about herself. She began her career in the late 90's in Ohio as an animal cruelty agent. At this time, about 85 to 90% of the animals coming into that shelter were dying due to the lack of volunteer programs, foster programs, or rescue partnerships and the community was kept out of the shelter. Now the world has changed for animals. Instead of 10 to 15 million animals dying, we are down to less than 3 million in the United States each year. As she was traumatized by the experience, she left animal welfare after a very short time and work in an unrelated field. In 2012 she had the opportunity to come back to animal welfare in shelter in Fairfax Virginia with a 70% save rate and had full adoption restrictions on dogs labeled Pit Bull. Working closely with her advisory committee, she was able to get those restriction removed. When she got there,

85% of the Pit Bulls were dying; by the time she left, only 8% were euthanized. After Fairfax, VA, she went to a shelter in Austin, TX, which is about the size of PACC. At this time, Austin is the largest life saving shelter in the Country and PACC is following closely behind. Austin achieved No Kill status about five years before she began working there but partners were not working together. In the two years she worked there, she learned how to open doors to bring in the rescue partners and volunteers to work together. At end of the two years the save rate was 98% of the 20,000 animals coming into the shelter. She was not looking for a job at the time when she learned that Jose was leaving but she came to visit the shelter and realized how much she wanted to be a part of this community. PACC is making national history and this past July had its most lifesaving month ever. Last year PACC had 10,000 adoptions, which is more than Austin ever had. She is very happy to be here and has met often with Barry and look forward to discussing how we can all work together in a truly collaborative way.

Dr. Garcia added a few words of introduction. He said Mr. Huckelberry allowed him to find the best person in a national context in order to bring PACC leadership to the next level with having its own freestanding department and housed in its new building and feels that Kristen fits that role.

B. Introduction and update of Behavior and Enrichment Specialist

Thamzen was not able to attend the meeting but Kristen spoke to the Committee on her behalf. Thamzen Carson is the newly hired Behavior and Enrichment Coordinator. PACC has 350 to 400 dogs on site at any given time that require daily walking and thanks to PACC volunteers, the dogs that can get walked do get out. However, dogs sit in their kennels more than 23 hours a day. Thamzen has been providing kennel enrichment for the dogs, which will minimize kennel stress and lead to less euthanasia. She is also starting dog playgroups, which has become a national practice. She is focusing on the dogs that have been in the shelter the longest. In addition, all the dogs will be getting martingale collars, which will improve handling the dogs.

4. Standing Item

A. Director's Communication – Snapshot and Director's report

Kristen went over the new data report that she hopes will provide the Committee with pertinent information and hopes will in time replace the monthly data snapshot which also was provided. Even though PACC is celebrating July as the most lifesaving month, there are other challenges faced such as the 61 cat hoarding case; which is one of five this year alone. The new building will have cats completely separate from dogs and will provide a better environment for the cats.

PACC is moving into a new system for animal handling by assigning the animal a handling ability code which will let volunteers move through the building more quickly. This system will help

determine if a brand new volunteer can handle a dog effectively or if they need specialized training. As cats are silent in shelters, it is hard to determine if a cat is stressed. Each cat will have a chart that monitors their food and liquid intake and outtake to determine stress.

She told the Committee that as of yesterday the volunteer training was completed and the volunteers have access to Chameleon and will have the ability to enter notes, enter photos and assist with adoptions just as a staff member can. This is something the volunteers were unable to do in the past. This is a significant step to empower Volunteers to assist wherever they can.

She pointed out how frequently PACC was in the news this month but next month she will provide you with the links instead of the articles.

The new report offers some different representations of data. The plan is to provide both reports to the Committee until they are combined ensuring all the data from both exist. Mr. Gillaspie asked the committee to review the data from the old data summary and next month discuss the data that they wish to see on the new one. Mr. Eckstrom asked that instead of only looking at it for another month, they looked at it for a couple in order to acclimate to the new data and format.

B. Animal Welfare, private property search – policy update

Mr. Davis said the reason for the policy update is to give PACC the right to go into property when the owner is not home if they knew an animal needed rescuing. When they have waited in the past for a warrant, they found deceased animals on the property. An exception to the Fourth Amendment is called the Rescue or Emergency which has been upheld for a long time in the Supreme Court. A current trend spearheaded across the nation, primarily by Oregon, is to have it apply to animals. Approximately thirteen states have made exemptions to include animals. Earlier this month, a memo was written requesting a policy be adopted that gives PACC officers an exception to the search warrants. Ms. Auerbach said that these exceptions are for cases where the officers believe there is no one on the premises and the animal's life is in danger. The drafted policy is being reviewed by the appropriate Pima County departments. Dr. Garcia added that many conversations have happened between PACC and the Pima County Attorney's office; not just in relation to the draft but also what can we do now before a policy change has happened,

5. Old Business

A. Tent Update

Ms. Auerbach said the temperature continues to fluctuate during the day but there is a protocol in place that is diligently followed. To ensure the protocol addresses every issue, Ms. Auerbach has met with Ms. Holliger. The issues identified will be incorporated into a revised protocol and will be distributed to all those who need it and will follow them during the last months of operating the tent.

6. New Business

A. Adoption follow-update

Ms. Auerbach said that adopters think that the animal is going to go home and be immediately acclimated to their new environment, which is not the case due to the trauma of shelter life on the animal. This is a national problem with adoptions returns but rates have not gone up too significantly outside of their relationship to lifesaving. The key solution to decrease adoptions return is getting the volunteer's access to Chameleon in order to form a volunteer lead team trained in counseling to do targeted adoption follow-ups. The hope is to encourage the adopter to keep the pet by offering them the support and resources they need.

B. Vaccination Clinic South Tucson – Review

Ms. Figueroa updated the Committee on the July 15 vaccination clinic. The clinic was very successful and PACC come away with additional knowledge to use for the next time but the comparison was difficult between having the event at PACC and at the Fire Station in South Tucson. Each location offers its own issues. The South Tucson Fire Department provided 1000 lbs. of ice and 40 packs of large bottled water for the public. A large amount of animals showed up and some animals had to be turned away; which is a good indication that another event needs to be planned in a couple of months.

C. Volunteer Access to Chameleon

Mr. Gillaspie said that Chameleon training for volunteers has already started and thanked Kristen for her efforts to accomplish this, as the hope is to empower volunteers to be able to do more things.

D. Licensing – Web and Adoption Counselor licensing

This item was previously discussed in the Director's report

7. Announcements

A. Committee

Ms. Almquist asked if there was a timeline for the move. Ms. Auerbach said that they are working on it and will have a rough draft for the next meeting but planning for phase one is almost completed. The move has to be completed by December 26 as that is the first day of operation. A small media release to the public about the shelter opening is scheduled for December 28. A larger event will be planned later.

Mr. Gillaspie asked if the volunteers are needed to help with the move. Ms. Auerbach said that she plans on asking for their help in key areas as the plan is to stay operational and not close the shelter.

B. Volunteer Representative (Holliger)

Ms. Holliger said that the shelter has more dogs and cats than usual so the volunteers are struggling to keep up with socialization and general care of the animals. The volunteers are putting in lot of extra hours, which is causing them a lot of stress. She is looking for ways to find more volunteers to help ease the burden. She asked that everyone let their friends know that PACC needs volunteers.

The volunteers have been given more ideas, training and materials on how to network these pets and find different ways to life save by doing more fostering and day or night passes. The volunteers are very excited about all these positive changes.

Ms. Auerbach said that the volunteer orientations would immediately be moved back to PACC and during the initial orientation; animal handling will be taught so that they can immediately handle the easier animals. Also will be streamlining fostering by authorizing mini fostering on the spot.

C. Chair (Gillaspie) Recognition: Volunteers of the month

The volunteers of the month of July are Lynn Jo Namsick who has been with PAC for almost 4 years with a total of 2,320 hours. Jo walks dogs 3-4 days per week, helps update the dog walking board, assists with taking picture of our pets and heads up the "Cans for Canines and Felines" program. Since starting this donation programs in 2015, a total of \$2,187 has been raised. Jo never asks for anything in return and is the sweetest! Debbie Reed has been with PACC for a few years as a Foster mom to all the kittens! Debby is a special volunteer and inspiration to all the foster families that take care of our PACC pets. She coordinates get-togethers for fosters, she is always answering questions on the foster Facebook page and writes very encouraging and positive posts. Most importantly, she takes in many bottle baby kittens and helps them thrive!

Mr. Gillaspie also mentioned how much he appreciates Ms. Auerbach's leadership and is very excited about the future for PACC.

8. Call to Audience

Marcie Velen– Collaboration

She spoke to the Committee about collaboration. She said PACC does not work in a vacuum and successes do not happen in a vacuum. Many experiences of successes and failures of other organizations have a huge impact on PACC as they provide rescues with other partnerships. She said that back in March, Friends of PACC sponsored a missing pets conference and as a result of that workshop, No Kill Pima County decided to sponsor a lost pet initiative to help prevent people from losing pets and to help them find them. They kicked it off in June by micro chipping across the county.

She met with Justin to get his input and he encouraged it. Justin reached out to the Humane Society to see if they wanted to participate, which they did. He contacted the ABC Chips company to see if they would donate 1000 chips for the event. It became a large successful event with the collaboration between No Kill Pima County and the Humane Society collaborating to hold events in eight locations across the county. Humane Society arranged for No Kill Pima County to get collars at cost, which allowed them to hand out 700 dog and cat collars to owners who came without a collar. The left over collars and microchips were used at the South Tucson event. The bigger story is that by working together we had a bigger impact on the community.

She also asked not to cut the data back too much as she likes the details.

Ms. Schwerin - Search /warrants

She asked about search warrants and the length of time it takes to get one. It is her understanding that a search warrant can be obtained quickly; however PACC said it takes 5 to 7 hours to get one. Mr. Davis said it can be as quick as 2 hours but to get one there has to be probable cause and the application has to be signed by a judge. Currently, we are working with the courts to have PACC use telephonic warrants, which can be obtained in ½ to 1 hour. However, the time of day and the availability of a judge all factor into the length of time to obtain a warrant.

9. Future Agenda Items

none

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.