



El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR
Renard U. Johnson

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes March 12, 2025

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Alejandra Chávez

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Deanna M. Rocha

District 4
Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5
Ivan Niño

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Lily Limón

District 8
Chris Canales

Call to Order- Establish Quorum

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held virtually by Chair Chris Canales at 6:03 PM.

Board Members	Present	Absent
Vacant		
Silvia Serna	X	
Sandra DiFrancesco		X
Terry M. Breau	X	
Alejandra Valdez		X
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Mary Bardouche	X	
Elvira Stephanie Frias	X	
Raquel Ellis	X	
Tess Passero	X	
Chris Canales	X	

Animal Services staff present: Terry Kebschull, Adan Parra, Maribel Karisch, Maria Arciniega Michele Anderson, Gina Ramirez, Julieanne Newbold, Michael Wachsmann and Joe Cortez.

CITY MANAGER
Dionne Mack

1. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on approval of minutes for February 12, 2025

Silvia Serna motioned to approve with corrections the February 12, 2025 minutes; Mary Bardouche seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously.

2. Reports of Officers, Staff and Subcommittees

A. Chair Report

Chris Canales moved that the agenda has a new format, but it's function remains the same. He also introduced new members Laura Sanchez from District 1 and Tess Passero appointed by the mayor. He gave a brief update on the Pet Pantry program which is currently in the process of making selections

Terry Kebschull- Director
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915.212.7297 | EPAS@elpasotexas.gov



DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



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and purchases. Funding for the program to date includes discretionary funds by District 8, Mayor Johnson who donated a month and a half of his salary, and the Community Foundation will be fund-raising for the program.

- B. El Paso Animal Services Director's Report February update and statistics
Terry Kebschull presented the February statistics. Report is attached,

Barbara Candelaria congratulated EPAS on the spay-a-thon numbers and inquired about how EPAS determines which dogs are taken to the different adoption locations. Terry explained that the decision is made by behavioral observations, availability of room and how well they are doing at the shelter. The goal is to give the animals the best opportunity to get adopted from those locations.

Silva Serna asked whether other spay-a-thon events will take place throughout the county and would it be possible to promote sponsorships to offset the cost. Terry explained that the Socorro clinic is located on Socorro Rd within the City of El Paso not in the City of Socorro. The clinic has all the necessary surgery equipment and kennels for recovery. As far as sponsorship, EPAS is working with Friends of Animals, other non-profit organizations, and looking for ways to get donations from the public and corporate sponsorships.

Mary Bardouche inquired on the different types of violations that the 800 citations were issued for. Terry explained that he did not have the breakdown, but will bring to the next meeting and added that the violations are all Class C misdemeanors. However, citations for animal to human bites might escalate Class B misdemeanor or felony per state code and criminal cases go to the PD cruelty unit.

Tess Passero asked whether the animals transferred in are from county. Terry explained that they are from EPAS's various partners.

- C. Repot of the Ad Hoc ASAC Annual Report Subcommittee

Chris Canales read the minutes from the subcommittee's meeting: We met on the 7th so last week, minutes for the ad hoc 2024 ASAC annual report subcommittee meeting held March 7th, 2025 present via video conference where Chris Canales, Barbara Candelaria, Mary Bardouche and Terry Breaux met. Call to order at 5:30 PM the single item for consideration of the subcommittee was discussion on the preparation of the 2024 ASAC annual report. Chris Canales presented an outline of most common discussion topics, frequently raised concerns, and potential recommendations to the City Council based on an analysis of ASAC meeting minutes from the 11

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CITY CLERK DEPT
2025 APR 24 AM 11:25

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committee meetings held in 2024.

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3. ASAC Strategic Goals

Goal #1: Support the City of El Paso's Initiative to reach and sustain a 90% or greater live-release rate by 2025

- A. Presentation and discussion on the ASAC duties and responsibilities
- Mona Heydarian gave a presentation on Chapter 823 and 829 of the Texas Health and Safety code. She explained that under Title 7 section 7.28, the ASAC has the responsibility to provide guidance to all City shelters and shelters under an interlocal agreement and other duties include promoting rights and responsibilities of pet ownership, care and public health, oversight of issues and protection, advise City Council on proposed changes to ordinances in relation to ASAC duties, perform duties to increase public awareness on animal welfare and provide an annual report. She also went over the standards for facilities as described in Chapter 823. Under Chapter 829, the animal control officers are required to complete a basic training curriculum, but not to become a peace officer. They are also required to take the training every three years.
- Chris Canales added that the annual report is not required by either the state or city code, but it's required by the ASAC bylaws.

Mary Bardouche asked whether shelter employees are required to have specialized training. Mona Heydarian explained that not under the statute, but by how the job is listed. Terry added that the animal control officers are required by state because they are enforcing laws. The other staff has internal requirements and training that are not state mandated. Chris explained that the city creates a job listing with specific qualifications an applicant must meet and the job listings are all available on the City hiring website.

Goal #9: Engage with City Council on priorities and concerns of ASAC Members

- A. Discussion and action on the 2024 ASAC Annual Report
- Chris presented the draft of the annual report that the subcommittee prepared. He went over the report page per page while asking the committee for input. There were a few corrections made. The revised draft will be presented at next month's meeting for approval.

4. Call to the Public

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Adjournment

Silvia Serna moved to adjourn; Mary Bardouche seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed; and motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Prepared by: Maribel Karisch

Approved by A.S.A.C Chairman:

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