



# ANIMAL CARE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

## Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2020 8:30 a.m.  
8400 NW Military Hwy  
San Antonio, TX 78231

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**ACS Board Members:** Rita Braeutigam-Chair (District 4), Susan Beldon-Vice-Chair (District 9), Karen Speer-Secretary (District 5), Cynthia Cox (District 1), Martha Banda<sup>1</sup> (District 2), George Garcia (District 3), Kathy Davis (District 6), Valerie Moore (District 7), Katie Jarl (District 8), Sallie Scott (District 10), Michael Shannon<sup>1</sup> (Mayoral)

**Ex-Officio Members:** Heber Lefgren, Maria Villagómez, Dr. Marilyn Gotbeter

### **I. Welcome & Introductions**

Board Chair Rita Braeutigam began the meeting by welcoming everybody and introducing facilitator Brad Hunt of the WHY Group. Braeutigam explained that the purpose of the day's meeting was not to make any decisions but to discuss specific topics and brainstorm ideas for the future.

### **II. Initial Overview & Team Activity**

Facilitator Brad Hunt provided an overview of the day's agenda and led the board in a brief team activity.

### **III. Board Training: City Boards**

City Attorney's Office representative Camila Kunau provided a review of State and Local laws associated with City boards and commissions.

### **IV. Board Discussion: Unified Board Direction**

Hunt led the board in a discussion about establishing a unified direction for the board.

### **V. Board Training: 10-Year Review**

Director Heber Lefgren provided a review of ACS and major programs over the last 10 years.

### **VI. Board Discussion: Next 10-Year Focus**

The board discussed and expressed support for areas they would like to see Animal Care Services focus on over the next ten years. No action was taken. Areas discussed include:

1. **Increased resources for Adoption in order to eliminate euthanasia for space** (10 board members expressed support). The board discussed potential additional resources, such as adding an adoption center in the northwest part of town; increasing operational support on site for Adoption, Foster, Rescue, and Clinic; and stretching shelter capacity with the City's anticipated growth.
2. **Build a full-service vet hospital at ACS** (7 board members expressed support).
3. **Increased community spay/neuter efforts** (7 board members expressed support). The board discussed seeking funding for spay/neuter services from local private organizations and creating a spay/neuter transport program.

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<sup>1</sup> Indicates not present at Board Meeting

4. **Increased community collaboration** (7 board members expressed support). The board discussed collaboration with private vets to increase high-volume spay/neuter proficiency and ability; more alignment between local cities and laws; and expanding Animal Care Officer certificates for Police Officers.
5. **Enhance Enforcement** (7 board members expressed support). The board discussed future enforcement goals, including: 100% compliance for spay/neuter violations; increased prosecution for backyard breeders; mandating basic vaccinations; improved court time; reduced impoundments; eliminating the sale of dogs at pet stores.
6. **Other.** The board also discussed additional focus areas, including: Stop using 3-1-1 as a call center (2 board members expressed support); including more information in utility bills (1 board member expressed support); Launching an elderly support animal program (1 board member expressed support); and improving the tone of ACS communications (1 board member expressed support).

#### **VII. Discussion of the Animal Care Services Mission Statement**

The board discussed the current Animal Care Services mission statement and brainstormed ideas for a potential new statement that is simplified in a quick phrase. No action was taken. Mission statement ideas included:

1. ACS: Advocating Responsibility & Respect
2. ACS: Creating Compassion, Changing Lives
3. ACS: Together, we make lives better
4. ACS: Advocating responsibility and respect for all animals

#### **VIII. Discussion of the Use of the Animal Care Services Advisory Board**

The board discussed the functions of the Advisory Board and felt that there is strong passion, diligence, and vision among the board members, but there are opportunities for improvement, primarily in their knowledge, and secondarily in their collegiality and discretion. They identified ways to help, which include: developing a list of education topics for board meeting; regularly providing updated fact sheets about ACS, current programs, and events; streamlining portions of board meetings by placing certain items on a consent agenda; and updating the facility inspection form and providing follow-up memos to board members. No action was taken.

#### **IX. Wrap Up & Review**

Hunt led the board in a review of the day's activities and discussions.

#### **X. Closing Remarks**

Braeutigam provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.