

MINUTES

On January 10, 2024, the Animal Management & Welfare Advisory Board met at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council meeting room located on the third floor of City Hall at 509 E. 7th Ave to discuss the agenda. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Secretary’s Office. Charlie Sanchez, Acting Chairman, called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amarillo Animal Management & Welfare Advisory Board to order at 5:10 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Charlie Sanchez	Yes	15	14
Bethany Schilling	Yes	08	08
Les Simpson	Yes	01	01
David Martinez	No	07	06
Kerry Dawson	Yes	01	01

Also, in attendance:

- Victoria Medley Director, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Ty Vernon Assistant Director, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Brandi Bullock Assistant Director, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Andrew Freeman Interim City Manager, City of Amarillo
- Laura Storrs Assistant City Manager
- Cole Stanley Mayor, City of Amarillo
- Courtney White City Attorney, City of Amarillo
- Margie Gonzalez Administrative Specialist II, AM&W, City of Amarillo
- Lex Gonzalez Outreach Manager, AM&W, City of Amarillo

ITEM 1: Introduction: All board members introduce themselves. Victoria Medley introduces AMW staff.

ITEM 2: Public Comment: No public comments.

ITEM 3: Minutes. The motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting, on October 25, 2023, was presented. The motion carried 4:0.

ITEM 4A: Mayor’s Comments: Mayor Stanley addresses the board

ITEM 4B: Training on Administration of Board Meetings: Courtney White provides a brief overview of how our board and commission meetings work in the city. The topics covered were Robert’s Rules of Order and the Open Meetings Act. There was an Open Meetings Act handout given to all board members.

ITEM 4C: Discuss and consider elections for New Board Chair and Vice Chair: Charlie Sanchez was elected as the Chairperson and Bethany Schilling was elected as the Vice Chairperson for the 2024 calendar year. The motion carried 4:0.

ITEM 5: AMW Activity Report PowerPoint

A. Department Staffing: Director Victoria Medley announces Ty Vernon and Brandi Bullock as the new assistant directors at AMW. She also announced the new Outreach manager Lex Gonzales. Currently, AMW has a Rescue Specialist position open, 3 animal care worker positions open, a CSR (customer service representative) Intake Specialist position open, and 3 Animal Management Officer Trainee positions open.

B. AMW Activity Report: 2023 year in summary data was presented. For 2024 AMW is reviewing city ordinances and identifying any ordinances that need to be updated or possibility added. AMW is working with legal on proposed revisions. AMW is in the process of retaining a 3rd party comprehensive shelter evaluation service (Animal Shelter Services, Inc.). This will be a key component in building a strategic plan for long-term goals.

AMW is also moving forward with the renovation of the shelter operations building and kennel refresh. The facility was built in 1972 and has been identified as city priority.

C. Field Services: AMW presented data regarding total calls for 2023. AMW field services received a total of 21,404 calls for the year. AMW officers issued a total of 754 citation violations, up from 452 in 2022. AMW handled 39 cruelty cases in 2023, up from 21 in 2022. AMW officers continue to be

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operating during our winter hours, 7:00 am to 7:30 pm. Night call runs from 7:30 pm to 7:00 am. Every meeting we present one day summary of calls responded to field officers. On 12/28/2023 we had a total of 67 calls that the officers responded to.

D. Positive Outcomes Departmental Update: AM&W found employment for 398 barn cats in 2023. We also found homes for 1,987 animals through the Adoptions office. 1,431 animals were transferred from AM&W to partner rescue organizations and 1,251 animals were returned to their owner through the Intake office and Field services.

E. Community Outreach Update: AMW continues to have weekly media spots with KAMR, Alpha Media Radio, and ABC channel 7. Lex Gonzales is jumping in and working hard to get our pop-up clinics scheduled for our empowerment zones this spring. We had an adoption event with Texas Tech School on 12/2/2023, one with Pet Supplies Plus on 12/16/2023, and 12/20/2023. AMW secured Chewy donations that were given to Wild West Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, and also offered chewy donated food and supplies to our local rescues during the Thanksgiving holiday, only one local rescue took advantage of the food/supply donation, six were contacted. AMW is currently working on updating the volunteer program and has 11 new volunteers since October of 2023. We also continue to work with volunteers from Amtech Career Academy, TTUSVM, and WT Vero students and staff. We are developing an education program to present to selected elementary schools in the spring of 2024. AMW is working on redesigning the website to have more engagement with the community.

E. Veterinary Services: We have 5 rotating veterinarians and 3 full-time vet techs. Texas Tech School of Veterinary Medicine provides services when needed and their students volunteer 100s of hours. WT Vero Vet provides spaying/neutering services once a month and students volunteer as needed. All animals at the shelter receive daily veterinary care. This includes daily documentation of all the animals in AMW's care. There were 2,534 surgeries performed in 2023.

F. TTSVM Partnership Update: Clinical rotation is tentatively scheduled to start at the beginning of June 2024. This spring we will send a total of 20 dogs to TTSVM for their long-term stay program. In the spring semester, there are 275 surgeries scheduled to take place.

Item 5: Set the Schedule for the Next Advisory Board Meeting. The next Animal Management & Welfare Advisory Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 6, 2024, at 5 pm at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

Item 6: Identify Future Agenda Items: Board members would like to know what other comparable towns are doing concerning ordinances.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 pm.

ATTEST:

Charlie Sanchez,
AM&W Advisory Board Acting Chairperson

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Margie Gonzalez,
Administrative Specialist II, AM&W