

Animal Care & Control



AD HOC TASK FORCE

BUDGET & FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE

November 12, 2014 from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Members and staff introduced themselves.

Roger Naumann, representing Cheryl Naumann, nominated Leanna Taylor a Chair. Ms. Taylor accepted the nomination.

Jeff Schwartz volunteered to serve as “Vice-Chair” on all of the subcommittees to help facilitate communication and manage the overlapping concerns impacting more than one subcommittee. He explained that as a businessman, he is focused on processes and results.

The List of Issues from the initial kick-off meeting was reviewed. A full understanding of the budget and the budgeting process is needed down to each of the “buckets”. A member requested that a Budget 101 class be given so everyone is clear.

ACTION ITEM: To have someone from the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) to provide the budget reports, explain the process, and respond to questions.

The budget request, as identified later in the notes, is for both at the department level as well as by the East & West budgets.

ACTION ITEM: To outline for the members what are the mandated and non-mandated services and sources of funding.

Members asked for salary information and would like to have comparison data from other counties to include the bond initiative from Pima County. The Chair stated the focus should be how much a county or community spends per capita on animals.

ACTION ITEM: To provide members with human population information, animal intake, and live release data.

The Vice-Chair stated he has met with a staff member from the budgeting office and members will see overhead is the largest cost.

A member asked that it would be important to know which services are paid through partnerships and cash. Operational costs need to be reviewed in detail.

Another member asked to view at the “bucket” level, i.e., the bucket for HALO. HALO operates at the West shelter, but none seems to trickle to the East location. It was stated that the program or partnership should benefit the entire department.

ACTION ITEM: To provide a copy of the HALO contract to members.

Members reiterated that they would like to see budget line items, i.e., cost of Bordetella vaccine, cleaning supplies, as well as what HALO pays.

Another member opined that they should be mindful when comparing budgets, scope of services, and what and how other organizations operate since the comparison should be “apples to apples”.

The Vice-Chair suggested that everyone should develop a MCACC mission statement.

The Chair noted that most of the questions center-around non-mandated services. One member stated that the AZ Humane Society used to have a higher live release rate than county, but it is now is the other way around.

The Chair stated it should be clear what MCACC does currently and then consider what the group wants them to do and how much it will cost. In the Chair’s experience, MCACC is doing a great job considering the demands and the funding.

One member stated that spay and neuter is the answer to issue of space. Another member disagreed and stated spay and neuter is only part of the equation.

A member stated that the initial kick-off meeting was focused on all the negative and she would like to see / hear about the positives as well as where they should focus on to assist.

The Vice-Chair offered that the members need to prioritize the issues, but need to get and review the data. One suggestion is to approach with categories of Wish List, Must Haves, Nice to Haves, Can do Without.

The Vice-Chair asked about the fee structure. Another member stated although the fees are listed, what is being charged is “all over the board”. Another member stated there are various specials that are advertised as well.

ACTION ITEM: To provide a copy of the fee schedule / structure to members.

The Vice-Chair stated that a detailed process flowchart is being developed.

As to increase in staffing, members need to better understand the policies and procedures to know how many staff will be needed. Valerie Beckett advised the policies and procedures are being compiled for the Task Force.

A member shared that he has been routinely asked about the possibility of a shelter in the north valley.

There was discussion regarding vet care. Another member asked about the cost of medications. The Chair stated that there has been market research as to salary and how to calculate the level of veterinarian support is needed.

ACTION ITEM: To provide research and provide market study information. (An inquiry will be forwarded to a member who represents AZVMA for ratio and salary info).

In discussing the cost of extending Hours of Operation, staff advised that from the comments in the initial meeting, both shelters are now open 7 days a week. A member stated that the website does not reflect the change. Staff explained a change has been submitted to the Office of Enterprise Technology; however, it may take a couple of days to go live. Members want to know the financial impact – Did staff “Rob Peter to pay Paul”? How were other services impacted? A member stated that the shelters are not mandated to be open Saturdays and Sundays. One of the members, who met with Dr. Silva, explained that he understood the reason for being closed on the Sunday is to allow the shelter or clinic to “catch up” since the staffing of vet and vet tech staff is 1/3 less than it should be given the intake numbers.

ACTION ITEM: To provide information on the impact to operations by extending hours.

A member asked about the financial impact on hold times. Another member stated this information may already be available.

There was further discussion on whether to review the budget at the department level or by shelter. One member requested both so the greatest understanding.

The Vice-Chair suggested that members may benefit from touring both locations as perception and reality are often two different things.

One of the members stated the initial kick-off meeting was negative – none of us have operated a large shelter. The member would like to hear Dr. Silva’s “Wish List”, ideas, and vision for the future. The Chair stated that MCACC is recognized as a model for other communities.

ACTION ITEM: To have Dr. Silva present his idea and vision to the members.

A member stated that the CitizensForPets website should be better promoted – more effort should be made to “get the word out”.

ACTION ITEM: To have a report on the efforts to promote the website.

A member suggested a review if the operating hours should be done. Shelters should be open later into the evenings so people can get off work, feed the kids and visit if needed. One possibility is to open the shelters later, maybe 12-7 pm. It was suggested this may be more suitable for the Process & Service subcommittee.

With the holidays approaching, a survey will be sent to members to reschedule meeting set for the Wednesday (11/26/14) before Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve (12/24/14). Additional information on meeting dates will be sent via email to the members.

Next Action Items:

- Have budget presentation and review
- Review mandated and non-mandated services and funding sources
- Compare budget, resources and programs to other communities
- Review data on population, intake and live release
- Review staffing levels
- Review HALO Contract
- Review Fee structure and options
- Impact of extending Sunday operations
- Review / Summarize
- Presentation from Dr. Silva on ideas, “Wish List” and vision
- Consider forming subgroups