

# CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Clark County Government Center  
500 South Grand Central Parkway, Pueblo Room  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101  
November 19, 2001  
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: HENDERSON, DAVID  
HOFF, KARIN  
MARCH, DEBRA  
NOSEK, BARBARA  
RIVKIN, SAMUEL

### 1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

### 2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

### 3. Approval of October 15, 2001 Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes was made and seconded. BARABARA NOSEK requested that we add "*and not part of the AAC's current assignment according to staff*" in relation to ownership and management.

### 4. Liability Insurance for Exotic Animal Ordinance

Specific authority was given to the Board of County Commissioners during the last Nevada Legislative session, to impose liability insurance on inherently dangerous animals. Different classifications were developed as a compromise with animal owners by the Exotic Animal Committee. The initial recommendation of the Exotic Animal Committee required \$1,000,000 of insurance to be carried by an exotic animal owner. A compromise between the committee and discussion groups resulted in the current classes of animals and liability amounts. SAM RIVKIN made a motion to approve the liability insurance requirements. DEBRA MARCH asked if exotic owners agreed to this provision. JOE BOTEILHO stated that some were opposed because the requirement would not be grandfathered and apply to all that maintain the animals listed. SAM again made a motion to approve.

TINA TRENNER was on the Committee and has a new opinion of committees thanks to this experience. It took almost a year to put together and everyone on the Committee cared about what they were doing. A lot of hours were put in by a wide variety of people who gave input and came together. Insurance is so important because of instances like the tragedy with Josh Weinstein's tiger that killed one of its trainers. Had he not died, would he have needed all that

insurance for medical care? If you are going to house these types of animals, we need to have the insurance. There are so many incidents of animals escaping, such as the mountain lion jumping into a school bus wearing a little pink harness. Had there been children in the school bus, who knows what problems could have occurred. If you own exotics, you have to protect the community.

Motion was seconded and approved.

## **5. Information-sharing by Committee Members**

BARBARA NOSEK wants to address the Commission presentation. Staff will put together cost and feasibility study and then bring back to the Animal Advisory Committee for review. The burden is on staff to bring back the information to the February 5, 2002 Board meeting. After the Board of County Commissioners appoint members for this Committee in their January meeting, staff will select a meeting date and notify those who have been appointed.

BARBARA NOSEK stated some Sun articles were not accurate and made it sound as if satellite shelters take place in retail stores. Actually this was a point brought up by Commissioner Myrna Williams. Reference to coming back in the end of year was not accurate as it should have been in February 2002.

BARBARA NOSEK attended the Spring Valley Advisory Board and there is a lot of exchange between the panel and the audience. When the Board votes, they use in favor, opposed or abstain. Their agenda is different as it deals with zoning variances. The Chair does initiate motions and they said the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair asked for audience comment before panel comments. Speakers would sign in.

BARBARA also found laws taking effect around the country. Regarding selling game bred, Los Angeles strengthened its anti-dog fighting stance making it illegal for ownership or to train to fight. This is something we might want to consider. Many laws are dealing with stronger penalties and felonies for animal cruelties.

If anyone is interested, she has a packet of information regarding the audit at the Animal Foundation

## **6. Comments by the General Public**

DR. MYRA GLASSMAN stated there were several people from the public who had signed cards to testify at the BCC meeting and the Commission acted very rapidly, without opening for discussion or recognizing the public there for discussion. They accepted the report and directed staff to look at financials and feasibilities. After the public who had come to testify left the meeting, Commissioner Mary Kincaid, following the start of the next agenda item, called up Dr. Freer to make his presentation to the Commission. Some of the public came back in in order to speak but were not recognized. She believes this is a violation of Robert's Rules and the open meeting law.

BARBARA responded that it was the Commissioners' option to take public comment and although this was not his agenda item, she believes Dr. Freer was taken as an expert. DR. GLASSMAN felt he was recognized as a member of the public, and they should have recognized other members of the public.

DR. GLASSMAN has been seeing lot of dogs in beds of pickups and would like to see a law against this as it is dangerous for animals. DR. HENDERSON told her a law against it is in place. JOE BOETILHO advised that since this is an enforcement issue, if Metro doesn't see it, the District Attorney's office would have to decide to take the case, and if nothing happened, they make not take the case. If Metro observes it, they can they pull them over but it depends on the circumstances and how busy they are. County law requires dogs to be tied in the bed of the pick-up. She would like the Committee to revisit this law. Staff will review the law and will put it on the agenda.

ANN HERRINGTON feels like this was railroad job. Dewey has a viable position here and they are willing to build a facility at no cost to the county and taxpayers. He should be given an opportunity. They have assumed financial responsibility to keep animals longer than 6 days and then are forced to put them down when not able to be fixed. She is not for a county facility as it is against everything groups are trying to do.

BARBARA NOSEK stated that she, Joe Boteilho and Jim Spinello put together the initial PowerPoint presentation. When she saw the final presentation, Dewey was not included. At the BCC meeting, she gave options and the satellite shelter, Dewey's concept, was included. JOE BOTEILHO advised Dewey wasn't an individual choice as the Animal Advisory Committee's recommendation was for a single facility at a central location with all entities participating. Dewey was promoting a satellite facility with licensing as the funding mechanism.

ANN HERRINGTON stated that nothing should go to the Animal Foundation and she will not support anything that will kill animals in 3 or 6 days. She stated she did not receive a letter regarding adding input as to options.

JUDITH RUIZ agrees with Ann on Animal Foundation. Taxpayers are already paying for Dewey. At the present rate, they are spending \$36,000 a month rent, totaling \$6,048,000. She believes that money should be spent for the county to own a shelter and cut out the middleman.

KARIN HOFF said Barbara and Joe made a good presentation that was faithful and did mention that Dewey was not excluded from these options.

## **7. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting**

The BCC is accepting applications for members to be appointed at the first BCC meeting in January. As for future meetings, the Pueblo Room will not have auditorium seating. JOE BOTEILHO suggested using the Lone Mountain Community Center as that site is already set

up to accommodate us. The Committee decided against Lone Mountain and it was decided that ETD Room 3 could be used in the future.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.