

**THE GOVERNING BOARD  
OF THE JOINT POWERS AGENCY OF THE  
STANISLAUS ANIMAL SERVICES AGENCY (SASA)**  
Meeting Minutes

**Regular Meeting**

**Thursday**

**October 21, 2021**

**Members Present:**

Merry Mayhew, City of Hughson, Chair  
Jody Hayes, Stanislaus County - Absent  
Joe Lopez, City of Modesto - Absent  
Alex Terrazas, City of Ceres  
Michael Pitcock, City of Waterford  
Ken Irwin, City of Patterson

**Staff Present:**

Annette Bedsworth, Executive Director  
Jennifer Smith, Operations Supervisor  
Rob Taro, Assistant County Counsel  
Scotty Douglas, City of Modesto Alt

Jewel Warr, - Stanislaus Co. Alt  
Adrienne Rios, Confidential  
Monica Aleman, Business Mgr.

**Guests and Dignitaries:** None.

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chairwoman, Merry Mayhew.
2. **Roll call:** Silent - See above

**3. Public Comment:**

Chandra Looney: volunteer with the Rescue Support Team assisting under a 501(c)(3) with animal transportation and evaluations. The shelter is full as intake is occurring at a faster rate in comparison to animals leaving the shelter, which leads to concerns with kennel conditions and possible deterrent for prospective adopters. Stated the dogs in 500s and 600s do not get as much yard time as dogs in 300s and 400s. Proposed staggering which kennel runs are let out in the yards first to alleviate behavioral issues displayed in kennels.

Kathryn Hall-Boyer: retired emergency physician and a volunteer at SASA. Expressed concerns regarding implementing animal care tactics learned through the Fear Free training. Make treat bowls available at all kennels, install kennel barriers when dogs are walked through kennels runs to reduce anxiety, allow volunteers to walk dogs outside of the facility, split each yard in half to have 8 yards in total to maximize the amount of dogs that receive daily yard time. Keeping yards in good repair by eliminate standing water and visible barrier between yard four and barn area. Requested more guidance and support for SASA volunteers. Recommended a sortable website to sort animals by weight, age, breed, length at shelter

Augusta Farley: requested SASA automatically register microchips with Found Animals to reunite pets with their owners before they enter the shelter.

Deborah: volunteer at SASA. Finds it challenging to gain access to dogs marked as staff only and those in the 700s. Suggested better collaboration between volunteers and staff to determine set days and times to work with staff only and dogs in the 700s.

#### **4. Presentation:**

SASA Annual Report for fiscal year 20-21, presented by Annette. Covered partnerships established with other organizations and the positive impact those partnerships have on SASA's ability to serve the community. Reviewed cats 85% and dogs 92% live release rate. Provided an overview of the Community Cat Program from inception to current day. Shared Petco Love Vaccine Campaign, which donated 500 vaccines each for dogs and cats. Dogwood Animal Project providing low/no cost spay/neuter for owned dogs and cats to local community members. Best Friends Animal Society donated \$750,000 over the course of three years and was the largest grant awarded nationwide. Volunteers of Human Society of Stanislaus County assisted with releasing cats back into the community that were spayed/neutered at SASA. Barn cat program Working Whiskers provides spay/neuter for barn cats that assist local farms with rodent populations. Petco Foundation Foster Program grant of \$225,000 will expire in June 2022. The grant currently funds two part-time extra-help positions to provide foster services to the community. Adoption rates continuously rise with majority of adopters residing outside of Stanislaus County. SASA's website reached 2.5 million views per month thus far in 2021. National and statewide statistics on live release rates. SASA participated in the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program provided by veterinarians and subject matter experts in the field of animal welfare. Challenges faced by the agency are limited resources with a need for a full-time operations manager, shortage of veterinarian care, and loss of revenues generated from new dog license due to no longer canvassing once SASA contracted with DocuPet. SASA will review the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to reimplement the canvassing program. Another challenge is community outreach educating the community on animal welfare.

Stanislaus County, City of Waterford, City of Modesto, City of Hughson, and City of Patterson commended the agency for its accomplishments.

Augusta Farley: shared her opinion on dog licensing and the inability to address public health issue. In turn, she suggested to require microchipping and rabies.

## **5. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

- A. The meeting minutes were amended to include the Vice-Chair, City of Hughson, will assume the role of Chair for the remainder of August 2021 through June 2022. Approved as amended the Agency Board Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2021.

*(City of Modesto/City of Waterford; 3/3) (Hughson, Ceres, Waterford abstained as they were not present for the August meeting)*

## **6. New Business**

- A. Monica presented information on the True-up for fiscal year 20-21. The amount to be refunded to the partners is \$572,227.00. The expenditure savings stem from salary savings from full-time vacancies including one veterinary, two Animal Care Specialist, and Rescue Coordinator, savings in services and supplies due to how SASA budgeted costs associated with DocuPet, and impacts of COVID-19, which resulted in reduced costs due to closure of the shelter. Revenue and Recovery obtained the highest year in collections for SASA. They collected \$341,440.17, which is an increase of \$92,000 from prior years. Approved the True-up of FY 20-21. (Waterford/Patterson; 6/0)

- B. Established a Special Committee to Plan and Oversee Executive Director Recruitment. The committee is comprised of three board members with a representative from Stanislaus County, City of Modesto, and the City of Waterford. (Patterson/Stanislaus County; 6/0)

Augusta Farley: requested the JPA Board consider the public as part of the process in hiring the Executive Director. Recommended three members of the community are included as committee participants.

- C. Accepted the Donation from the Jacqueline E. Foret Trust in the amount of \$90,000. Annette will propose a recommendation on the use of the donation and seek board approval for spending authority at a future date. (Stanislaus County/Ceres; 6/0).

## **7. Committee Reports:**

- A. Operations and Staffing Report, September 2021. Jennifer presented a new format and layout of the agencies monthly kennel statistics. The change was made to make the data clearer and more concise.

Members of the Board commended Jennifer's efforts in making the information reader friendly.

Augusta Farley sought clarification on the Calls for Service section of the report. Suggested a point of reference for data presented on each monthly report.

- B. Financial Update for September 2021 presented by Monica. SASA experienced staffing challenges during this time, which resulted in an

increase of overtime. SASA's year to date budget is at 25% for revenue, 23% for total revenue from services, and 21% operating expenses. Monica also presented the agencies staffing report.

- C. Executive Director Report provided by Annette. Memorandum of Understanding signed with Dogwood Animal Rescue for a local spay/neuter program. Dogwood Animal Rescue is donating \$10,000 indefinitely for the spay/neuter of owned dogs and cats residing in Stanislaus County. SASA is responsible for administering the program and Valley Pet Care will perform all spay/neuter surgeries. A request for proposal for a mobile spay/neuter vendor is currently posted on Stanislaus County, General Services Agency website and is due to close on November 23, 2021. Dogs Playing for Life is coming to SASA for a four-day seminar November 7-10, 2021, training staff and volunteers on dog enrichment activities. SASA implemented a few enrichment methods such as Click for Quiet, Four on the Floor, and Dog Ears. SASA is participating in Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meetings to better engage with the community.

**8. Informational:** None shared.

**9. Member Referrals:** None.

**Adjourned Regular Meeting at 10:36 a.m. (City of Patterson/City of Modesto; 6/0)**

ATTESTED: ADRIENNE RIOS, Clerk  
of the Governing Board  
of the Joint Powers Agency  
of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency  
State of California