

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

**Regular Meeting**

**Thursday**

**June 15, 2023**

**Members Present:**

Michael Pitcock, City of Waterford-Chair – Present  
Jessica Smart, City of Modesto – Present  
Jewel Warr, Alternate for Stanislaus County – Present  
Merry Mayhew, City of Hughson – Present  
Johanna Ferriera, Alternate for City of Patterson – Present  
Travis Hudson, Alternate for City of Ceres – Present

**Staff Present:**

Sweena Pannu, Deputy County Counsel  
Jesus Mendoza, Deputy County Counsel  
Vaughn Maurice, Executive Director  
Brian Sterkeson, Business Manager  
Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant  
Helena Glenn, Animal Care Specialist

**Guests and Dignitaries:** None

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair, Mike Pitcock.

1. **Welcome:** Mike Pitcock-Chair
2. **Roll Call (Silent):** See above
3. **Presentations:**
  - A. SASA Canvassing program:

Animal Care Specialist, Helena Glenn, introduced herself as a member of the SASA Canvassing team and she does adoption events too. She is new to the position having started in February. Canvassing is enforcing Animal laws and issuing citations accordingly. The main goal of Canvassing is educating the public about licensing, using DocuPet to see if a citizen does or does not have a license for an animal, rabies vaccinations requirements, litter permits, off leash dog citations, animal trespassing and kennel licensing requirements. DocuPet is the system SASA uses to keep records of licensing and has made canvassing door to door very simple. Canvassers can use DocuPet to check to see if a

citizen is up to date on licensing or if their license is expired. Docupet also provides a map of where we have and have not canvassed yet. One of the ways licensing can benefit the citizen is it helps the animal find its way home if the animal becomes lost. The citizen gets a blue tag license in the mail that includes all the information needed to help an animal get home. Since she began her journey of canvassing this year, she has helped accumulate over \$10,000 through DocuPet in the City of Patterson alone. Since she has been canvassing, they have only been canvassing Patterson, but they do plan on canvassing in the other jurisdictions as well. 100% of the canvassing license revenue generated goes back to the communities for animal welfare. What does canvassing do for SASA? 1) Provides the chance for questions and educating the public. 2) Accumulates funds for the shelter. 3) Helps keep dogs out of the shelter and reunites lost dogs with their families.

Public education outside of the shelter is a great feature of having canvassers in the communities. It is one of her favorite parts of the job and she really enjoys it! Canvassers answer questions, provide resources, and educate communities about spay and neuter, vaccines, microchips, and licensing. If she doesn't know the answer to their questions, she always checks her resources and tries to assist the citizens. These are all things that can keep our county's dogs happy, healthy, and out of the shelters.

Accumulating funds for SASA. Since late March of this year, canvassing has brought in over \$2,000 in sales for SASA in Patterson alone. This number was accomplished in only four months with only eight estimated days out in the field per month. Helena's partners with Jovana and they are excited about getting out to canvass the rest of the county to help make this accumulated fund grow.

As you may or may not know, our shelter has been almost consistently overcrowded since she began working here in February. We see accidental and on purpose litters, lost dogs with zero identification and dumped animals. Promoting spay and neuter and citing for litter/breeding permits will cut down on the amount of backyard breeding and accidental litters in both cats and dogs. Citing dogs for not having a license will promote more dogs getting licensed/microchipped and will help them find their way home if they end up in the shelter. Educating people on the time, money and resources needed to raise a healthy dog can prevent the wrong people from adopting one. These are all things that can help reduce the numbers in our shelter.

Helena provided a story about Bear who was adopted from SASA and protected his neighbors' children from an attacking dog. She also provided a story about a citizen and her dog, Savannah. The citizen rescued her from an unfortunate situation and discovered she was covered in cancer throughout her body. Savannah only lasted for two weeks when her mom had to say goodbye. The citizen shared stories and memories with them.

Mike Pitcock, City of Waterford asked if they had encountered anyone who was not pleasant? Helena responded that occurs almost every day. The key is to remain professional. Mike stated that it is good they are going in pairs. Helena agreed. She said mostly it's just one or two people who are disgruntled but the majority of their encounters are positive.

No public comment on this presentation.

**4. Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person): None**

**5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

- A. Motion to approve the Agency Board Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2023 (City of Hughson/County of Stanislaus; 6-0)

**6. Correspondence: None**

**7. New Business:**

- A. Motion to approve item 7A-City of Waterford, Mike Pitcock as Chair for 23-24 fiscal year. County of Stanislaus, Jewel Warr as Vice Chair for 23-24 fiscal year. (City of Hughson/City of Waterford; 6-0)
- B. Motion to approve item 7B-Ceasing the acceptance of donations from the Animal Services Auxiliary and advising the Auxiliary to not use the SASA name to raise funds. (City of Modesto/City of Hughson; 6-0)
- C. Motion to approve item 7C-Adjustments to the current fiscal year budget. (County of Stanislaus/City of Patterson; 6-0)

**8. Committee Reports:**

- A. Executive Director report:

You've heard a little bit about of Canvassing program this morning. She is a great representative for us. Perfect attitude for it.

One statistic I wanted to share is about the household average amount of money we have been generating by canvassing. Using DocuPet, we can look back 30 days and see we have been averaging about \$9.11 per home. It really means that canvassers pay for themselves. We have also been using our Canvassers for offsite adoption events too which is also funded by these monies.

One of the things we are trying to do diligently is reaching out to our Spanish community. It has been received well. The flea market down the street is publishing a lot of our materials for us. The flea market reaches a very diverse community. We have also been on Telemundo television station. Another source of outreach is through Spanish radio 98.4. One of our fiscal staff is great friends with the DJ and helps get our message out in this community.

Lots of events going on right now. We are in the midst of kitten season. You can walk down our cat aisles as see how full we are. Our 2 for 1 kitten promotion has been doing really well. A lot of pairs have been adopted. We have a ton of kittens and expect to have more coming.

Offsite events this month-Cinco de Mayo event at the flea market did some off-site adoptions there. Later in May, we will be at Modesto Toyota which is a lot of fun. We do get a lot of foot action at these events. We didn't do a lot of adoptions at Modesto Toyota but that is alright. We are still getting out into the community.

Donations for free adoptions has been going well. Kelsie Costa chatted with Vaughn through LinkedIn and asked how she can help. She did a \$5,000 donation for a free adoption weekend and \$5,000 for 50 of our longest stay dogs adoption event. We love people like Kelsie who have a passion for helping animals.

Drive thru, low-cost clinics are back up and running. We had one last month and have two scheduled this month. It will be a mix of Wednesday's and Saturday clinics. Our objective is to do a minimum of one per month. We would really like to do two, but it is dependent upon if we have a veterinarian available those days. Wednesday will be a good day, but our busier days will be our Saturday clinics. Our veterinarian doesn't typically work Saturday's so we would have to depend on a contract veterinarian to come in. We posted these to clinics a few days ago and sold out very quickly.

We love our major donors, but our small donors are terrific too! We have a lot of success to ask for sponsorship of specific dogs. We ask these donors to go online, click our donation button and put in how much they would like to donate. We have had people do \$50 to \$500 or even sponsor half a dog. It really does add up. We did a flash sale for

free adoptions one weekend this month. Used monies from the donation fund to do that event.

Some interesting statistics on your chart handouts. Our admission numbers remain high. Averaging 21 animals per day. When I say animals, it's 95% dogs. Imagine getting in 18-19 dogs every single day. It's a lot to handle but our staff does a great job handling it.

Our Field service calls were 761 calls this month. Prior month was just over 500 Field service calls. Increase is due to summertime. We see increased calls for service in the summer.

We need more volunteers! We had total 237 volunteer hours last month. Over the next couple of years, we would like to see a zero behind that number and make it 2000 volunteer hours per month. We do have a lot of recruiting efforts going on to recruit volunteers.

Our social media statistics continue to do very well.

Intake is pretty stable. Last 8 months it has been pretty steady. Last summer we had the outbreak of Strep Zoo which kept our numbers really high. It has been pretty consistent that we are overcrowded. Right now, we are just over 200 dogs. Our real capacity is 168. That is where we are comfortable. We have not been euthanizing for time or space except for medical or bite dogs.

Average length of stay has dropped a little bit which is good. We don't have to double up on any animals.

Adoptions remain up year over year at 6% here at SASA. Adoptions remain down 7% across the state. So, we are 13% better than the state average.

Where we are most pleased is in our rescues and transports! Up 46% year over year. Chandra Looney, our transport/rescue coordinator does a great job getting animals out of the shelter. We had 173 animals in the month of May get rescued. She is literally in constant contact with 200 rescue groups and shelters all the way up to Utah.

City of Waterford advised to keep up the great work. Some of these areas were lacking in previous years so it is nice to see improvement.

No public comment on the Executive Director report.

**B. Business Manager update:**

I do not have much for you, but I did have some bottom-line numbers for you on our SCATE program. Over the last fiscal year, the Board

approved \$40,000 for the SCATE program. He couldn't remember which exact meeting. We did some outreach to local Vets to see if they would accept our vouchers. They were valued at \$250 dogs and \$100 for cats. Most Vets were not willing to accept that for payment for a spay/neuter. We did have one Vet accept and that was Valley Pet Care. They are located next to the shelter. The 200 vouchers were handed out mostly for cats and 74 for dogs. Citizens paid \$50 for a dog voucher and \$25 for a cat voucher. That counts as revenue as listed on the chart. The net expense is the value of the voucher. That shows \$14,800 for dogs and \$9,450 for cats. The other action in this program was hiring contract vets and contract RVT's. The one vet was Dr. Vishner. We had a total expenditure of just over \$16,000 for those contracts. We overshot our budget of \$40,000 by just a little bit. Net expenditures were \$40,862. Expenses haven't been realized yet. Valley Pet Care is to provide those vouchers today so then we can see how many of those vouchers were actually redeemed. We will issue a final report on that. The net expenditure on the chart represents the value of all the vouchers we issued.

No public comment on the Business Manager report.

**9. Informational:** None

**10. Member Referrals:** None

**11. Closed Session:**

A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation-Executive Director,  
Government Code: section 54957 (b) read with section 54954.5.

**12. Adjournment:** Adjourned meeting at 9:40am following Closed Session

**Adjourned:** 9:40am

ATTESTED: Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant  
of the Governing Board  
of the Joint Powers Agency  
of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency  
State of California