



City of Las Cruces®

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Animal Care Task Force Agenda

The following is the Agenda for the City of Las Cruces Animal Care Task Force for July 31st at 2:30 p.m., via Zoom.

1. Call To Order
2. Approval Of Minutes
June 12, 2020

Documents:

[CLC ANIMAL CARE TASK FORCE_MINUTES 06-12-2020 - DRAFT.PDF](#)

3. Topics - Discussion Only
 1. Community Cats
4. Action Items
5. Other Discussion Items
6. Adjournment

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Date Posted: 7/27/2020



1
2 The following are verbatim minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces - Animal Care**
3 **Task Force** for June 12, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. The meeting took place via ZOOM with attendees
4 logged onto their personal computers or smartphone.

5
6 **Members Present:**

- 7 David Dollahon, Assistant City Manager for Operations
- 8 Kasandra Gandara, City Councilor Dist. 1/ ASCMV Board Chair
- 9 Yvonne Flores, City Councilor Dist. 6
- 10 Gino Jimenez, City ACO Supervisor
- 11 Mary Lou Ward, Dona Ana County ACO Chief
- 12 Clint Thacker, ASCMV Executive Director
- 13 Athena Huckaby, Colony Manager
- 14 Jean Gilbert, Human Society of Southern NM
- 15 Susan Krueger, Animal Care Advocate
- 16 Jackye Meinecke, Coalition for Pets and People

17
18 **Others Present:**

- 19 Representative Joanne Ferrary
- 20 Lynn Ellins, County Commissioner
- 21 Marcy Scott, Citizen

22
23
24 **Call to order – 2:30 p.m.**

25
26 **David Dollahon:** Hi everybody, this is David Dollahon. I'm going to call this meeting to order
27 of the Animal Care Task Force. I'm the host so that means I have to play multiple activities
28 and that means I get to share the screen so I'm going to share my screen with the agenda
29 and the meeting minutes.

30
31 We're going to conduct this like a regular meeting. I would ask that you mute yourself if
32 you're not speaking. There is a raise your hand button if you want to speak and it will pop
33 up on my list and I'll call on you. It's on the righthand side under the participants list down at
34 the bottom if you're using the computer. Susan and Jean because you're on the phone
35 you're just going to need to let me know and speak up.

36
37 We are recording the meeting so I'm going to start sharing the screen with the agenda. First
38 on the agenda is calling the meeting to order and I've done that. Next is the agenda. It
39 takes a few minutes to share the screen. Clint, can you see my screen yet?

40
41 **Clint Thacker:** Yes, I can see your screen.

42
43 **David Dollahon:** Okay, good. So, we have approval of the minutes from February 28th.
44 That's the last time the committee met. Did everybody read them? I know I did. They're
45 short and sweet. I have them up on the screen. Can I get a motion and a second from
46 somebody on the committee to approve the minutes?

47

1 **Councilor Flores:** So, moved.

2

3 **Councilor Gandara:** I second.

4

5 **David Dollahon:** Can everybody just say aye really quick? *(Multiple people can be heard*
6 *saying aye in the background.)* We're going to do approval by acclamation then.

7

8 Next on the agenda the only item we have is discussion of community cats. I'll give you a
9 little bit of background and I'll share another screen. I've given everybody most of the
10 month of May to provide comments on a preliminary draft. About five people provided
11 comments and so that's where we are. I shared a few of those comments with you and I
12 was going to go through this ordinance on the screen today. As you can imagine it's going
13 to be a work in progress and a compromise. The other thing I was going to share, not on
14 the screen but information wise, is the next meeting which is June 26, the last Friday of the
15 month, I've arranged through Jean Gilbert, Michel Meunier from Action Program For
16 Animals is going to join us to talk about best practices and opportunities for how to work with
17 community cats. And then the other one is Dr. Gary Roemer from the NMSU Wildlife
18 Ecology Department who I spoke to earlier, he's going to join us at the June meeting.

19

20 Just so everybody knows I don't think we're going to get through this discussion today. It's
21 a work in progress and it's going to be about compromise. Yvonne is laughing because
22 that's an understatement, I'm pretty sure is what she's thinking.

23

24 **Clint Thacker:** I was just thinking is it prudent to have this meeting now or should we wait to
25 hear about the best practices and also about what the professor has to say? Because that
26 information would be key in going forward, I believe, in making some of these decisions and
27 also some of the compromises.

28

29 **David Dollahon:** Right. And I'm good with that but I wanted to go through some items
30 really quickly of what we've put on the ordinance so everybody can see it and have time to
31 digest it and then we'll circle back at the June 26th meeting and then we'll probably have
32 another one. Does that make sense?

33

34 **Councilor Flores:** Yes.

35

36 **David Dollahon:** Okay. I'm going to use Councilor Flores as my barometer and I'm going to
37 move on. And I do want to present a couple of questions for people to take in mind as we go
38 through it. So, nothing has changed here on the ordinance until we get down to
39 abandonment and I unstruck the operated or permitted feral cat colony or returning cats as
40 part of a trap, neuter, return program. I think that will change as we change, through the
41 discussion we'll have to come back to it.

42

43 Animal Shelter, that hasn't changed. Here's the biggest definition issue. Thanks to Jackye
44 Meinecke, she helped reword the community cat definition to make it flow a little better. And
45 then I had a question that came up during the discussion based on people's comments. So,
46 I'm going to read it. The definition is, community cat, an unowned, free roaming cat,
47 or....and then I added the words, a cat kept in an enclosed cat colony that may be cared for
48 by one or more residents of the immediate area and that is/are known and is attributed to
49 the resident(s) of which the resident(s) are either registered with a qualified non profit
50 organization or directly with the Animal Control unit; a community cat may or may not be
51 feral.

1
2 So that's the definition as it sits right now. Thanks to Jackye's recommendation I moved the
3 phrasing around, of the immediate area and that is known or attributed to the resident(s), I
4 moved it up. It used to be later in the sentence. The question that we all have to have on
5 our mind, and it's highlighted in green on the screen, is how do you prevent a stray, non-
6 community cat from being turned into a community cat and re-released by ASCMV to its
7 original place of pickup. It was picked up for a reason. That's a statement I added. So
8 that's something we need to keep in mind.

9
10 I just admitted Marcy Scott to the meeting. We've been online for about 8 minutes.

11
12 So that's question one. And then everything else remains the same until we get to page 23.
13 I owe Jo Ruprecht an apology and I fixed it this time, the allowing chickens and ducks and
14 drakes. That's shown on page 24 and that's on there right now and it's highlighted in green
15 and I just said not to exceed a total of 6 chickens, ducks, and/or drakes per property not
16 zoned for the keeping of livestock, roosters, and I struck the words "and drakes" are not
17 permitted on properties not zoned for livestock. So, it just would prohibit roosters henceforth.

18
19 Alright then jumping down to community cats. So, what is on the bottom of page 28 and 29
20 starting at the top of 29 is what I previously submitted to everyone with the changes in
21 green. So, items A and B relate to veterinary care for cats, that individuals may release
22 them and then Animal Control may return them to the community cat caregiver.

23
24 Item C is slightly changed. Community Cats, and then I struck "whether alone or under the
25 care of community cat caregivers," I struck that portion because that gets back to the
26 definition and then this was new language I added prior that went out with the May notice to
27 everybody to read it, "are prohibited from being returned within 150 feet of a licensed
28 daycare center, public or private schools, nursing home or care facility, any park or City
29 owned or leased facilities or property, i.e. City Hall and Library.

30
31 And then the next item is continuing on further community cats are prohibited from being
32 returned within one mile of the Rio Grande or within 100 feet of the edge of a designated
33 natural or un-channelized arroyo unless within an enclosed cat colony.

34
35 I am working on a map that shows those but it's a work in progress and I didn't get it done
36 for today so we should have that at the next meeting.

37
38 Going on to item D. This was a change at the May notice, community cat caregivers are
39 required to register themselves with the Animal Control unit or through non profit
40 organizations that may register individual community cat caregivers provided such non profit
41 organizations are registered for community cat caregiving with the Animal Control unit and
42 are working with individual caregivers to conform to this chapter. That went out in May.

43
44 Item E, community cats that are reported as problematic, creating a public nuisance or
45 having received multiple complaints about the same community cats for a maximum of 4
46 times within a continuous 12 month period beyond the initial ear tipping shall be, and this is
47 new language, adopted, rescued to a rescue organization, provided to and kept within an
48 enclosed cat colony, other actions or euthanized by the ASCMV. That euthanized by the
49 ASCMV used to be the end of that sentence before I added adopted, rescued, enclosed cat
50 colony or other actions. And other actions may be problematic. And then the rest of the

1 sentence says, provided that the actions do not result in the cat being released unrestrained
2 to the community. So that's that definition.

3
4 Item F, the City through the Animal Control unit with the discussion of the ASCMV and the
5 public, and then this is old language, shall by separate resolution to the City Council adopt a
6 trap, neuter, return policy within 120 days of this ordinance adoption that includes but not
7 limited to.....and that remains unchanged, best practices, educational information,
8 mechanisms for maintaining and listing available resources.

9
10 Item 4 under F is methods by which to register community cats and community cat
11 caregivers with the Animal Control units. And then I struck out the rest of the sentence.

12
13 And then G was a renumbering. Community cat caregivers shall assist in resolving
14 complaints received by the Animal Control unit concerning community cats.

15
16 So that's our whole section. I know it's not perfect. I know there are flaws with it. Imagine I
17 got conflicting emails with suggestions to the language and this is what I was able to come
18 up with. It's good items for digestion, for everybody to think about.

19
20 So, with that, that's pretty much the changes that have been made since the early May
21 notice went out. And I know this meeting is not going to be as effective as zoom but we can
22 go from there and I will leave it at that and let you all start talking or asking questions. I'm
23 going to try to take notes at the same time even though the meeting is being recorded and
24 there'll be minutes from it. So, the floor is anyone else's and I will leave my share screen on
25 and I can adjust up and down.

26
27 **Representative Ferrary:** I was wondering if you are going to send this out to us?

28
29 **David Dollahon:** I sent this out earlier this week.

30
31 **Representative Ferrary:** Okay thanks, I'll just go back to that. So, the part where you were
32 talking about feral cats, if they are registered but aren't ear tipped, are they still considered
33 registered with the colony and not to be picked up?

34
35 **David Dollahon:** Not until such time based on our definition. Not unless they've been
36 spayed/neutered, ear tipped and vaccinated. That's in the original definition for community
37 cat. That's what makes them a community cat.

38
39 **Representative Ferrary:** Okay. That's what I thought. What if you have a problem trapping
40 the cat?

41
42 **David Dollahon:** You should be calling Animal Control. I can't speak for Mary Lou or Gino
43 and they may chime in but they're usually pretty successful but I'm pretty sure there's also
44 no guarantee that they're ever going to catch them.

45
46 **Representative Ferrary:** Okay, because I'm kind of in that situation but I'll keep trying.

47
48 **Athena Huckaby:** I'd be happy to help with that if you want to message me offline.

49
50 **Councilor Gandara:** I know this is a lot of work and I appreciate everybody's input. I just
51 want to be clear, David, I know you sent this out on Monday or whenever that was but you

1 had said that with the emails and what not you had corrected or tried your best to put things
2 together. Now was this incorporated in Monday's...when you sent it out?

3
4 **David Dollahon:** Yes. That was already incorporated to the extent that I could. There's
5 conflicting comments from others. That's also why I shared the four emails with you that the
6 people who had commented so you can see what I was working with. And if you haven't
7 read them I understand but I would encourage you to do so. There's good suggestions all
8 the way around. There's just no easy answers and clear cut answers.

9
10 **Councilor Gandara:** And as you were presenting, sort of outlining from start to finish, I had
11 to get off and I didn't hear so forgive me if you did say this, Gino has been working with our
12 ASCMV to capture where animals are picked up and more specifically cats, I guess that's a
13 question. Is it specific to cats or maybe colony cats? And I thought so, I thought, it's hard to
14 see them specific on Zoom, but I know he's done a really good job this last time of
15 explaining. So, if so will that be part of the discussion? I think it's important to have that GIS,
16 the mapping that they are doing as it relates to where animals are being picked up,
17 specifically cats or community cats. I think it's important to have that as we move forward
18 because I know Councilor Vasquez is very concerned about community cats specifically in
19 his area. I don't think they're community cats. I think they're just feral cats, if you will,
20 spraying. And I think it's important that the group hears those concerns as we move through
21 this.

22
23 **David Dollahon:** I'm going to ask Gino to jump in really quick. What he was showing on
24 GIS, and we're working on getting that on the public website so everybody can see, was
25 both cats and dogs and other things that Animal Control had picked up. I don't know that
26 Gino differentiates between community cats or not at this point on his pickup of cats in the
27 system but that may be something worth considering.

28
29 **Gino Jimenez:** To answer Councilor Gandara's question, the map that I present to the
30 ASCMV Board shows all strays. I have been working with GIS, it is now available on the
31 CLC web page. Anybody can look at it and you can gather whatever information you want
32 out of there. If you need help manipulating it just give me a call and I can step you through
33 it.

34
35 **David Dollahon:** Gino, I'm going to offer a suggestion, and Adrian is on the line, you all
36 might need to work on a press release for that to make that available to the public at large
37 so they're aware that it's generally publicly available.

38
39 **Clint Thacker:** One thing to remember about that GIS is that it is all complaint driven. So it's
40 only individuals that are calling or trapping and saying, I have a cat and it needs to be
41 picked up. It is not a map of where the cats are located. So just keep in mind when you look
42 that up.

43
44 **Councilor Gandara:** And the comment I think, why don't we have something like that so the
45 public knows where they're at?

46
47 **Gino Jimenez:** To add to what Clint just said, that's absolutely right. These are where
48 we're getting calls that there is an issue and we respond to that area. Some of them were
49 successful. If you look at the majority of the dog calls the majority, almost 80% of them, are
50 going to be gone. There's very few of those that we pick up. The cats in traps it's just the
51 opposite, absolutely 80% of those we are going to be able to impound.

1
2 But those are all complaint driven. The map also, if it says like a particular address 550 N.
3 Sonoma Ranch, that doesn't mean that's where the dog belongs. That simply means that's
4 where the citizen saw the animal running stray and called it in because that was the closest
5 address they could pinpoint. So, a lot of ours you'll see that come from an intersection of
6 Sonoma Ranch and Lohman, Alameda and Three Crosses. That's where the citizen called it
7 in because they saw that as the most recognizable landmark.
8

9 **Jackye Meinecke:** I was concerned to hear that Mr. Vasquez is looking at cats as a
10 problem because they're spraying and this and that and it's an issue for him and that's a
11 sad thing. But to me, I look at it and say, there is an opportunity for our city leadership,
12 meaning our councilors and such, to educate the public on A, not leaving their cats
13 unspayed or unneutered, and B, or even dumping them as strays. So many cats that are
14 out there were originally pets that were abandoned many many times and then have of
15 course done what cats do, multiplied very efficiently. So I think there's an opportunity there
16 not only with Mr. Vasquez to understand a little bit better what's going on but also should be
17 educating his constituents. Especially when we get a little closer to how we're going to
18 handle community cats so that people understand how to deal with this better.
19

20 **Councilor Gandara:** I appreciate the feedback and I want you to know that we have done
21 some pretty extensive education to the new councilors coming in and as Gino mentioned or
22 Clint, these are complaints that are coming in to him. So he did take an opportunity to
23 people on his Facebook to educate the community very actually thoroughly about what to
24 do. You know, responsible pet ownership. We talk about that a lot. But I want you to know
25 that he has gotten a slew of complaints from constituents and they have come to the Animal
26 Services Board meetings to complain about this. And so we've heard them and I'm just, we
27 all get them. Frankly, you're right, a lot of folks are not responsible and so here we are.
28

29 **Jackye Meinecke:** And so here we are is the truth and I would love to see much more
30 emphasis on that responsibility.
31

32 **David Dollahon:** Jackye, I'll agree with you and I think that's what's going to be our biggest
33 challenge is the educational information. Thanks to Jean's effort we're going to have Michel
34 Meunier on the 26th meeting about this whole thing. There is no perfect answer to this as
35 Clint and the board members from ASCMV would tell you, our whole issue is responsible
36 pet ownership. If we had had people who had done the responsible thing to begin with, spay
37 and neuter their cats, or spay and neuter and register their animals and microchip them,
38 we'd probably would work Animal Control and the ASCMV out of work. But we know that's
39 not going to happen. And just because we put it in the ordinance, as evidence by...in 2014
40 we put in mandatory microchipping, doesn't mean that we automatically have success and it
41 requires additional work.
42

43 Jackye, do you have anything else?
44

45 **Jackye Meinecke:** Well I was going to get back to the comments that both Clint and I made
46 about the change on item D from caregivers are strongly encouraged to required. I'm still in
47 strong opposition to requiring and putting up all kinds of roadblocks to prevent people from
48 helping solve this problem.
49

50 **David Dollahon:** Well, that was one of the discussion items when we actually last met in
51 February or January in person that a compromise was made so that they could either

1 register directly with Animal Control or through a nonprofit, provided that the nonprofit
2 registered them and then the nonprofit was registered with Animal Control. That was a
3 compromise and I appreciate your feedback and that's something that I'm hoping that we, in
4 the next month or two, that we can get back together because I don't think we're going to
5 solve this and this is something that we can discuss in person.

6
7 **Jackye Meinecke:** Right, because there are two changes there. Not only the strongly
8 encouraged but there was a point at which you could register with the Animal Codes or with
9 the ASCMV and there was a time when we didn't have the little nonprofits having to also
10 register as community cats caregivers. So it was a bigger compromise than I realize we
11 made in February. I still feel like things changed a bit between there and now.

12
13 **David Dollahon:** I will put ASCMV back in there. I'm going to remind everybody ASCMV
14 still has to comply with the ordinance too.

15
16 **Clint Thacker:** So, my, like Jackye, is why was that changed? I don't remember making or
17 saying, I'll settle with that or you know make a deal, because my reason behind that is it
18 hasn't worked at all. Why would we put something in the ordinance that has never worked
19 and was in there to begin with? Registering community cat caregivers, it's been in there
20 since....when was it added in? 2015 I think.

21
22 **David Dollahon:** 2014.

23
24 **Clint Thacker:** 2014. So it's 6 years and we've had no registered. Why in the world would
25 we try to put that in our ordinance now thinking that it was going to be complied with?

26
27 **David Dollahon:** Because it's still complaint driven. Here's the other thing is, one of the
28 discussion items that I have and I'll turn it over to Gino because I think he's looking for a
29 response, the concern was and I'm the one who made these changes based on what I
30 remembered from the meeting minutes and so forth and it's not perfect folks, sorry. The
31 issue is we have to try something and we still have complaints and we have people in the
32 community that don't want them at all and we need to try to solve this problem.

33
34 The other thing is we included the non profits in there so that they could help us with the
35 registration of cat caregivers without necessarily going to Animal Control or ASCMV.

36
37 The other big issue that needs to be aware of is that we need to find something to help
38 solve this problem. Just because people are ignoring the ordinance and not registering the
39 cat colonies doesn't mean we shouldn't try to solve the problem.

40
41 The last thing that I remember is that, how do we make the registration process easier for
42 people, and I'll put a question mark in there, that encourages them to do that. Because Gino
43 is not registering people until all of their cats are compliant with the ordinance and really we
44 should be encouraging people to register when they're working to get their colonies into
45 compliance.

46
47 **Clint Thacker:** Well I can tell you this much, we want things to change. And you're right,
48 this is not perfect and I don't think it'll ever be perfect for everybody because we have this
49 human nature. But if we are going to change and want different results we have to change
50 more. We're not changing to get different results. We tried it for 6 years and we need to do
51 something else. I know I'm saying over and over again but I will....it's one of the things that

1 I'm not going to back down on. I can back down on other things but obviously the registering
2 of it is not working and so it should not be in the ordinance.

3
4 **Gino Jimenez:** And I have to disagree because if you look at this file, these are the people
5 that came forward and registered their colonies. So to say that it's not working is not totally
6 correct. These are files or permits from people who wanted to comply with the ordinance.
7 So it works for those that wish to comply. It doesn't work if people want to just say, I don't
8 care, I'm not going to do it no matter what.

9
10 So in that sense it doesn't work. It's just like a speeding ticket, you can give a million
11 speeding tickets and there's still going to be speeders. Animal Control is trying their best to
12 register them but we are asking that you come forward and register for us. And I'll say that
13 the majority of these came forward when we weren't requiring a permitting fee. That's when
14 they came forward. And if that's where we got to go to get these registrations then I don't
15 have an issue with making it free. Just like the RV parking, as long as you register them
16 there is no fee but let's register to be in compliance.

17
18 **Clint Thacker:** Gino, how many applicants did you have? If I remember right you told me
19 like around 30?

20
21 **Gino Jimenez:** Yes, around 30.

22
23 **Clint Thacker:** In 6 years you've had 30 applicants and most of those 30 is just in the
24 last....ever since you made the ASCMV stop doing cats in Las Cruces, so the last 6 months
25 and I can guarantee you that 30 people doing the registering of their cats is not a
26 representation of all of the community cats in Las Cruces. And I know what you're saying is
27 that if people just follow the law it would be correct but....

28
29 **Gino Jimenez:** There you go.

30
31 **Clint Thacker:**we've said that about a lot of things.

32
33 **Gino Jimenez:** I didn't make the ASCMV stop, I made the ASCMV come into compliance
34 with the ordinance. That's the only difference. And yes, out of the 30 there is probably 12
35 here that came forward and it was basically August/September of last year when the
36 majority of these came forward. So we reached some people. Some people wanted to be in
37 compliance.

38
39 **Clint Thacker:** And out of the 12, how many actually have running colonies right now that
40 are registered with you?

41
42 **Gino Jimenez:** Only one. The reason being is because by the time they came into
43 compliance the sunset clause had come into effect so we had to put a stop to that process
44 right there by ordinance.

45
46 **Athena Huckaby:** I just sort of want to....so to take this out of like the realm of theoretical
47 and more into evidence based practices....we know from public health....so for example in
48 Gino's example that you have an ordinance that people shouldn't speed but yet they're
49 continuing to speed let's say on a particular street, rather than educating that community not
50 to speed down that street we would....you know the best thing to do would be to institute
51 traffic calming measures, right, put in some speed bumps to do something to the

1 architecture of that area to make it less attractive to speeding. So you know public health
2 has really come away from this idea that we're going to educate people out of bad
3 behaviors and that what we need to do legislatively is make it easy to choose good
4 behaviors. And so you know we see that true with education around eating high fat foods,
5 right, like it's not enough to just put it on the nutrition label. High fructose corn syrup, right, if
6 we take it out of the food then people don't have to worry about reading the label to make
7 that good choice.

8
9 And so I would say that the same thing is true regarding this ordinance. If people are not
10 following the ordinance it's because it's not easy to follow, right? It's because there's
11 something challenging in it. Whether that's the fee. Whether that's, you know, the way that
12 the registration process has to take place. So I really think that there has to be some kind of
13 an emphasis in meeting people where they're at.

14
15 You know also to speak to Councilor Vasquez' concerns I totally understand and I mean
16 part of one of the issues that he brought up is that he's got a lot of community and/or stray
17 cats in his district and therefore a lot of complaints. You know public health also shows us
18 social determinants of health. He's got one of the poorer districts and so people don't have
19 as much expendable income to care for their pets so often it's a choice between do I throw
20 fluffy on the street or do I feed my kids that month or you know other difficult choices.

21
22 So whereas people in higher income districts have more opportunities available to them. So
23 I think it's about making those opportunities really widely available, you know again what
24 we've talked about with the overlap with this, none of this ordinance is going to do any good
25 if we're not offering discounted vet clinics in the community, pet food banks, waiving the fee
26 for this registration, you know doing whatever we can to mitigate those social determinants
27 of health. So, I just wanted to talk about the ordinance from a public health standpoint and
28 kind of what it makes me think about.

29
30 Also, there seems to be this idea that TNR increases the amount of cats in the street and all
31 we're doing is asking for the community to be able to do something about the cats on the
32 street. The cats are on the street either way, you know, and as I've brought forward before
33 unless Las Cruces approves a budget that would not be complaint driven and allow the
34 ASCMV to euthanize 80% of the feral cat population, those cats are still going to be on the
35 street, whether we're TNRing them or not. So, are we letting perfect be the enemy of good
36 or are we trying to do something, right, to improve the situation and move forward?

37
38 **Gino Jimenez:** I have to agree with Athena because the reason that...from the registries
39 that I have right now, that has been their biggest obstacle is being able to afford spay and
40 neutering for these animals.

41
42 **Jackye Meinecke:** And in some ways I agree with Athena and I was going to add on to that.
43 There's something that's going on here, and she was talking about encouraging people to
44 choose good (inaudible) encouraging the direction. And I'd like to point out that, yes, and I
45 agree with Clint that it has been a failure to try and register colonies, but this does not mean
46 that TNR has not been going on. It's been going on quietly under the radar in literally block
47 by block in some areas. So out of their own pockets with their own time with their own
48 efforts many people are already doing this. So I think the real answer is to quit making it so
49 punitive and difficult and find, like Athena said, ways to support the people who want to
50 solve this problem. There are people out there who want to solve this problem who are
51 actually working everyday to solve this problem. They just may not be registered.

1
2 **David Dollahon:** Right. So, Jackye I'm going to challenge that question, just because I can.
3 If people are doing it on their own, great, then what's the fear with registering? I know that
4 we've had people who talked about, I just wanted to do it long enough to get the cats that
5 are in my colony taken care of and get myself out of the business and then there are other
6 people in the community that want to do this as part of their life's work. My phrase, not
7 anybody else's. so, what's the fear of registering and how do we know what's successful at
8 the end of the day. We all know that it's not working now but how do we measure success
9 at the end of the day?

10
11 **Jackye Meinecke:** I don't know how to tell you to measure the success since we don't have
12 any numbers to start with. We're back to, again Athena's thing of evidence based, but what
13 I can say a little bit about fears is part of it is there's so many restrictions and so many
14 requirements and the fear is that you will be shut down, cut off, your animals will be taken.
15 You know the ultimate in stream of all of this is going to be the euthanasia of animals you've
16 maybe cared for, for years as a colony. These colonies aren't new. They're all over town. I
17 know where a few of them are but most people aren't going to tell you where they are
18 because again, then that kind of brings on this you know retribution, punitive, you must
19 register, you must do this, you must...(inaudible) for everybody. And I can tell you, I can
20 always tell animal rescuers, I was joking with a friend this weekend, we're the ones that are
21 wearing the old ratty clothes that are stained to death driving huge cars that we can put
22 many carriers in and have no money and no retirement because we put all of our money
23 into trying to solve this community problem. So, it would be nice to have a different
24 approach, like Athena was talking about, let's encourage good behavior. Let's make it
25 possible, literally, for people to say I want to clean up my block and we help them clean up
26 their block. Forget the registration stuff, clean up the block. Help them do what needs to be
27 done. Send Clint out there with his team and let them clean up the block. If we did this
28 block by block it would get done. Then you could have measure because you would be
29 counting and you'd be working with the community.

30
31 **Mary Lou Ward:** I just wanted to make a comment to Jackye because she said something
32 about the fear with these rescue groups that are doing this for years that they've been under
33 the radar for fear of the animals being taken away and of the department, Animal Control,
34 going in there and taking them. So they've been doing this for years and years but for years
35 and years we've been working with these different organizations and we have never once
36 tried to do that. So, at some point there has to be a trust built and I don't know what we
37 need to do to show these other groups that's not what we're here for. That's it.

38
39 **David Dollahon:** Thank you Mary Lou.

40
41 **Councilor Flores:** There's different things going on here and trying to track everything
42 that's being said but it's hard because we're all over the board on this one. I think the
43 reason we're all over the place on this is because we're just talking about a few things
44 before we really meet and talk about this and hopefully at least get on maybe first base of
45 reaching a resolution, reaching a middle ground here.

46
47 I would like to address what Jackye said and then Mary Lou, Jackye said that people are
48 already doing this on their own. But then she went on to say that people should be
49 encouraged to clean up and that Clint should go out there presumable with his staff,
50 presumably into neighborhoods where there's these cat clusters, and that's all I'm going to
51 call them because I think we still have to discuss what a community is and what a feral cat is

1 and all that sort of stuff, and then I think Mary Lou hit the nail on the head when she said
2 there has to be trust, there has to be trust between the community and the government, so
3 the solution would be that, and I think that there's certain behaviors that, I think Athena
4 brought this up, Athena did bring it up, somehow it isn't so much education like putting out
5 PIO's or PSA's and having people abide by those but what it will take is someone from the
6 neighborhood, someone who lives in the neighborhood who really gathers a group of
7 people. It's going to have to be neighborhood driven. How that happens is people that they
8 can trust and most people are not going to trust a city employee who might, you know,
9 they're going to say, well I'm going to get busted and there's (inaudible) and I'm going to
10 whatever. So, I think that that's, the question is how are we going to do this and I agree with
11 Clint, I mean the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a
12 different result. If it's been 6 years and there's 30 registrations and that's just the ones that
13 have come forward or been identified, there's probably a lot more than that. There just has
14 to be a different approach and having neighborhoods that are really working on this issue is
15 going to do it. I don't see anything else working. I really don't.

16
17 **David Dollahon:** I appreciate your comments, and I think you're right. I am going to offer
18 that I think one of the biggest issues that we have, and I put that as a question in the
19 ordinance, is how do we make it easier for people to comply from a registration standpoint
20 because right now Gino won't register anybody until all of their cats are spayed and
21 neutered and ear tipped and vaccinated. And their doing it out of their own pockets and it
22 takes time. So why aren't we writing the process in such a way that we register them when
23 they're working on it and they've identified a cat and they know it's attributed to them and
24 then we give them time to get them spayed and neutered and so forth. That's one of my
25 questions there is why don't we register them from the beginning to work towards
26 compliance rather than register them at the end of when they've fully complied. That's my
27 point.

28
29 **Councilor Flores:** I propose that, I think that once we, you know, I know that Clint is
30 working very hard along with other people to get another....well we're going to have another
31 facility hopefully by, well with Covid it's probably not going to be 2021 or the target date of
32 September 2021 but we are going to have another facility and the goal is to keep the old
33 facility too, well we're going to keep it anyway, but to have a spay and neuter center there
34 and once we hire a veterinarian we may be able to have services that we haven't been able
35 to provide because of the capacity, just the ability to do that. So, I think there's going to be
36 ways and then if we get that grant writer, if we get a grant writer hired then perhaps we can
37 get grant money that would allow free spaying and neutering. I think that's why a lot of
38 people don't do it. A lot of people don't want litter after litter after litter and God knows what
39 happens to those kitties but I think that we can look prospectively at certain solutions. I
40 agree with Clint, doing the same things over and over, and I don't think an ordinance is
41 going to do it.

42
43 **Jackye Meinecke:** I was going to respond to Mary Lou's thing. I think I was not precise
44 enough in my (inaudible). When I say a group, I mean as a group of individuals. She
45 probably thinks I'm meaning things like Cat's Meow or Michel Meunier and those kinds of
46 things. What I mean is that little individual, I would even be curious how many of our 30 who
47 came forward came forward because they were cited and forced to and I didn't mention the
48 restrictions on the number of cats that we have for so many things and still some of the
49 discussion about as a registered person now you've got to acknowledge that this is your
50 animal somehow. And so it's not groups in that traditional sense of these are organized
51 groups. Again I'm talking about 3 or 4 people in a neighborhood get together and say, we're

1 going to fix this entire neighborhood, we'll all put some money in the pot, we'll all trap, we'll
2 all keep an eye and they work on it. And that's why some neighborhoods ultimately get a
3 little more under control or over time it disappears completely because nature takes care of
4 it but that's the way it goes. I think that was maybe a misunderstanding we had between
5 Mary Lou and I about what was going on here is, I'm talking about the people who really are
6 almost individually or a little tiny group at a time doing the work and they're not somebody
7 you can find easily because again the fear of what's going to happen, they come in and tell
8 you how many cats you can have, you know, restrictions, too little support, too much lack of
9 funds.

10
11 **David Dollahon:** I don't want to speak for Mary Lou but I didn't take your comment that
12 way. I took it exactly how you said it that you were talking about an individual or a group of
13 individuals in a specific area.

14
15 **Athena Huckaby:** I hear what you're saying, Mary Lou, I feel like coming from you know the
16 perspective, you're like well what can I do to build more trust. But I think one of the issues is
17 historically, you know, there is not a lot of trust especially between minority communities
18 often and people that are perceived as, you know, being policed really in some way, right. I
19 understand that the, you know, Animal Control is not, I mean technically Gino is I mean
20 technically, right, Animal Control is under LCPD, right, so you know there's, I think we can
21 all speak to the current political situation in that you know maybe because of historic
22 legacies there's not a lot that can be done to build that trust. One of the things that works in
23 New York where I did Trap/Neuter/Return, speaking just sort of everybody's comments
24 about people working in neighborhoods, when I said that I, when I reached out to the city
25 and said that I was interested in doing TNR, they connected me with somebody who had
26 identified themselves as a mentor that was available and she ran her own 501c3 nonprofit
27 and she loaned me some traps and taught me how to trap cats and how to recover them
28 and everything and then I in turn after doing this for many years, you know, offer myself as a
29 mentor and I did that both in Staten Island and I do that also here in Las Cruces. So
30 perhaps identifying people that do have, you know, if not good at least working relationships
31 with Animal Control that feel comfortable sort of being the voice of that, you know, I would
32 feel comfortable if somebody came in my neighborhood and said that they would like my
33 help, you know, in trapping and how to help them and then you know how to help them with
34 the registration process. So maybe connecting people with other advocates in the
35 community that are, I mean, like I'm a white middle class lady, you know, like I'm not afraid
36 of being cited or whatever, right, whereas some other less privileged members of our
37 community might have that fear no matter what we do to build trust. So I hope that was
38 clear.

39
40 **Gino Jimenez:** To answer one of the questions that was brought up. These applicants were
41 given 180 days from the time they came in to see me to come into compliance and some of
42 those applicants were getting very very close to their deadline and I reached out to them to
43 say you know we're coming close to that deadline and I even extended beyond the 180
44 days to make sure that they were in compliance. So as long as there is communication with
45 each other I don't see where we have to be so strong that we have to take it word for word
46 that this is how it has to happen. We can flex a little bit and in order to get compliance,
47 which we all want, I was willing to flex and give them that extra time.

48
49 And to go back to what Jackye was saying, none of these people that came in to me and
50 voluntarily wanted to register were cited before hand. They came in like I said voluntarily to
51 come into compliance with their colony. And since then, because like I said, the sunset

1 clause took effect, so I wasn't able to give them a permit after that. We haven't gone back to
2 try and impound those cats that are not registered and part of that colony. Thank you.
3

4 **David Dollahon:** Okay, alright so I'm not seeing any other hands at this point. I will remind
5 everyone we do have a meeting on the 26th of June and we're just going to have two guest
6 speakers and then we'll come back to another meeting after that and I hope you can all
7 participate.
8

9 **Marcy Scott:** I wasn't here at the beginning because I had trouble figuring it out. Did
10 somebody answer the question that I asked about what happens with a single cat that
11 comes in that is not a community cat or not yet a community cat. What is the current policy
12 of what is done with a trapped cat or a cat that is brought in to ASCMV and what do we
13 want to put into the ordinance to cover that?
14

15 **David Dollahon:** So Marcy, I highlighted the question but no one answered it and I don't
16 think we're going to answer it today. It's a legitimate question. Clint was having technical
17 difficulties, so I'll just say this, so if it's a...what should be happening under the ordinance,
18 and I'll let Gino weigh in, if a cat is trapped and it comes in and it's not know as a community
19 cat yet, it's treated as a stray. Then what would happen is that they would hold it for a
20 reclaim period, it's between 3 and 5 days. Three if it's unknown to an owner or not
21 registered to anybody. Five days if it's registered to somebody and then after that reclaim
22 period then it could be made available for adoption. I can't really answer what Clint and
23 them do. We didn't get to that point on answering that question but that's what should be
24 happening to a stray during the reclaim period.
25

26 He just texted me, and said you are correct and he goes, if it's feral after a hold period it is
27 generally euthanized. If they don't see it as adoptable is I think what he's saying that it
28 would normally be euthanized. He has told us in the past on the board that if he and his
29 staff felt like it was adoptable that they would rescue it out, they would do that. He just told
30 me I was correct again.
31

32 **Marcy Scott:** Are we going to put something in the ordinance about that?
33

34 **David Dollahon:** That's a good question.
35

36 **Joanne Ferrary:** On that point, when you were speaking or someone was speaking earlier
37 about you know they being able to register before we're able to get the ear tipped and all
38 that, get them trapped and take care of that, that would help I think a lot because then while
39 someone is in the process such as I am, if something happened and maybe I don't see the
40 cat for 3 days anyway, then I would be able to rest easier and not worrying about that cat
41 having been picked up and euthanized.
42

43 **David Dollahon:** I would call it the work in progress rule, right?
44

45 **Athena Huckaby:** I was just going to ask, having Marcy join us reminds me that one of the
46 things that we could put also into the question that we were, under D, community cat
47 caregivers, where you had added the notations about food and you know other resources
48 free spay and neuter, money for people to build enclosed colonies.
49

50 **David Dollahon:** That's a good idea.
51

1 **Athena Huckaby:** Because I think again that people would do that if you know.....Clint has
2 kindly offered since the last meeting to help me build an enclosure. I don't currently have
3 any cats living outside even though I was doing trap/neuter/return in Mesilla for a while. I
4 have what I call house ferals, right, where they live in the house with me but don't want me
5 to touch them which is fine but it would be nice to have an enclosure where they could
6 experience the outdoors and not hurt my birds but you know raising money for that could be
7 difficult even for people that have some means and certainly our residents that don't have
8 means don't have money to do that and that would be a great option to offer to people, you
9 know if you would like we have (inaudible) or whatever.

10

11 **David Dollahon:** I'm going to call this done and adjourn the meeting at 3:39.

12

13

14 **Adjourn – 3:39 p.m.**

15

16

17

18

19 _____
Chair

20

21

22 Approved: _____