MIN#11-23 HUMANE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR 11/20/23

ROBIN I. KROOGMAN NEW HAVEN ANIMAL SHELTER

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Rachel Kaufman, Mike Moscowitz, Stephanie Nicholas, and Anna Schildroth. Ex-Officio Commissioner Chief Karl Jacobson.

**QUORUM**: 4 Commissioners.

Municipal Animal Control Officer Luis Lopez

Assistant Chief Manmeet Bhagtana, Lieutenant Agosto, Assistant Animal Control Officer Nancy Perry, Kennel Worker Dalila Ortiz, Kennel Worker Tanny Hewston

Assistant Corporation Counsel Earle Giovanniello

Deb Wan, President, Friends of the New Haven Animal Shelter, Inc.

Elaine Spinato, Treasurer, Friends of the New Haven Animal Shelter, Inc.

Karen Marchione, Rose Chatterton, Dawn Hewston, Rebekah DeMatteo, and Meredith Canto

**OPEN SESSION**

The November meeting of the Humane Commission, City of New Haven was called to order at 6:10 P.M., Anna Schildroth, Chair, presiding.

~Introductions

~Compassion Satisfactions: Chief Karl Jacobson Remarks:

Assistant Chief Bhagtana to be Chief’s Designee to the Humane Commission. Lt. Agosto to monitor shelter operations. Collaboration of all shelter team members: NHPD, shelter staff, Humane Commission, Friends NHAS is needed to insure best practices for the health and safety of the animals. Will propose additional hires for the 2024/2025 budget. New Light Duty Officer to be assigned to the shelter subject to staff approval and possibility of additional personnel from the Police Intern Program Monies from the police budget will be made available for staff training. Questions raised re: shelter renovation plans (need for finalized overall plan with identified costs) will be addressed in a meeting with City Engineer Zinn.

REPORTS:

~G. Zinn, City Engineer Shelter Renovation, Via Email:

1. We are providing the 2016-2020 City audits to CT DECD for The $500k ARPA funding as requested last week. This should be one of the final document requests for that funding.
2. We’ve engaged NPower to complete the new electrical service and electrical work, which should commence within two weeks. We plan on holding a pre-construction kickoff meeting with them later this week.
3. We are planning on completing the plans for back -of- house addition in December, with a goal to bid that portion of the project early in the new year.
4. We have finally signed an agreement for masonry work, and will be scheduling work shortly.

~O.I.C. Lopez: Shelter Stats for October 2023

As of 10/1/23: 35 animals in the shelter (26 dogs/9 cats). 50 animals admitted (39 dogs/ 9 cats/1 rabbit/1 snake). 13 animals redeemed. 8 animals adopted. 20 transferred. 0 DOAs. 2 Euthanizations (@Central) 1 sick cat/1 dog HBC.

19 field investigations. 2 bite follow ups (1 dog/1 cat).

As of 1/31/23: 38 animals in the shelter (35 dogs/3 cats).

Staffing: Permanent: New AACO application certification by 11/29. AACOs Amanda Armstrong and Nancy Perry in Probationary period. Temporary: Off. Ortiz (Sanitizing) 2 K-9 Officers (Enrichment). 2 Parks employees may continue. Light Duty Officer Katie Hansen to be assigned.

Equipment: no new issues. General Fund Budget, Line Item Breakdown, NA.

Status of Veterinarians Participating with us in low cost S/N surgeries using the state voucher has not changed. No new information re: Hill South residents’ complaint. NHPD investigation ongoing. Status of Memo of Financial Understanding with FOTNHAS unknown. General state of the shelter, “Thumbs Up”.

Discussion of March Department of Agriculture Report. acquired by ACC Giovanniello. Motion to table made by Comm. Nicholas, seconded by Comm. Kaufman. Vote taken: Comms. Kaufman, Nicholas, and Schildroth for, Comm. Moskowitz against. Motion carried.

~Chair: FOTNHAS will not be doing an Open House/Pictures with Santa this year. Volunteer applicants are being interviewed and scheduled for training. Opportunity to win $5,000 for the shelter by attending Maddie’s weekly “Community Conversations Forum”. Recordings can be found at Maddies’s Fund.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

~Shelter Renovation strategies

~Commission 2023 Goals/strategies

~Finance: Laura J. Niles Foundation proposal.

~Branding: Facebook Postings: 10/10—11/15 = 0.

~Outreach

~SOPs: Proposed Documents to be revised.

NEW BUSINESS:

~Wildlife Protocol

~Changing Roe of Shelters: meeting with CAO Rush-Kittle

~Legacy Fund: Gathering for Donors; Fundraising letter.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Comm. Nicholas. Seconded by Comm. Kaufman.

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned: 8:00 P.M.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: DECEMBER 18, 2023.