

MINUTES

CITY OF TAYLOR, TEXAS **ANIMAL CONTROL APPEALS BOARD AND SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Taylor City Hall Chambers, 400 Porter St, Taylor, TX
March 31, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Public in attendance:

Becky Schultz*, Marissa Little, DVM, Susan Davis

Board members present:

Alexis Fine, Sandy Perio, Melanie Rathke, Genifer Trdvik, Diana Voytek, DeeDee Yelverton.

*Ms. Schultz, although Interim Director of Parks and Recreation replacing Tyler Bybee over the animal shelter, had not been officially installed on the Animal Control Appeals Board/Shelter Advisory Committee. Chairwoman Melanie Rathke oversaw the meeting.

Board members absent: Thomas Rohlack, Nancy St. Peter, DVM

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM, and quorum declared.

INVOCATION did not occur.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE did not occur.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:

Dr. Little gave update regarding her surgery programs and was allowed to speak later on Agenda Item 5.

REGULAR AGENDA; REVIEW, DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION

1. Introduction of new Board Member:

Genifer Tdrvik replacing Lin Crane

2. Meeting minutes from December 16, 2025, were reviewed and unanimously approved.

3. Update concerning the purchase of shade structure over outdoor dog kennel runs

The shade structure has been ordered this week and there is an 8-week lead time. Installation should be finished by mid-June.

4. Discussion concerning duck management

Ms. Schultz shared information on the new "Duck Responsibly" campaign/program to educate the public on the negative impact of feeding Taylor's invasive local ducks. They have also hired a wildlife management company, Wildernex, to assist in mitigation efforts such as egg adding to keep eggs from hatching. Animal shelter staff and volunteers are asked to help spread the word.

5. Update – Texas Critter Crusaders Trap, Neuter, Release Program

TCC has begun using a software program designed for shelter management, making it work to manage the TNR program and keep track of Taylor's community cats. It's been a slow start to the year but it has made an impact; of the 42 cats altered, 19 were males and 23 were females who were all pregnant. There are currently 215 managed colonies consisting of 1100 cats with 500 on the surgery waiting list. Pregnant females have top priority.

Dr. Little will have appointments every Wednesday and Friday. She noted that without a mandatory spay/neuter policy it is hard to get ahead. Alexis reiterated that WCRAS' Friday TNR surgery days are another option. The cost is \$25.00 per animal. Melanie asked if Brandon could reach out with door hangars and threats of citations or fines for the citizens that refuse help or to do their part appropriately. Sandy agreed and also will instruct him to remind people that if they are feeding cats outside without being part of the TNR program then the cats will be considered owned cats at large and owners will be subject to legal repercussions.

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Dr. Little suggested a meeting between Melanie, Sandy, Betsy and herself to come up with information sheets to hand out which will explain all about TNR, the law, and the program. Betsy agreed and said that after they put it together it can be run through the communications department to make sure it is properly presented.

6. Update – Staffing/training

The shelter is down 1 city-employed kennel tech again as Mike has left, so training has been on hold. Staff has opted to not have another city employee due to the cost. They will go back to utilizing the temp agency who will be sending someone this coming Thursday. Alexis asked what the pay is; WCRAS and Taylor both pay in the \$18-\$19 range. She said she has employed hundreds of great people as WCRAS Director and offered to share her interview questions so we can get higher caliber people.

7. National Animal Care and Care Officer Appreciation Week Proclamation – April 9th

Sandy and shelter staff will be honored at the next city council meeting. Board members are invited.

8. Identify items for next meeting

Sandy would like the board to begin evaluating ordinances. Dr Little is to provide numbers of the spays and neuter

9. Set Date of next Meeting:

Next meeting was set for Tuesday, June 30, 2026. Due to the lack of enough seats at the dais to accommodate all board members, future meetings will take place in the meeting room adjacent to council chambers.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

“The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is dedicated to the enrichment of our community through the efficient use of our Parks and Recreation resources.”