

August 2021 Minutes

Animal Companions of Las Cruces

Two alternative virtual meetings were held, the first at 2:30 pm on 16 August and the second at 5:15 pm on 19 August. Both meetings were convened by organizer Dawn Duncan via her Zoom account.

16 August Meeting

Present: Dawn Duncan (organizer), Robyn Alspach, Judy Bosland, Nancy Dionne, Carol Ezell, Carrie Greer, Helen Korschgen, Denice Mittelstaedt (by proxy via Bart and responded by phone), Bart Polin, Gloria Sabo, Donna Sinn.

19 August Meeting

Present: Dawn Duncan (organizer), Kelly Carvlin, Bonnie Doman, Cyndi Haber, Cynthia Madden, Miguel Marquez, Steve McIlree, Judy Stuart

Notes: (*Off topic comments are not included for brevity or to maintain focus.)

- Maybe also ask how many hours do they spend themselves on after hours emergencies for their clients. [A category to add to the questions for the regional vets \(along with where they currently send clients with emergencies, would they send to LC instead, average cost of emergency visit\)](#)
- Would a friendly city council member help us with a survey of citizens, as opposed to a petition? [\(Carol volunteered to contact asst. city manager she knows. **She has already accomplished this task and has provided a list of helpful contacts—see below.**\)](#)
- How about connecting with our representative who is animal friendly? [Nancy volunteered to make that connection](#)
- Do we need a central repository for our info, possibly a dedicated email account, etc.? [Response: we will use \[dawn@narrative4.com\]\(mailto:dawn@narrative4.com\) \(has permission from her job as an “empathy into action” project\) rather than create a third email for Dawn to manage.](#)
- One major concern that needs to be addressed at some point is the cost. Rumors have it that past clinics have died here because people could not afford to pay. [We did not get to this point but will find out more via research.](#)
- Dawn, can you send out a list of people in this task force and contact info...specifically email addresses. [With permission from members, Dawn will do so Friday after the Thursday alternate meeting.](#)
- Has anyone gathered the data as to why it didn't work? Do we have a need survey? [\(anecdotal from Next Door and from our own vets, can be a task for someone to tackle with finesse\)](#)

- Would it be worthwhile to connect with SCORE, which helps small businesses get off the ground?
- Cyndi Haber noted that we should think about how to become part of Las Cruces general obligation bond projects, which citizens vote on. She also noted that in a year the building that currently houses the shelter will be available since a new shelter is being built. Perhaps this could be an excellent space for the hospital.
- Cynthia Madden spoke about the shortage of vets here. Cynthia has provided initial research into the vet shortage nationwide (see supplementary attachment) and urges us to get veterinarians on board. Dawn confirmed that one is on the interest list, that she has spoken briefly with her own vet here (Dr. Tucker at Jornada), and that we have been given hours of advice now by veterinarian Dr. Kevin Dill, formerly of NM and her vet of 15 years in ND/MN border town. We do indeed plan to share our plans with our local vets and seek their input.
- Bonnie mentioned that Colorado has an excellent veterinary school and would be a great source for recruitment, and she has connections there. Dawn added Texas A& M also as a good source. We plan to create a booklet and do recruiting.
- Some general comments at end included: I think this is a great start! Happy to help get this going. I am excited to work with all of you...although I've never done anything like this. Etc.
- Dawn asked that everyone send her times of days, evenings, or weekends that they are available so we can set our next meeting. We plan to meet again mid-September as a large group and report back on progress.

Contacts:

- At the urging of Carrie, Dawn attended the grand opening of the permanent site for the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, which provides support to non-profits

City:

- **Jamie Rickman** - Community Engagement Manager - jrickman@las-cruces.org

Jamie sounds like the best first contact for us. She would be one to connect with regarding the survey, and Barbara said she is super nice and helpful. She is also a birder (as am I), so sounds like she has a heart for nature/animals.

- **Eric Enriquez** - Assistant City Manager - eenriquez@las-cruces.org

Eric's area of oversight includes Animal Services

- **Clint Thacker** - Director Animal Services Center - cthacker@las-cruces.org

Potential Teams:

Groups by Task

Research regional veterinary services:

- Robyn Alspach
- Kelly & Michael Carvlin
- Helen Korschgen

Financial Research Team (space, recruitment of vets, comparable cities):

- Judy Bosland
- Bonnie Doman
- Carol Ezell
- Cyndi Haber
- Kelly Carvlin (help with space issue when time)

Grants & Funding Team:

- Judy Bosland
- Cynthia Madden
- Carrie Greer
- Denice Mittelstaedt
- Gloria Sabo

Communications & Media:

- Dawn Duncan
- Kelly Carvlin (visual and writing, logo, brochures, etc.)
- Bart Polin (sales pitch to vet schools and locals)

Website Development: (with input from Communications & Media team),

- Steve McIlree
- Miguel Marquez
- Bonnie Doman

Creating Survey & Tracking Data (all numbers, financial and other)

Judy Bosland,

***Note: Feel free to add others to any task team, to help others as they need or to let me know you want to change teams. I have done my best to honor your skills and interests and to make sure everyone has help. I suggest each team connect with one another and divide and conquer.**