The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the City of Las Cruces - Animal Care Task Force for January 17, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., at the City of Las Cruces, City Hall, Conference Room 2007-A, 700 North Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**Members Present:**
- Kasandra Gandara, Mayor Pro Tem/ ASCMV Board Chair
- David Dollahon, Assistant City Manager for Operations
- Yvonne Flores, City Councilor Dist. 6
- Gino Jimenez, City ACO Supervisor
- Mary Lou Ward, Dona Ana County ACO Chief
- Susan Krueger, Animal Care Advocate
- Frank Bryce, Humane Society of Southern NM
- Rick Hahn, Coalition for Pets and People (arrived at 3:30 pm)
- Gina Roberts, Dona Ana County ACO Case Worker
- Jean Gilbert, Humane Society of Southern NM
- Geri Wheelis, Boarding Director for Calista Animal Hospital
- Jackye Meinecke, Coalition for Pets and People

**Others Present:**
- David Aguayo, City of Las Cruces Codes/Animal Control
- Representative Joanne Ferrary
- Jo Ruprecht, Citizen
- Marcy Scott, Citizen
- Denise Beyer, Uncaged Paws
- Joseph Dean, Uncaged Paws

**Call to order** – 2:31 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mary Lou Ward moved; Gina Roberts seconded to approve the minutes for November 22, 2019. Motion passed.

**Discussion Items:** Mr. Dollahon said breeders permits was an item that came up last meeting. We don’t have it in the City’s ordinance. I’m assuming the County doesn’t either.

Mary Lou Ward said we just have a litter permit. It’s per litter. We have an intact animal permit but aside from that if you’re going to have a litter you must have a litter permit and it’s $50 per litter. The intact animal permit it $100 per animal per year. You can’t buy/sell/trade/giveaway until you get the litter permit.

Gino Jimenez said if you’re going to do that within the city you would have to have a Commercial Multi Animal permit and you couldn’t do that in a residential area. It would have to be in a commercial or industrial area because it is a business.

David Dollahon brought up mandatory sterilization. This is regarding animals that are picked up multiple times and having the ASCMV not release the animals until they are sterilized.
Mayor Pro Tem Gandara said in my opinion I think it should be mandatory, anything anywhere, I'm not even talking about if you picked up an animal and before it gets release. I think it needs to be done across the board. There are thousands of animals coming out of there. People are irresponsible.

David Dollahon said I'm concerned about a workload on the shelter and the retention because they can't release the animal until it's mandatorily sterilized at the shelter. Because what does that do to our release by owner? They'll say, keep it.

Jackye Meinecke said I would point out that there is no space for holding those animals. There's a limited amount of space even with the new shelter coming up. I think we need to consider what our fees are and how much we're asking and that might change our number of people who are saying keep it.

David Dollahon brought up community cats. Mr. Dollahon mentioned rescue groups that are rescuing the cat out as a community cat. It's been sterilized, ear tipped, microchipped and vaccinated. The shelter has stopped releasing them in the city and the county but then rescue groups are releasing them back to the location that they were picked up by animal control. We're still researching the issue because on our side of the seat as a governmental entity we're getting complaints. I don't mind the concept of community cats. Here's where we get in trouble at the government side and the constituent side of community cats if it's not attributed to a caregiver is then it becomes a nuisance to somebody who doesn't want it in their yard or whatever.

Marcy Scott said all this kind of just tosses out everything I've been talking about, about how important our natural resources are, our birds are, and what I was trying to say how we need to pick locations that make sense in terms of not just where the cat problems are but where our very appealing natural areas are that draw in birds by the millions every year. We have huge problem with cats taking birds and we need to work from solutions that are going to keep that as central as the cat's welfare the bird's welfare too. And that's why I've been trying to say let's move towards enclosures, let's move towards some sanctuaries and let's be really careful about the locations. You're going to need people that understand where the wildlife goes and what those extremely important areas are and they are not going to be probably cat people and that's where I have a problem with the Alley Cat Allies approach. I respect a lot of things they have done but they do have a lalala in their ears about the damage that cats do to the environment.

Our next meeting will be January 31, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

Adjourn – 4:02 p.m.

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Chair

Approved: __________________