

Animal Shelter Location Meeting - March 18, 2020

- Casey Crain, Chief of Police
- Ben Douglas, Animal Control Officer
- Lyndon Eberhard, City Council
- Carol Gallagher, Mayor Pro Tem

Notes:

1. Reviewed 69 listed pieces of property owned by the City using Vernon County Assessor data. These include parks, infrastructure, parking, airport, and vacant space.
2. Properties were evaluated based on the city's requirements, which included:
 - a. Sewer access (sewer cannot go under railroad tracks)
 - b. Size of building lot must be 200'-250' x 300'-350' (roughly 1.5 acres); goal is 4,000 square feet building/structure
 - c. Road access (cost implications of new streets)
 - d. Infrastructure (provides more options with utilities, current shelter only has access to electric with high costs)
 - e. Minimal site prep (cost implications for additional work)
3. Properties were also considered using guidance from American Humane's *Animal Shelter Operational Guide: Planning and Building an Animal Shelter* "the most important considerations in selecting a site are **visibility** and **access**. Can the people who will use the shelter find and then easily get to the site? Can they easily see it?" (p. 12). **Approximately 56% of adoptions are done by people who live outside Nevada...** this is absolutely something we must consider - let's build a shelter we are proud of, one that anyone would want in their neighborhood.
4. Discussion of specific City properties:
 - a. Industrial Park: need to check water levels - ground tends to have standing water, significant wood to clear
 - b. Landfill: sewer lines can't go under railroad tracks
 - c. Sewer Plant: new sewer line needed
 - d. Golf Course: no sewer - might consider a lagoon to process water, difficult access
 - e. Smelter Hill: too much debris in ground
 - f. Current Shelter location: flood zone, lack of infrastructure, difficulty in site (i.e. built over old WWTP)
 - g. Marmaduke Park: most cost effective for infrastructure (sewer and utilities available, soil tested & ok), little prep work
5. Discussion of properties offered for donation:
 - a. Barr properties would need to consider infrastructure cost to develop
 - b. Fritter (Vinyards) property's lot size will not meet needs
 - c. Fritter (1402 E. Austin) property would need a road put in, close to residence's on Alma

6. Review of general information

- a. Dogs are locked in from 5 PM until 8 AM every day.
- b. The building plan includes a privacy fence to limit the ability of dogs to see beyond their yard (thus minimizing barking).
- c. Design will consider what direction the building faces to have the least impact on surrounding neighbors.
- d. Some challenges raised regarding sound may be eliminated with design and landscape (trees & shrubs) that will minimize impact.

7. NEXT STEPS

- a. USDA has told us we have funds earmarked, but only for a certain time. To meet the timeframe, a proposal SHOULD be in for the 4/7 City Council meeting (pushing past this will create challenges as any business must be read at two separate meetings)
- b. Carol will connect with Marc Fritter and individuals from FB group interested in helping. Carol will collect email addresses and communication will move to email to ensure all are included.
- c. Lyndon will follow-up with property owners regarding potential donations.
- d. Volunteers are needed to work on:
 - i. **Committee Discussion:** be part of the actual committee by meeting via conference call to go over the information I'll be sharing and determine a location and game plan
 - ii. **Create a list of concerns:** review the FB group and the communications that have come to Council to find the concerns that have been raised about location
 - iii. **Develop educational information:** Read and research information from both online and rescue/humane sources to see how we can minimize the concerns (I think some are not as much of an issue as people think they are, but we have to be able to say why or we have to plan how to make them less of a problem)
 - iv. **Get the word out:** my biggest take-away from today's meeting with staff was that we really need to do some education and get people involved. We need people to help think about other possible sites as there's no ideal that the city already owns... and we have to do it fast. The Nevada Daily Mail is ready to do a story with us - and I'm thinking we can work on this once we've had our committee meeting. What other ways can we do this?
 - v. **Funding and Other Possibilities:** my hope is that we can get some people involved in other related issues for the shelter - such as additional funding through grants and in other programs to address some of the animal issues (for example, there's lots of talk about a Dog Park... if people really want this, let's find some people to work on a proposal).
- e. Conference call needs to take place no later than 3/27 (sooner the better). Carol has created an online poll to find the best time and each committee member will receive an email with the link. Contact her if you need help!