

Animal Services Board



February 18, 2026
Town Hall
2121 Cross Timbers Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028

6:30 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Soderberg called the regular meeting to order at 06:30 PM

The Animal Services Board met in a regular meeting with the following members present:

Christine Hastings, Staff, Place 2
Kelly Furnas, Place 3
Beth Soderberg, Place 4
Laurie Appelbaum, Place 5
Janvier Werner, Councilmember, Place 6
Carina Vanlaet, Place 7
Sean Lee, Alt. Place 8
Bruce Munro, Alt. Place 9

with the following member(s) absent:
Robyn Read, Veterinarian, Place 1

constituting a quorum with the following members of the Town Staff participating:

Christine Hastings, Board Liaison

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

The purpose of this item is to allow the public an opportunity to address the Board/Commission regarding any item on this agenda that is not a "Public Hearing." Issues regarding daily operational or administrative matters should first be dealt with by calling Town Hall at 972.874.6000 during business hours.

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board/Commission is restricted from discussing or acting on items not listed on the agenda.

To speak during public comment, fill out a comment form (PDF). Note:

- Limited to three (3) minutes, a tone will sound at 30 seconds left and when time has expired, and times may be adjusted by the Chair
- Direct comments to the Board/Commission
- State your name and the municipality where you reside

Jackie Norell

Ms. Jackie Norell, Chair of the Flower Mound Historical Commission and member of the Denton County Historical Commission, addressed the Board regarding the importance of Animal Services within the community. She spoke about the Board's role in protecting public safety, supporting responsible pet ownership, promoting education, partnering with rescue organizations and veterinarians, and maintaining community standards. Ms. Norell commended the Board for its leadership, compassion, and dedication to the citizens and animals of Flower Mound and expressed the Historical Commission's support for the Board's efforts.

Becky Bertoni

Ms. Becky Bertoni announced a program scheduled for March 10 at the Flower Mound Public Library regarding Certified Wildlife Habitat designation. The presentation is part of a grant-funded initiative through Green Acres Farm Memorial Park and focuses on educating residents about certifying their properties as wildlife habitats. Ms. Bertoni noted the connection between wildlife habitat certification and native wildlife, including owls. She also announced a native pollinator photography exhibit currently on display at the library through March 15.

Following public comments, Chair Soderberg introduced Animal Services Manager Christine Hastings and recognized several guests and community members in attendance, including representatives from various Town boards, commissions, organizations, and wildlife groups.

C. PRESENTATION

Benefits of Owls in Our Community

Mr. David McCarty presented information regarding the benefits of owls within the Flower Mound community. The presentation highlighted native owl species found in North Texas, their role in maintaining ecological balance through natural rodent and pest control, and the importance of preserving habitat to support local wildlife populations. Mr. McCarty also discussed opportunities for community education and ways residents can help create wildlife-friendly environments.

Board members and attendees were provided an opportunity to ask questions following the presentation.

1. The Benefits of Owls in Our Community - David L. McCarty

D. CONSENT ITEM(S)

This part of the agenda consists of non-controversial, or "housekeeping" items required by law. Items may be removed from Consent by any Commissioner by making such request prior to a motion and vote.

1. - Consider approval of the minutes from October 29, 2025.

ACTION: Janvier Werner moved to approve D.1. as presented in the agenda caption. Laurie Appelbaum seconded the motion.
AYES: Kelly Furnas, Christine Hastings, Laurie Appelbaum, Janvier Werner, Carina Vanlaet
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
RESULT: 5 : 0

E. REGULAR ITEM(S)

1. - Staff Report
Animal Services Manager Christine Hastings provided an update regarding shelter operations, animal intake and outcomes, staffing, community outreach efforts, and ongoing departmental activities. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss current operations.

2. - Activity updates
"Hoo's in the Shelter" - Owl Houses
Building a Better Bat-mosphere - Bat Houses
Animal Services staff provided updates regarding recent and upcoming outreach and educational programs. Staff highlighted the "**Hoo's in the Shelter**" event, which combines wildlife education with community engagement opportunities at the shelter, and "**Building a Better Bat-mosphere**," a program designed to educate residents about the important role bats play in the ecosystem, including natural insect control and habitat preservation. The Board discussed the positive community response to wildlife-focused educational programming and the continued importance of partnerships that promote conservation, environmental awareness, and responsible stewardship of native species.

The Board voted and approved the formation of a Sub-committee for the "Hoo's in the shelter" and Building a Better Bat-mosphere" projects:

ACTION: Janvier Werner moved to approve the formation of a sub-committee to work on the "Hoo's in the Shelter" project. Kelly Furnas seconded the motion.
AYES: Kelly Furnas, Christine Hastings, Laurie Appelbaum, Janvier Werner, Carina Vanlaet
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
RESULT: 5 : 0

The following three members were requested and agreed to be on the "Whoo's in the Shelter" and the Building a Better Bat-mosphere" sub-committee

Member Carina Vanlaet
Alt. Member Sean Lee
Alt. Member Bruce Munro

3. - Sub-Committee Update
Christmas Parade Float

Member Appelbaum provided an update regarding the Christmas Parade float subcommittee. She stated that, because it is still early in the year, she plans to meet with the subcommittee members, including Jean-Pierre and Sean, prior to the August meeting to begin discussing details and planning options. Member Appelbaum also stated that she may meet with Christine to gain additional insight into Animal Services operations and ways the Board can assist with and enhance Animal Services' participation in the parade.

The Board discussed possible options for participation, including building a float or using the Animal Services truck, which may be an easier option. Christine noted that she had received parade float details from Parks, which may be helpful as the subcommittee begins planning. Member Appelbaum stated that she expects to provide an update at the August meeting, with work anticipated to be in progress by the October meeting.

*Future Events/Tales for Tails Reading Program

The Board briefly discussed the upcoming Tales for Tails reading program, which will take place during the month of March. The program allows children to visit the shelter and read to cats or kittens for approximately 20 to 30 minutes. After participating, each child receives a coupon for a free used book from the library. The coupons were provided by the Friends of the Library and Dr. Rachel Hadeed from the library. Sharon Gentry was also recognized for her assistance the previous year in helping connect the Animal Services Board with the library for this program.

Discussion included the positive impact of the program on both the children and the shelter. Board members noted that the program helps bring visibility to Animal Services, supports community engagement, and encourages collaboration with other community partners. It was also noted that reading to animals can provide a comfortable and encouraging environment for children who may be learning to read or who may feel nervous reading aloud to adults. Christine explained that appointments are generally offered Monday through Friday and on Saturdays during shelter hours, with weekday appointments typically ending by 4:00 p.m. because the shelter closes at 5:00 p.m. Board members discussed the possibility of helping staff during reading appointments by monitoring the room, handing out coupons, and assisting with light cleaning between participants. A cleaning kit will be available in the room so it can be sprayed down between readings.

Board members also discussed helping promote the program by sharing Animal Services' social media posts or graphics on their own social media pages. Christine noted that an event and program logo had already been created and posted for the current year.

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

The purpose of this item is to allow the members an opportunity to bring forward items they wish to discuss at a future meeting.

N/A

G. COORDINATION OF CALENDARS

May 27, 2026 - Wednesday - Moved to June 17, 2026

1. 1. May 27, 2026 - Wednesday
August 26, 2026 - Wednesday
October 27, 2026 - Tuesday
February 23, 2027 - Tuesday

H. ADJOURN

Chair Soderberg adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.