

# COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES – DAVIS COUNTY

## WORK SESSION MINUTES

September 3, 2019

The Board of Davis County Commissioners met for a Work Session at 2:45 p.m. on September 3, 2019, in room 306 of the Davis County Administration Building, 61 South Main Street, Farmington, Utah. Notice of this meeting was given under the requirements of UCA § 52-4-202.

**ATTENDEES** Davis County Commissioners in attendance were: Chairman Randy B. Elliott, and Vice-Chair Lorene Miner Kamalu.

Excused was: Commissioner Bob J Stevenson.

Davis County Staff in attendance were: Neal Geddes, Chief Civil Deputy Attorney; Curtis Koch, Clerk/Auditor; Shairise Bills, Deputy Clerk/Auditor; Kevin Stuart, Animal Care and Control Development Manager; and Rhett Nicks, Animal Care and Control Director.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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**AGENDA AS POSTED** 2:45 p.m. ***Rhett Nicks, Davis County Animal Care and Control Director, presenting:***  
Socially Conscious Animal Sheltering Model

**DISCLAIMER** The meeting was an open dialogue. Critical points in the discussion have only been briefly summarized. The reader may refer to the audio recording and the publicly distributed materials for further clarification of content. Timestamps have been noted in the minutes to aid in locating points of discussion in the audio record.

All documents from this meeting are on file in the Davis County (DC) Clerk/Auditor's office.

The meeting commenced at 2:54 p.m.

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**WORK SESSION DISCUSSION** **Socially Conscious Animal Sheltering Model — Presented by Rhett Nicks (Minute 00:43)**

This presentation is to provide more explanation and context to the proposed resolution for new sheltering principles. That resolution is on the Commission Meeting agenda, following this Work Session, to be voted on by the Commission.

Rhett explained that Animal Care and Control's current model has been a no-kill shelter. It is proposed to adopt a new model of eight tenets of socially conscious sheltering. They consist of the following principals:

1. Place every healthy and safe animal.
2. Ensure that every unwanted or homeless pet has a safe place to go for shelter and care.
3. Assess the medical and behavioral needs of homeless animals and ensure these needs are thoughtfully addressed.
4. Align shelter policy with the needs of the community.
5. Alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions.
6. Enhance the human-animal bond through safe placements and post-adoption support.
7. Consider the health, wellness, and safety of animals for each community when transferring animals.
8. Foster a culture of transparency, ethical decision making, mutual respect, continual learning, and collaboration.

Rhett has prepared an immediate press release that will be activated on the department's website with links to provide more information if this resolution is adopted and approved. He gave a copy of it to the Commissioners.

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The Colorado Veterinary Medical Association and Los Angeles County have already adopted these principles, with several other counties in California to follow suit. Rhett said there is some potential for blowback from the community, but the goal is to treat every animal as an individual and strive for positive outcomes for each of them.

*See Attachments A1-A2, B, C1-C4, and D1-D3.*

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**MEETING  
ADJOURNED**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The audio recording for this meeting is available based upon the County's current retention schedule.

**MATERIALS  
PRESENTED**

All publicly distributed materials associated with this meeting are noted as follows:

Attachments A1-A2	Socially Conscious Shelter Flyer
Attachment B	Socially Conscious Shelter Poster
Attachments C1-C4	Proposed Resolution Adopting Socially Conscious Sheltering Principles
Attachments D1-D3	Animal Care and Control Press Release

Minutes prepared by:

Shairise Bills

Deputy Clerk/Auditor

Minutes approved on: 9/17/2019

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Curtis Koch

Davis County Clerk/Auditor

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Randy B. Elliott

Commission Chair