



CITY OF LODI COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

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AGENDA TITLE: Consideration of the Status of Animal Shelter Task Force

MEETING DATE: June 6, 2007 (Carried over from meeting of 5/2/07)

PREPARED BY: Randi Johl, City Clerk

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consideration of the status of the Animal Shelter Task Force, and, if so desired, adopt resolution dissolving the Animal Shelter Task Force, creating the Lodi Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, and directing staff to return to the City Council at a future date with specific information, including, but not limited to, membership, terms, meetings, purpose, and other information as requested.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Animal Shelter Task Force was created on September 20, 2000, to review the needs of the Animal Shelter in the City of Lodi and provide both short-term and long-term recommendations regarding the same. The Task Force currently consists of seven members with unspecified terms. The meeting schedule is as called and the staff liaison is Jeannie Biskup, Special Services Manager. The Task Force's highlights since creation include an in depth report pertaining to current and future animal shelter needs and recommendations regarding a new location and facility. Due to funding restrictions, a new facility was not built; however, the City Council authorized a temporary modular building to be moved to the Lodi Animal Shelter and approved a related Memorandum of Understanding. Staff recently received requests from the City Council pertaining to the functionality of the Task Force. The matter was discussed at the March 20, 2007, Shirtsleeve Session, which included an overall review of the City's boards and commissions. At that time, staff received various suggestions pertaining to the permanent status of the Task Force and membership and indicated it would be returning to the Council for direction.

If the Council so desires, it may make the Task Force more permanent in nature by creating a committee or commission. The creation of either a committee or commission requires specific determinations be made as to (1) membership, (2) terms, (3) location, date, time, and place of meetings, and (4) purpose. In addition, appointment to either a committee or commission will require the City meet its obligations regarding legal notifications, the application process, and postings.

Both a committee and a commission are subject to the Brown Act. The primary difference between the two procedurally is that the commission is codified in the City's Municipal Code. As a result, creation of the commission would be by ordinance and requires two readings for passage. In addition, any future changes or additions, however small or large, would require code amendments to the Municipal Code. These changes may include, but are not limited to, membership numbers, change in meetings location or dates, etc. Changes to a committee can be accomplished at a single Council meeting. In addition, the advisory nature of the group may be better served through a committee, rather than a commission.

APPROVED: _____

Blair King, City Manager

Given the above, staff recommends the City Council, if so desired, dissolve the Animal Shelter Task Force, create the Lodi Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, and direct staff to return to the City Council at a future date with specific information, including, but not limited to, membership, terms, meetings, purpose, and other information as requested.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not applicable.

FUNDING AVAILABLE: Not applicable.

Randi Johl
City Clerk