

MINUTES

ACC BOARD MEETING Queens Animal Care Center July 1, 2025

In attendance:

Patrick Nolan, Chair
Dr. Jay Kuhlman
Neil Abramson
Christine Kim
Jason Power
Corinne Schiff
Surey Miranda-Alarcon

The meeting commenced at 9:40 am.

Chair Patrick Nolan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained the make-up of the Board and announced that the NYPD ex officio board position was filled and Sgt. Timothy Cecchini was appointed to serve. Sgt. Cecchini was not able to attend today's meeting. Patrick noted that there were two other vacancies on the Board and the nominating committee is currently working on finding candidates to fill those positions.

Board Business

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

ACC Report

Risa Weinstock, President and CEO commended the ACC staff for their dedication and willingness to always go the extra mile. Risa made specific reference to two recent cases of large-scale recovery of more than 105 dogs from a private home in Brooklyn and over 48 large breed dogs from a Queens apartment. She noted ACC's concern that hoarding cases like these may become more frequent and that ACC is working on an action plan for resources and protocols for future emergencies like these.

Risa introduced two of the ACC team who played a pivotal role in these unusual and gruesome rescues, Tara Mercado, Director of Behavior and Shelter Operations and Dr. Biana Tamimi, Director of Shelter Medicine. Both were directly involved in the rescue operations and reported on how the entire process was handled. All of the dogs were placed through ACC's rescue network; public adoption was not possible because none of the dogs were socialized and/or needed extensive medical or behavioral rehabilitation. Patrick thanked ACC and noted that the heroism displayed is a true reflection of the staff.

Risa continued the report by sharing data demonstrating an increasing length of stay for dogs in the shelters and in foster. The length of stay increase coincides with the national average adoption rate which has been declining over the years. As a consequence, animal shelters nationwide (including ACC) are full and have had to resort to limiting intake when the population peaks beyond the shelter's capacity to care. The ACC data presented showed a significant increase in owner surrender in both dogs and cats and a slight increase in the number of stray dogs and cats from last year at this time. The recurring reason for surrender appears to be financial hardship, housing and eviction based on conversations with the individuals surrendering.

Jessica Vaccaro, Director of Placement discussed the challenges related to length of stay and explained ACC's strategies aimed at reducing these numbers that can exceed 100, 200 and 300 days for many of ACC's medium to large size dogs. Efforts to help decrease length of stay include adding volunteers to the adoption program to help shorten the adoption interaction and enhance the experience; increasing surgical capacity; and creating short term foster initiatives to complement longer foster commitments.

ACC data also showed a slight decrease in placement of dogs and cats compared to 2024. Data also showed that more cats than dogs were adopted for the period January through May. Jessica shared the many ways in which the public can help ACC make a difference in the life of a pet by adopting, fostering and volunteering. She concluded by thanking the volunteer pool and sharing that ACC has 350 volunteers who have donated 14,868 hours.

City-Managed Capital Projects Update

Alexandra Silver, Director of the Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare presented the update on the construction of the Bronx animal care center and the Brooklyn care center renovation project.

Bronx – construction is 50% complete with installation of electrical and plumbing in progress. Completion is expected in Spring 2026 and move in to follow in summer 2026.

Brooklyn - construction is 20% complete. Excavation for footing, foundations and underground plumbing is ongoing. Completion is anticipated Fall 2026 and move in projected for winter 2026.

FY25 YTD Financial Results

Jeff Hauser, CFO Consultant of Arabella Advisors and Sandra Reina, ACC Director of Finance presented the Financial report for the period covering July 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025.

- ACC has increased its total net assets during YTD May 2025 by \$4.63m.
- ACC's unrestricted net assets increased by \$3.15m YTD partly as a result of various ACC costs that are being capitalized as part of the Queens construction-related expenses, along with success with development efforts.
- Shelter revenue, giving, and event revenue totaled \$4.91m YTD May 25 compared to \$3.71m in the budget and \$3.34m in the prior year.
- ACC has \$22.1m of net assets as of May 2025 of which \$8.4m relate to the shelter operations with \$3.1m temporarily restricted for use after May 2025.
- ACC currently owns a portfolio of donated marketable securities that has appreciated in value over time. The total basis of donated securities is \$315k and the portfolio has appreciated by \$291k to get to the value of \$606k as of May 2025.

ACC generated \$10.0m from operating activities (not including the construction project) through May 25 although there remain amounts that will be recouped by DOH as a result of the annual advance.

Public Comments

Public comments were heard from 11:30 to 11: 58am.

There was a motion to move into executive session. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at noon.