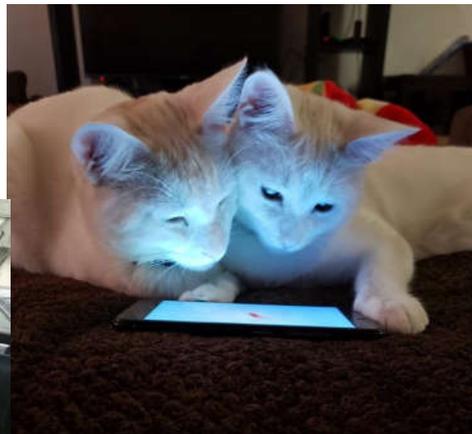


# EVANSTON

## Animal Shelter – Cook County Grant Update



# DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Background
- Operations Update
- Cook County Grant
- Proposed Solutions
- Next Steps / Schedule
- Discussion



Public Works Agency

# BACKGROUND

- The City of Evanston owns the Evanston Animal Shelter building and grounds
- Evanston Animal Shelter Association operates a no-kill, open admission animal shelter
- Building has substantial capital needs
  - HVAC & Electrical
  - Public-facing operations space shortage
  - Fire Protection
  - Accessibility
  - Site Improvements





Over the past few months our whole world has changed

As the world became more uncertain many of us turned to animals for a sense of security.

- We received hundreds of foster applications.
- We have been able to keep the shelter population at a record low.
- We have worked with families in difficult situations desperately trying to hold on to their pets.



We pivoted from a focus on caring for animals in the shelter to helping people keep their pets.



It isn't just about cats and dogs. It's about families!



Our Food Pantry  
became our  
number one  
priority.

- We went from distributing a few bags of food per week to giving out over 1000 bags of food per week.
- We've distributed nearly 27,000 pounds of food since April.
- Every bag of food represents a family with one less thing to worry about during difficult times.

Our Custodial  
Program and  
Senior Safety  
Net Program  
have expanded.

- What if I am infected with Covid 19 and am too sick to care for my pet? What if I am hospitalized?
- What if I am evicted from my home?
- What if the domestic violence I am experiencing escalates during the pandemic? Where can I take my pets if I leave my home?
- What happens to my pets if I die?
- How can I pay for my pet's medical care?

We have worked with  
people facing all of these  
situations.

We give back  
more than we  
get.

- For every \$1.00 the City of Evanston gives in support of the shelter we give back \$4.28 to the community.
- We bring money into the community in other ways:
  - 62% of the \$233 thousand dollars we have raised in individual donations since 2017 came from outside of Evanston.
  - 49% of our adopters come from outside of Evanston – which means we bring hundreds of potential diners and shoppers to the community.



And of course, we continue to turn sad beginnings into happy endings.  
Our Live Release Rate of 97% makes us proud.

# What will the new space mean to the community?

- The animals will have better living conditions.
- The money we save by being able to do onsite vet care can be used for our social service programs.
- More storage will allow us to buy pet food in bulk and get better deals.
- We will have community space available for things like:
  - Rescue Readers
  - Junior Volunteers
  - Behavior assistance and training classes for dog owners
  - Expansion of our current free clinic that now provides only rabies vaccinations and microchips
  - Increased ability to work with community service organizations
- The facility will meet modern standards not only for animal care but for building codes and ADA compliance.

**EASA has agreed to double our original financial commitment to the project.**

# COOK COUNTY GRANT

- In March, City applied for Housing Cook County Animals grant for capital improvements in exchange for long-term contract for receiving impounded animals
- Proposal was for demolition, construction of new building on the existing site improvements

Funding Source	Amount
Cook County Animal Shelter Grant Program	\$4,500,000
Evanston Animal Shelter Association	\$ 500,000
City of Evanston	\$1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>

# COOK COUNTY GRANT AWARD

- In May, Evanston notified that they received a partial grant award of \$2M
- In response, the City staff:
  - Discussed necessity of project changes with Cook County
  - Reached out to industry experts to review best practices in animal shelter design
  - Revisited EASA capital “needs vs wants” to determine minimum project proposal
  - Developed summary of reasonable contract terms for long-term animal care contract with Cook County

# PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

**1. Continue with original, increasing contributions by both local partners – est. \$6.0 M**

**2. Decrease scope, renovate existing building, include a small addition, increase contributions by both local partners – est. \$4.5M**

Funding Source	Original Funding Proposal	Option 1 New Construction	Option 2 Renovation w/Addition
Cook County Animal Shelter Grant	\$4,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Evanston Animal Shelter Association	\$ 500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
City of Evanston	\$1,000,000	\$3,500,000	\$1,500,000

*Note: The City will initially pay a portion or all of EASA's share. EASA will fundraise and reimburse City (annual target \$100,000).*

# NEXT STEPS / SCHEDULE

Negotiate grant agreement with Cook County	Oct – Dec 2020
Approve revised MOU between City of Evanston and EASA	Oct – Dec 2020
Procure design consultant	Jan – Feb 2021
Design / prepare contract documents	Mar – Oct 2021
Bid contract documents	Oct – Dec 2021
Revise / relocate EASA operations	Jan – Mar 2022
Construction	Jan 2022 – Mar 2023
Open new Animal Shelter	April 2023

# DISCUSSION

Feedback on best way to move forward with project and grant acceptance

