

**CITY OF COSTA MESA**  
**MEETING OF THE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**May 16, 2018; 5:30 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Animal Services Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Jay Litvak at 5:33 p.m. on May 16, 2018 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

Roll Call

**Present:** Chair Jay Litvak, Vice Chair Tracy Hughes, Committee members Marilyn Brooks, Harriet Brown, Dana Lavin, Christie McDaniel, Becca Walls, and alternate members Linda Kwoun and Angela Minjares

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Justin Martin, Parks & Community Services Director; Tracy Habiger, Recreation Coordinator; McKenna Ewing, Recreation Leader IV

**Council Liaisons:** Mayor Sandy Genis

2. **Approval of the April 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** Committee member Brooks moves to approve the minutes/Seconded by Committee member McDaniel.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Litvak, Vice Chair Hughes, and Committee members Brooks, Brown, Lavin, McDaniel, and Walls

Nays: none

Absent: none

Motion Carried: 7-0

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Patricia Snodgrass, resident, spoke in favor of the Orange County Animal Care facility, noted resources for homeless animal care, and asked where an impounded duck was placed.

Ms. Tracy Habiger mentioned that the duck was transported to the Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center by Animal Control.

2. Mariann Ross-Chappell, resident, commented on the previous meeting's minutes and inquired about information regarding feral cats.

Ms. Habiger mentioned the committee would be discussing feral cats later in the meeting.

Chair Litvak closed Public Comments.

#### **4. PRESENTATION**

##### Current Statistics of Impounded and Adoptable Animals

Ms. Habiger presented.

Chair Litvak inquired on the reasoning of a returned animal to Priceless Pet Rescue.

Ms. Habiger and Ms. McKenna Ewing responded that the animal was overly affectionate with the adopter.

Vice Chair Hughes asked to see the Priceless Pet Rescue contract policy.

#### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

##### A. Sub-Committee Reports

###### 1. Animal Advocacy Update

Committee member Brooks presented research on feral cats, information relating to the trap-neuter-return program, and the need to educate the public about community cats.

###### 2. Animal Adoption Promotions Update

Alternate committee member Kwoun spoke about compiling a rescue group list for future use and creating video clips of animals to post on social media.

###### 3. Animal Volunteerism Update

Committee member Lavin described various volunteer types and requirements, presented an animal care coloring book in English and Spanish, and spoke about the benefits of Rescue ID tags.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

##### A. Formation of Bark Park Sub-Committee

Mr. Justin Martin provided information on the potential role of the sub-committee.

Chair Litvak, Vice Chair Hughes, and Committee member McDaniel expressed interest to join the sub-committee.

Mr. Martin asked for any other interest in the sub-committee. Seeing none, the Bark Park Sub-Committee was formed with Chair Litvak, Vice Chair Hughes, and Committee member McDaniel.

## B. Animal Services Donation Account

Mr. Martin provided information on the Costa Mesa Foundation and the intent to create a donation account that would allow the City to receive financial donations related to Animal Care Services.

Committee member McDaniel inquired how the money would be spent.

Alternate committee member Kwoun spoke about the potential of attaining sponsorships for future animal events.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Committee member McDaniel moves to approve the creation of a donation account with the Costa Mesa Foundation/Seconded by Vice Chair Hughes. Ayes: Chair Litvak, Vice Chair Hughes, and Committee members Brooks, Brown, Lavin, McDaniel, and Walls

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 7-0

## 7. COMMITTEE/COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Committee member Walls commented on the Animal Control euthanasia numbers, the process of determining when an animal is euthanized, and asked about euthanasia vial distribution to Animal Control.

Dr. Anthony Rizk of Newport Center Animal Hospital provided follow-up information.

Mr. Martin stated that he would inquire with Animal Control.

Committee member Brooks asked if the Animal Advocacy sub-committee should focus on a particular item.

Committee member Brown suggested educating the public on topic of animal cruelty.

Committee member Lavin spoke about people in abusive situations and their animals.

Mayor Genis stated the importance of having animals during difficult situations related to abuse.

Mr. Martin suggested for City staff to create a resource list.

Mayor Genis spoke about the Orange County Animal Control, local kennel and boarding facilities, and the importance of use permits. She suggested for this topic to become an agenda item for a future meeting.

## 8. STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Habiger spoke about the success of the Spring Bark Bash event and thanked the committee members that volunteered and attended the event.

Ms. Ewing expressed her contentment on the number of animals being returned to their owners and adopted to new homes.

Mr. Martin addressed the big picture of the committee and the importance of working together. He also mentioned the animal sheltering and adoption contract extensions will be proposed to City Council at the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Litvak at 7:12 p.m.

**The Next Meeting of the Animal Services Committee  
is on Wednesday, June 20, 2018**