

CITY OF COSTA MESA
MEETING OF THE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
October 17, 2018; 5:30 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Animal Services Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Jay Litvak at 5:31 p.m. on October 17, 2018 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Jay Litvak, Committee members Marilyn Brooks, Harriet Brown, Dana Lavin, Becca Walls, and alternate members Linda Kwoun and Angela Minjares

Absent: Vice Chair Tracy Hughes and Committee member Christie McDaniel

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

Council Liaison: Councilmember John Stephens

2. **Approval of the September 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** Committee member Lavin moves to approve the minutes/Seconded by Committee member Walls.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: none

Absent: Vice Chair Hughes and Committee member McDaniel

Motion Carried: 5-0-2

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Patricia Snodgrass, resident, spoke about the 3rd Annual Pet Adoption Weekend event being held on October 27-28 at the Harbor Lawn-Mt. Olive Memorial Park.
2. Parks & Recreation Commissioner Jim Erickson, introduced himself to the committee; thanked the committee for their work; and commented the group for working together to promote and educate the public on responsible dog behavior and ownership.
3. Al Melone, resident, clarified his comments during the September meeting that he intended to suggest planting shade trees around the perimeter of both the Small and Large Dog Areas of the Bark Park to maintain an open space; and he recommended placing three bulletin board kiosks within the Bark Park located at the main entrance, the Small Dog Area, and the Large Dog Area.
4. John Merrill, resident, commented on the new dog licensing website; stated an issue he experienced while registering with a current rabies vaccination certificate; suggested a three-year dog license option; and mentioned his belief that the Coyote Management Plan is not a strong enough solution to protect the public.

Chair Litvak closed Public Comments.

4. PRESENTATION

Statistics of Impounded and Adoptable Animals

Ms. Tracy Habiger reported.

General discussion ensued regarding where potential animal adopters learn about Costa Mesa's adoptable animals and the procedures for owner requested euthanasia.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Orange County Animal Care Shelter

Mr. Martin reviewed and commented on the feedback provided by the Orange County Animal Care (OCAC) shelter; the comparison document created by Committee members Lavin and Walls; and the City's current animal shelter and adoption providers.

Committee member Walls inquired about the cost that the City of Newport Beach pays for their Animal Care Services operation.

Councilmember Stephens inquired about the timing cycle for the current animal shelter and adoption services contracts.

Mr. Martin shared that the current contracts with Newport Center Animal Hospital (NCAH) and Priceless Pet Rescue (PPR) run through January 2019 and then continue on a month-to-month basis.

Chair Litvak asked the committee for any further questions regarding OCAC.

MOTION/SECOND: Committee member Lavin moves to end the discussion and not move forward with OCAC as an animal shelter option at the current time. /Seconded by Chair Litvak.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: none

Absent: Vice Chair Hughes and Committee member McDaniel

Motion Carried: 5-0-2

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Recommendation for Long-Term Animal Shelter and Adoption Services

Mr. Martin informed the committee that staff have recently met with both contractors from Newport Center Animal Hospital (NCAH) and Priceless Pet Rescue (PPR) to discuss current operations and potential long-term contract terms.

MOTION/SECOND: Committee member Lavin moves to recommend a long-term contract with NCAH and PPR as the animal shelter and adoption services providers/Seconded by Committee member Walls.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: none

Absent: Vice Chair Hughes and Committee member McDaniel

Motion Carried: 5-0-2

General discussion ensued regarding potential partnerships with other local animal rescue groups for hard-to-place animals.

Mr. Martin thanked the committee and staff for the collaborated effort in reaching the recommendation.

Councilmember Stephens praised NCAH and PPR for doing a strong job and for their service for the City's animals.

B. November Committee Meeting Date

Mr. Martin explained that the November meeting date falls on November 21, the day before Thanksgiving. He provided two options to the committee to either cancel the meeting, or reschedule the meeting to the following week on November 28.

Committee member Lavin expressed that she felt the committee was in a good place to cancel the November meeting.

Committee member Walls asked for staff to continue with the regular monthly correspondence if the meeting was canceled.

MOTION/SECOND: Committee member Brooks moves to cancel the November 21 meeting/Seconded by Committee member Lavin.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: none

Absent: Vice Chair Hughes and Committee member McDaniel

Motion Carried: 5-0-2

C. Committee Plans & Initiatives Prioritization

Ms. Habiger presented the cumulative prioritization list based on the committee's feedback and provided an explanation of the scoring system that labeled each topic as low, medium, and high priority.

General discussion ensued regarding the steps the committee plans to take in moving forward with implementing the list of prioritized items.

The consensus of the committee is to provide action plans for the following topics: Promote Animal Shelter and Adoption Facilities, Animal Education for the Community, Public Education - Animals in Cars, and Low-cost Veterinary Services and state where these subjects fit into each sub-committee.

Mr. Martin commented on the recent newsletter template that staff created, to help educate the public on topics listed on the prioritization list and asked for each sub-committee to write a short article.

D. Coyote Information Review, Follow-up & Action

Chair Litvak provided a brief history of coyotes and spoke about his experience when encountering coyotes in the community.

General discussion ensued regarding educating the public, having a coyote working group to assist in neighborhoods where coyotes frequent, and utilizing Animal Control to evaluate home environments.

No action was taken.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Alternate committee member Kwoun commented on advertising adoptable animals on social media.

Committee member Walls mentioned the upcoming 'Barktoberfest' event on October 27 at the Costa Mesa Bark Park.

Committee member Brooks asked for clarification that the action plans and newsletter articles would be sent to staff.

8. STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. McKenna Ewing mentioned the upcoming Volunteer & Foster Care Orientation being held on October 29 at the Costa Mesa Senior Center.

Mr. Martin reminded the committee of the upcoming 'Barktoberfest' event on October 27 and confirmed that Animal Care Services has been selected by the Newport Rib Company as a beneficiary for their "20 Days of Charity" event.

Ms. Habiger provided a brief description of the upcoming 'Santa Paws' event that will be held in December.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Litvak at 7:19 p.m.

**The Next Meeting of the Animal Services Committee
is on Wednesday, December 19, 2018**