

CITY OF COSTA MESA
MEETING OF THE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
December 19, 2018; 5:30 P.M.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** The Animal Services Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Jay Litvak at 5:32 p.m. on December 19, 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; Yvette Aguilar, Recreation Manager; Tracy Habiger, Recreation Coordinator; McKenna Ewing, Recreation Leader IV; Lauren Clark, Permit Processing Specialist

- 2. Approval of the October 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** Chair Litvak moved to approve the minutes/Seconded by Committee member Brown.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: none

Absent: none

Abstain: Committee member McDaniel

Motion Carried: 6-0-0-1

- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Mariann Ross-Chappell, resident, presented two donated cat houses for Newport Center Animal Hospital; referenced a TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program article in the Alley Cat Rescue newsletter; and stated her feelings on trapping and relocating coyotes to another habitat.

Chair Litvak informed Ms. Ross-Chappell that California does not permit coyotes to be trapped and relocated, thus resulting in trapped coyotes being euthanized.

Chair Litvak closed Public Comments.

4. PRESENTATION

Ms. Tracy Habiger reported the Statistics of Impounded and Adoptable Animals.

General discussion ensued regarding the animal euthanasia cases, such as owner request and feral cat assessments.

Committee member Brooks suggested including an article in the committee newsletter to educate the public on the consequence of trapping community cats.

Ms. Lauren Clark, Finance Department, presented information about online dog licensing and how to apply and renew dog licenses on the new online format.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Plans & Initiatives Prioritization

Ms. Habiger summarized the prioritization list items (Promotion of the Animal Shelter and Adoption Facilities, Animal Education for the Community, Public Education on Animals in Cars, and Low-Cost Veterinary Services), the action plans each sub-committee submitted, and mentioned staff organizing sub-committee meetings in January 2019 to begin implementing the action plans.

Mr. Martin explained that the action plans will correlate with Item 6A, Committee Goals & Objectives.

Chair Litvak suggested incorporating the topic of coyotes as a priority and providing a town hall style presentation in January for the public.

General discussion ensued regarding coyotes in the community.

Mr. Martin recommended asking the Police Department to provide a presentation on coyotes at the next committee meeting in January.

The committee decided to table the current discussion on coyotes until the January meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Goals & Objectives

Mr. Martin informed the committee of the purpose of setting goals for the upcoming year.

General discussion ensued regarding proposed committee goals and objectives.

The following goals resulted from the discussion:

1. Complete contract agreements with Newport Center Animal Hospital and Priceless Pet Rescue in the first quarter of 2019.
2. Produce a public service announcement, in print and in video, related to the three-pronged partnership with Animal Control, Newport Center Animal Hospital, and Priceless Pet Rescue.
3. Educate the public on responsible pet ownership and care, with regard to City ordinances and frequently asked questions, no less than six times per year.
4. Consider and make a recommendation to the City Council regarding ordinances related to the existing TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program.
5. Research and create a list of service providers that can provide low-cost vaccinations and/or a voucher program for Costa Mesa residents for spay and neuter.
6. Assist Animal Control with promotion and education related to coyotes and the Coyote Management Plan.
7. Cooperate and coordinate with the Parks and Community Services, Animal Care Services, events, initiatives, and projects.

MOTION/SECOND: Committee member Walls moved to approve the committee goals and objectives for 2019/Seconded by Committee member Lavin.

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: 7-0-0

B. Committee Monthly Newsletter

Ms. Habiger presented a two-page newsletter draft to the committee members.

General discussion ensued on how the newsletter will be distributed to the community.

Vice Chair Hughes suggested adding a section on where to donate.

Mr. Martin recommended increasing the newsletter to four pages and to make available to the public following the next committee meeting in January.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Alternate committee member Kwoun reminded the committee to share the Costa Mesa adoptable animals on their social media outlets.

8. STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Habiger reminded the committee of the sub-committee meetings planned for January and the upcoming holiday closure for City Hall; provided a brief summary of the “Santa Paws” donation drive on December 15; and thanked alternate Committee member Kwoun for volunteering at the event and Committee member McDaniel for her generous pet supplies donations.

Mr. Martin shared the check staff received from the Newport Rib Company’s “20 Days of Charity” event; thanked the Committee members, City staff, Newport Center Animal Hospital, and Priceless Pet Rescue for all their hard work and diligence during the year; and revealed that Priceless Pet Rescue’s Costa Mesa adoption center grand opening would be held on January 12 at 12pm.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Litvak at 7:05 p.m.

**The Next Meeting of the Animal Services Committee
is on Wednesday, January 16, 2019**