

CITY OF COSTA MESA
MEETING OF THE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
January 16, 2019; 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 January 16, 2019 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Jay Litvak, Vice Chair Tracy Hughes, Committee members Harriet Brown, Dana Lavin, Becca Walls, and alternate member Linda Kwoun

Absent: Committee members Marilyn Brooks, Christie McDaniel, and alternate member Angela Minjares

Staff Present: Yvette Aguilar, Recreation Manager; Tracy Habiger, Recreation Coordinator; McKenna Ewing, Recreation Leader IV; Lt. Victor Bakkila, Police Department

Council Liaison: Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens

2. **Approval of the December 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** Committee member Brown moved to approve the minutes/Seconded by Vice Chair Hughes.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Litvak, Vice Chair Hughes, Committee members Brown, Lavin, and Walls
Nays: none

Absent: Committee members Brooks, McDaniel

Motion Carried: 5-0-2

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Patricia Snodgrass, resident, spoke about the 9th Annual Pet Days event at the OC Market Place; suggested for Animal Control to advertise the animal sheltering and adoption providers on their trucks; and asked for a hard copy of the animal statistics that are published on the City webpage.

Chair Litvak closed Public Comments.

4. **PRESENTATION**

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

General discussion ensued regarding animal abuse cases, identification verification on animal adopters, and mandatory pet microchipping.

Chair Litvak requested to include the topic of mandatory pet microchipping on the February agenda.

- B. Lt. Victor Bakkila presented statistics related to the Coyote Cacher and provided details on a prospective collaring program to pinpoint coyote dens and identify packs in the community.

General discussion ensued regarding the collaring program, educating the public on coyote management, and the counterproductive effects of euthanizing coyotes.

Mayor Pro Tem Stephens mentioned that he plans to release his 9-point coyote plan in the coming months.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Goals & Objectives

Ms. Habiger provided a handout which aligned the 16 prioritized items and the seven goals the committee approved at the December meeting. Ms. Habiger mentioned that staff will be meeting with the animal sheltering and adoption contractors soon to begin contract discussions.

Ms. Yvette Aguilar explained that the handout should be used as a foundation as the sub-committees begin working on their objectives to meet the overall goals of the committee.

B. Committee Newsletter

Ms. Habiger presented a four-page, updated draft of the newsletter to the committee and shared the City's new dogs off-leash campaign that is displayed in the newsletter.

Ms. Aguilar explained that the Parks and Recreation Commission requested staff to implement a new campaign to educate and encourage dog owners to leash their dogs and pick up their waste.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Sub-Committee Meeting Dates

Ms. Habiger asked for each sub-committee (Animal Adoption Promotion, Animal Advocacy, Animal Volunteerism, and Bark Park) to provide dates to meet with staff pertaining to their action plans in fulfilling the committee's overall goals.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Committee member Walls mentioned how well the grand opening of Priceless Pet Rescue's new adoption center was received and commented on the great work by their volunteers.

Alternate committee member Kwoun commented on the importance of having an adoption center in Costa Mesa and reminded the committee to share Costa Mesa's adoptable animals on their social media outlets.

Chair Litvak remarked on the animal related changes that the City of Costa Mesa has taken in the last year and commended Newport Center Animal Hospital and Priceless Pet Rescue for their great work.

8. STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Habiger reminded the committee of their current term lengths, with Committee members Brooks, Brown, and Walls serving 1-year terms, and acknowledged the grand opening of Priceless Pet Rescue's new adoption center.

Ms. McKenna Ewing commented on the upcoming Volunteer & Foster Care Orientation presented by Priceless Pet Rescue on January 19 and congratulated the group on the past year's efforts.

Ms. Aguilar reminded the committee that although the main priority of recommending a long-term solution was accomplished, to maintain focus and to keep the energy at the same level the committee has been operating at since the beginning. Ms. Aguilar also commended the committee, vendors, and staff on the accomplishments this year and suggested to keep the goals in mind as the group continues moving forward.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Litvak at 6:43 p.m.

**The Next Meeting of the Animal Services Committee
is on Wednesday, February 20, 2019**