

CITY OF COSTA MESA
MEETING OF THE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
February 20, 2019; 5:30 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Animal Services Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Jay Litvak at 5:32 p.m. on February 20, 2019 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Vice Chair Tracy Hughes and alternate Committee member Linda Kwoun

Staff Present: Yvette Aguilar, Recreation Manager; Tracy Habiger, Recreation Coordinator

2. **Approval of the January 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes:** Committee member Lavin moved 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

Abstain: Committee member McDaniel

Motion Carried: 5-0-1-1

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

Chair Litvak closed Public Comments.

4. **PRESENTATION**

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

General discussion ensued regarding the statistics of local adoptions by city and the necessity to inform the public on the differences of Newport Center Animal Hospital as the City's animal shelter and Priceless Pet Rescue as the City's animal adoption services provider.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Sub-Committee Reports

1. Animal Adoption Promotions

Ms. Habiger spoke on behalf of the sub-committee regarding their ideas on promoting the animal shelter and adoption facilities, animal adoption campaigns, methods to enhance the City's animal related webpages, and future fundraising plans.

2. Animal Advocacy

Committee member Brooks discussed incorporating guest speakers, workshops, and tours of the animal shelter and adoption facilities to educate the public on responsible pet ownership, as well as utilizing donated funds to sponsor adoptions for senior dogs and owners.

3. Animal Volunteerism

Committee member Lavin mentioned creating videos and writing articles to educate the public on dog licensing, pet ownership, animal operations, and Animal Control; providing low-cost spay/neuter programs, promotional items, and dog licensing vouchers at events; and incorporating intergenerational programs involving City youth programs and members of the Costa Mesa Senior Center.

4. Bark Park

Chair Litvak suggested placing new kiosks in the Bark Park to promote pet related events, classes, and information; creating donation signs with a QR code that directs the public to a donation website that also advertises donation usages; incorporating more events at the Bark Park; and enhancing the Bark Park in the future.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mandatory Microchipping Discussion

Ms. Habiger provided information on surrounding cities and counties that mandate pet microchipping and spoke on the established goals the committee is currently working to accomplish.

Ms. Yvette Aguilar asked the committee if mandatory microchipping was an item worth pursuing in addition to the committee goals.

Chair Litvak suggested mandating impounded animals who are redeemed by their owners to be microchipped.

Dr. Anthony Rizk of Newport Center Animal Hospital offered to recommend microchips to owners who redeem their pets.

The consensus of the committee was to table the discussion of mandatory microchipping.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Committee member Walls commented on how well the community rallied to find the dog who got loose during a walk when their walker fell down at Priceless Pet Rescue and the organization's transparency throughout the incident, which assisted in the dog being located within 24 hours.

Committee member Lavin shared that Priceless Pet Rescue offers dog walking training for volunteers during their "Pack Walk/Hike."

Alternate committee member Minjares stated that she has noticed a positive shift in public awareness of the City's animal shelter and adoption process on the Nextdoor app.

Committee member Brown inquired about the City's procedures regarding suspected animal cruelty cases.

Dr. Rizk responded that shelter staff inform Animal Control immediately and encouraged residents to alert Animal Control as well.

Committee member Brooks commented on her experience calling the Police Department when owners leave their dogs inside vehicles.

8. STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Habiger mentioned that staff are currently meeting with Newport Center Animal Hospital and Priceless Pet Rescue to discuss contract items, resuming the "Pet of the Week" articles, the upcoming committee application deadline, and announced the new Animal Care Services Recreation Leader IV staff member.

Ms. Aguilar shared the finalized Dog Campaign flyer that will be promoted in parks and City advertisements.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Litvak at 7:07 p.m.

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