

CITY OF COSTA MESA
MEETING OF THE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 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 5:31 p.m. on March 20, 2019 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Committee members Harriet Brown and Christie McDaniel

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

2. **Approval of the February 20, 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, Vice Chair Hughes, Committee members Brooks, Lavin, and Walls

Nays: none

Absent: Committee members Brown and McDaniel

Motion Carried: 5-0-2

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Resident, commented on the increasing number of coyotes in their neighborhood and the belief that the coyotes are killing the community cats.
2. Resident, stated his experience of seeing coyotes in his neighborhood on a daily basis who are no longer threatened with hazing tactics and are capable of jumping an eight-foot wall.
3. Resident, commented on the death of her cat from a coyote three years ago and hopes something is done soon regarding the coyotes in the neighborhood.
4. John Merrill, resident, stated his disappointment with City policies and claimed that a representative from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife suggested to use a baseball bat to protect himself since hazing may not work to deter coyotes.
5. Sherry Skipper-Spurgeon, resident, asked the committee why the group was not advocating for the animals threatened and killed by coyotes.

Ms. Yvette Aguilar thanked the speakers for their comments and said staff will pass along their comments to the Costa Mesa Police Department (CMPD). Ms. Aguilar also clarified that the Animal Services Committee was tasked with assisting CMPD in educating the public on coyote management; however, CMPD is the main contact for situations involving coyotes.

Chair Litvak closed Public Comments.

4. PRESENTATION

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

No further discussion ensued.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sub-Committee Reports

1. Animal Adoption Promotions

Alternate committee member Kwoun stated the sub-committee was gathering tips for successful adoptions, writing articles for the newsletter, and creating a list of local businesses for fundraising nights.

2. Animal Advocacy

Committee member Brooks mentioned her research on the TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program for community cats and revealed that several cities contract services with non-profit organizations.

3. Animal Volunteerism

Committee member Walls discussed moving forward with the TNR ordinance, providing educational programs through Priceless Pet Rescue (PPR) for the Senior Center and youth programs, providing a clean-up event for PPR during "Love Costa Mesa Day," promoting pet resumes when renting, and various public education items.

4. Bark Park

Chair Litvak stated the sub-committee was researching kiosks to place at the Bark Park, writing articles for the newsletter, and creating donation signs stating how the donation funds will be utilized.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Annual Report to City Council

Ms. Habiger provided an overview on the annual report that Chair Litvak will be presenting to City Council.

Ms. Yvette Aguilar explained that the brief presentation will act as a progress report and will take place at the April 2 City Council meeting.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Committee member Walls mentioned that coyotes were discussed at the March 19 City Council meeting, advised the committee to educate themselves on the coyote issue, and spoke about an incident involving Animal Control citing PPR for unaltered puppy adoptions.

Ms. Aguilar clarified that Animal Control did not cite PPR and staff are working with CMPD and PPR to resolve the situation.

Committee member Lavin asked if the committee could vote to change the current meeting date to the second or fourth Wednesday of the month, mentioned providing financial assistance to animals in medical need, and the need to launch fundraiser efforts.

Chair Litvak asked about the voucher provided by PPR for unaltered puppies.

Ms. Lisa Price of PPR explained the voucher contract that adopters must sign and follow when adopting an unaltered puppy.

8. STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Habiger provided the committee with the six-point coyote plan that was presented by CMPD at the March 19 City Council meeting, addressed the new committee appointments, thanked committee members Brooks and Brown for their service, mentioned that the monthly animal statistics can be viewed by month on the webpage, and introduced Recreation Leader IV, Raul Medrano, as the new member of the Animal Care Services.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Litvak at 7:06 p.m.

**The Next Meeting of the Animal Services Committee
is on Wednesday, April 17, 2019**