

CITY OF COSTA MESA
MEETING OF THE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
April 17, 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 April 17, 2019 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Jay Litvak, Committee members Diana Gardiner, Dana Lavin, Christie McDaniel, and alternate members Linda Kwoun and Angela Minjares

Absent: Vice Chair Tracy Hughes, Committee members Erin Roberts and Becca Walls

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

Council Liaison: Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens

2. **Approval of the March 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes:** Committee member Lavin moved to approve the minutes/Seconded by Chair Litvak.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Litvak, Committee member Lavin, and alternate members Kwoun (in place of Roberts) and Minjares (in place of Walls)

Nays: none

Absent: Vice Chair Hughes, Committee members Roberts and Walls

Abstain: Committee members Gardiner and McDaniel

Motion Carried: 4-0-3-2

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 feral cat evaluations, owner request euthanasia circumstances, and the process Newport Center Animal Hospital (NCAH) takes when determining owner request cases.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Sub-Committee Reports

1. Animal Adoption Promotions

Alternate committee member Kwoun mentioned newsletter articles, finalizing the list of potential fundraising partners, and providing a link on the website titled “Things to Consider Before Adopting a Pet.”

2. Animal Advocacy

No update.

3. Animal Volunteerism

Committee member Lavin discussed the Love Costa Mesa Day event on May 18 and the Pet Preparedness event in September, the intergenerational programs involving Priceless Pet Rescue (PPR) and City programs, animal licensing and low-cost veterinarian services events, and fundraising for PPR’s animals with medical needs.

Mayor Pro Tem Stephens asked the Animal Volunteerism sub-committee to have a booth at the Independence Day Celebration event on July 3 at the OC Fairgrounds and recommended creating a public service announcement video to illustrate the impact of fireworks on pets.

4. Bark Park

Committee member McDaniel mentioned moving forward with placing a bulletin board at the Costa Mesa Bark Park to advertise City events, vendors, pet information, and a donation QR code.

Chair Litvak emphasized spreading the committee’s message and utilizing Fairview Park’s display board to advertise information.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Animal Services Committee Date

Committee member Lavin requested to move the standing meeting date to the second Wednesday of the month instead of the third Wednesday.

Ms. Habiger stated that there are two options to vote on, either to keep the current date as is or to change it to the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Committee member Lavin asked if the second Wednesday was an option.

Ms. Yvette Aguilar explained that due to other scheduled City meetings throughout the month, the second Wednesday is not an option.

MOTION/SECOND: Committee member Lavin moved to change the standing Animal Services Committee meeting date from the third Wednesday to the fourth Wednesday of the month. Seconded by Committee member McDaniel.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Litvak, Committee members Gardiner, Lavin, and McDaniel, and alternate members Kwoun (in place of Roberts) and Minjares (in place of Walls)

Nays: none

Absent: Vice Chair Hughes, Committee members Roberts and Walls

Motion Carried: 6-0-3

Ms. Aguilar suggested implementing the new date beginning in June due to current scheduling constraints in May.

The consensus of the committee was to keep the May meeting on the third Wednesday and proceed with the fourth Wednesday meeting date in June.

Committee member McDaniel inquired about moving the November and December meeting dates that conflict with the holidays.

Ms. Aguilar responded that staff will agendaize that item for the September meeting.

7. COMMITTEE/COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Stephens thanked the committee, NCAH, PPR, and staff for their hard work in having the long-term contract extensions for NCAH and PPR approved by City Council at the previous night's meeting.

Committee member Lavin mentioned an advocacy project regarding bloodletting greyhounds at Hemopet Canine Blood Bank and informed the group that the Pet Expo will take place at the OC Fairgrounds from April 26 to 28.

Alternate member Minjares stated she would reach out to the Red Cross for more information on animal CPR classes.

Committee member Gardiner expressed her interest in joining the Animal Advocacy sub-committee.

Chair Litvak spoke in favor of having alternate member Kwoun join the Bark Park sub-committee.

Ms. Aguilar mentioned that at the upcoming May meeting the committee would reorganize the Chair and Vice Chair appointments and discuss the possibility of reorganizing sub-committee members.

8. STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Habiger mentioned the upcoming Coyote Community Meeting on Tuesday, April 23 at City Hall and the Spring Bark Bash on May 11 at the Costa Mesa Bark Park.

Ms. Aguilar congratulated PPR, NCAH, and the committee for achieving their first goal by having the long-term contract extensions approved by City Council. She also reminded the committee to route items through staff first, provided an update on pending public education items and animal licensing, reiterated that the process of fundraising is slow and recommended for the committee to narrow their list of funding uses, and create a process to allocate funding resources.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Litvak at 6:47 p.m.

**The Next Meeting of the Animal Services Committee
is on Wednesday, May 15, 2019**