

**CITY OF COSTA MESA
MEETING OF THE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
July 24, 2019; 5:30 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Animal Services Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Becca Walls at 5:36 p.m. on July 24, 2019 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Becca Walls, Committee members Diana Gardiner, Dana Lavin, Christie McDaniel, Erin Roberts and alternate members Linda Kwoun and Angela Minjares

Absent: Vice Chair Jay Litvak and committee member Tracy Hughes

Staff Present: Tracy Habiger, Recreation Coordinator

Council Liaison: Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens

2. **Approval of the June 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes:** Committee member Lavin moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by alternate committee member Minjares (in place of Litvak).

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: none

Absent: Vice Chair Litvak, Committee members Gardiner (at time of vote) and Hughes

Abstain: Committee member McDaniel

Motion Carried: 4-0-3-1

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

Chair Walls closed Public Comments.

4. **PRESENTATION**

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

General discussion ensued regarding the increase in the number of impounded animals due to kitten season.

B. Ms. Habiger presented the TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program research staff compiled from neighboring cities and counties and mentioned that the Animal

Advocacy sub-committee will be continuing the research to establish if the TNR Program is beneficial to the City of Costa Mesa.

- C. Ms. Habiger shared that the Costa Mesa Foundation voted to release the Animal Care Services donation funds to staff to utilize for the Pet Financial Assistance Program and discussed the application that will be available to the public for the program.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Goals Update

Ms. Habiger presented a follow-up report on the 2019 committee goals and mentioned that the new Bark Park kiosk was recently installed that will display educational items for the public.

Chair Walls mentioned placing an animal licensing QR code inside the kiosk.

Ms. Habiger stated staff would be including the Coyote Management Plan at the Bark Park.

Committee member Gardiner commented on the number of coyote related posts on the NextDoor app.

Chair Walls suggested replying with the link to the Coyote Cacher to report coyote sightings and encounters since coyote data does not include social media postings.

Mayor Pro Tem Stephens mentioned that once a coyote sighting is reported, the information is sent directly to Lt. Victor Bakkila, who will respond according to the rating of the encounter.

B. Sub-Committee Reports

1. Animal Adoption Promotions

Committee member McDaniel spoke about planning a fundraiser night at The Straw in late August or early September, in which a percentage of the proceeds would be donated to Animal Care Services. The event would last approximately four hours and involve raffle prizes. She also mentioned reaching out to Segerstrom & Sons in hopes of collaborating with South Coast Plaza on upcoming promotions.

Committee member Lavin suggested contacting the Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

Alternate committee member Kwoun mentioned she was working on educational articles to post on the "Pets" webpage and expressed her opinion on the dog training techniques being used at the dog obedience training classes offered

through the City.

Ms. Habiger mentioned that staff will be looking into these training techniques.

2. Animal Advocacy

Committee member Roberts expressed her excitement with proceeding with the TNR research and mentioned exploring service dog laws to clarify legal questions to ask owners.

Committee member Lavin stated she would share information with the sub-committee.

Chair Walls suggested inquiring with the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce.

3. Animal Volunteerism

Committee member Lavin commented on the recent R.O.C.K.S Program field trip to Priceless Pet Rescue's adoption center, The Orphanage, and mentioned that the children were provided activity books donated by Operation Blankets of Love.

Chair Walls added that the children also scanned dogs for microchips, met many of the animals, and briefly read to the dogs. She also mentioned trying to coordinate a reading program with Priceless Pet Rescue (PPR) that incorporates children reading to the adoptable pets. She also mentioned that the recent Volunteer & Foster Orientation presented by PPR was successful and had 25 attendees.

Committee member Lavin also mentioned positive feedback from displaying the heat index at the committee booth during the Concerts in the Park series.

Chair Walls suggested placing the heat index on the Animal Control vehicles for public awareness.

4. Bark Park

Ms. Habiger stated that staff will be updating the new Bark Park kiosk with educational items and upcoming events, and the community can still access the front message board to post items.

Chair Walls mentioned a recent bee swarm at the Bark Park that staff addressed.

A general discussion ensued regarding the proper way to manage bees and the City's bee ordinance.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. COMMITTEE/COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Committee member Gardiner asked if she could write articles for The Scoop Newsletter on animals other than dogs and cats and mentioned submitting an article on the white-crowned sparrow.

Alternate committee member Minjares suggested providing committee members with lanyard badges when working at events to distinguish themselves when interacting with the public.

8. STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Habiger thanked PPR, Chair Walls, and committee member Lavin for their roles in the successful R.O.C.K.S Program field trip, spoke about Teen Camp volunteering at The Orphanage, provided event information on “Dog Days of Summer” on August 21 and “Barktoberfest” on October 12, and mentioned the importance of committee meeting attendance.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Walls at 6:28 p.m.

**The Next Meeting of the Animal Services Committee
is on Wednesday, August 28, 2019**