

**CITY OF COSTA MESA**  
**MEETING OF THE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**September 25, 2019; 5:30 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Animal Services Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Becca Walls at 5:30 p.m. on September 25, 2019 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

Roll Call

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

**Absent:** Committee members Tracy Hughes and Erin Roberts

**Staff Present:** Yvette Aguilar, Acting Parks and Community Services Director; Tracy Habiger, Recreation Coordinator

**Council Liaison:** Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens

2. **Approval of the July 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes:** Alternate committee member Kwoun (in place of Hughes) moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Committee member Lavin.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

**Nays:** none

**Absent:** Committee members Hughes and Roberts

Motion Carried: 7-0-2

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Dean Romine, resident, presented his Eagle Scout Services Project Proposal to improve the Bark Park with plans to raise funds for agility equipment to be placed inside the dog park.

Staff mentioned they would be in touch with Mr. Romine regarding his project.

Chair Walls closed Public Comments.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Ms. Tracy Habiger reported the Statistics of Impounded and Adoptable Animals and shared an infographic on key 2019 statistics.

General discussion ensued regarding monthly animal license numbers and the public's perception on licensing pets.

B. Ms. Habiger presented an update on the 2019 committee goals, thanked the committee for their hard work, and mentioned that committee has accomplished six of seven goals thus far, with the one remaining item currently in process.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. TNR Program**

Ms. Habiger presented the responses from the questions staff submitted to Orange County Animal Care regarding their TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program.

General discussion ensued regarding community outreach, programs procedures, effects on the community and nature, and the cost-benefit of the program.

Committee consensus was to continue researching the program in other cities and to provide educational information and surveys to the community.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Meeting Dates**

Chair Walls proposed for the committee to meet every other month on the odd numbered months with the sub-committees meeting individually with staff during the alternating months, with the next meeting taking place November 2019.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Committee member Lavin moved to approve that the committee meeting dates will occur every other month. Seconded by Committee member Gardiner.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: none

Absent: Committee members Hughes and Roberts

Motion Carried: 7-0-2

## **7. COMMITTEE/COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Committee member Gardiner inquired if she should continue researching other cities regarding the TNR Program and mentioned that outdoor cats are illegal in the City of Santa Monica.

Alternate committee member Minjares mentioned the upcoming fundraiser event with Panda Express on September 28 and said more fundraising events are in the planning

process.

Alternate committee member Kwoun spoke about the upcoming annual Barktoberfest event on October 12.

Committee member McDaniel commented on the Animal Care Services donation received from Segerstrom & Sons.

Committee member Lavin mentioned the upcoming First Friday Roadshow on October 4, which will feature a dog adoption event hosted by Priceless Pet Rescue.

Mayor Pro Tem Stephens spoke about a new animal business in Costa Mesa that will offer acupuncture and hydrotherapy to pets and commented on having a social mixer with local pet businesses.

Vice Chair Litvak inquired about the liability of the City regarding the TNR Program.

#### **8. STAFF COMMENTS:**

Ms. Habiger asked the committee if the group was interested in creating a scarecrow for the upcoming Scarecrow Festival occurring October 19 and 20.

Ms. Aguilar congratulated the committee on the status of their goals and commended the group for their continued diligence.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Walls at 6:31 p.m.

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