

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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** The Animal Services Committee special meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Becca Walls at 5:33 p.m. on November 20, 2019 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Becca Walls, Vice Chair Jay Litvak, Committee members Tracy Hughes, Christie McDaniel, and alternate members Linda Kwoun and Angela Minjares
Absent: Committee members Diana Gardiner, Dana Lavin, and Erin Roberts
Staff Present: Tracy Habiger, Recreation Coordinator
Council Liaison: Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens

- 2. Approval of the September 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes:** Committee member McDaniel moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Vice Chair Litvak.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: none

Absent: Committee members Hughes, Lavin, and Roberts

Motion Carried: 6-0-3

- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Raileen Del Rosario, spoke about her intent to apply as a contract class instructor to provide alternative dog obedience training that focuses on positive reinforcement.

Ms. Tracy Habiger mentioned she would share Ms. Del Rosario's contact information with staff who oversee contract classes.

2. Erik Ordahl, Boy Scout, presented his Eagle Scout Services Project Proposal to improve the Bark Park with plans to raise funds for a shade structure to be placed inside the large area of the dog park.

Chair Walls closed Public Comments.

4. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Mr. Dean Romine presented an update on his Eagle Scout Improvement Project and stated he raised \$3,500 to purchase and install dog agility equipment at the Bark Park.

MOTION/SECOND: Committee member McDaniel moved to approve the Eagle Scout Improvement Project and to use the funds to purchase agility equipment. Seconded by Vice Chair Litvak.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: none

Absent: Committee members Gardiner, Lavin, and Roberts

Motion Carried: 6-0-3

- B. Ms. Habiger reported the Statistics of Impounded and Adoptable Animals for the months of September and October 2019.

General discussion ensued regarding the average age of kittens who died while in care at the Animal Shelter.

- C. Ms. Lisa Price of Priceless Pet Rescue (PPR) provided an Animal Adoption Contractor update regarding adoption statistics, accomplished goals, and future objectives.

Mayor Pro Tem Stephens inquired if PPR will be holding a one-year anniversary event at their Costa Mesa adoption center, The Orphanage, and invited Ms. Price to present a yearly update at a future City Council meeting.

Ms. Price mentioned an anniversary event is currently in the planning process, but no date has been set.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. TNR Update

Ms. Habiger mentioned City staff, animal services contractors, and Animal Control met in October to discuss the TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program. With the assistance from Animal Control and neighboring cities, staff will continue to gather information in order to present a report to the committee at the March 2020 meeting.

General discussion ensued regarding a humane alternative to the TNR Program, program effects on coyotes and birds, cost benefit, and changing the current ordinance.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. COMMITTEE/COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Stephens spoke about the City's interest to improve the Bark Park.

Alternative committee member Kwoun was pleased to work with the committee this past year and commended the great turnout at Barktoberfest in October.

Vice Chair Litvak spoke in favor of having an additional dog obedience instructor available to the public through the Recreation Guide and emphasized the importance of observing instructors and tactics.

Chair Walls mentioned having additional educational items to provide to the public.

8. STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Habiger thanked the committee, contractors, Mayor Pro Tem Stephens, and staff for their hard work and flexibility during the year and mentioned the upcoming Santa Paws Donation Drive occurring in December.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Walls at 6:17 p.m.

**The Next Meeting of the Animal Services Committee
is on Wednesday, January 22, 2020**