

**CITY OF COSTA MESA**  
**MEETING OF THE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**January 22, 2020; 5:30 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Animal Services Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Becca Walls at 5:35 p.m. on January 22, 2020 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:** Tracy Habiger, Recreation Coordinator

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

2. **Approval of the November 20, 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 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**

None

Chair Walls closed Public Comments.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. Ms. Habiger reported the Statistics of Impounded and Adoptable Animals for the months of November and December 2019, and a comparison of the past two years.

General discussion ensued regarding the number of kittens impounded in the shelter in 2019 and the effect of the feline panleukopenia virus on cats.

- B. Dr. Anthony Rizk of Newport Center Animal Hospital (NCAH) provided an Animal Shelter Contractor update regarding shelter care, improvements, and the increase of litters in 2019.

Chair Wells mentioned the recent procedural change for stray cats, whereas the public must contact Animal Control to pick up the cats from the location found rather than the public taking to cats directly to the shelter.

Dr. Rizk praised Animal Control for verifying the location of the cats, mentioned a decrease in cat intake since November, and is hopeful the decrease continues.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Boy Scout Project Update**

Ms. Habiger updated the committee that Mr. Dean Romine's Eagle Scout Improvement Project has been completed, raising \$3,500, and purchasing five (5) dog agility course items that will be installed at the Bark Park at a later date.

Chair Walls stated that the committee should recognize Mr. Romine's hard work in an article in the Scoop Newsletter.

Mayor Pro Tem Stephens suggested recognizing Mr. Romine at a future City Council meeting.

Ms. Habiger also mentioned that a previously proposed Boy Scout Project at the Bark Park will not continue due to the project proposal being denied by the Boy Scout Committee.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. 2020 Committee Goals**

Ms. Habiger presented the 2019 committee goals, pointing out the goals which were fully completed and the goals that will continue through the next year. Ms. Habiger asked the committee if there were any additional goals that should be included on the list.

General discussion ensued regarding proposed committee goals.

The following goals resulted from the discussion:

1. Produce public service announcements, in print and in video, related to the three-pronged partnership with Animal Control, Newport Center Animal Hospital, and Priceless Pet Rescue.
2. Educate the public on responsible pet ownership and care no less than six times per year.

3. Consider and make a recommendation to the City Council regarding ordinances related to the existing TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program.
4. Assist Animal Control with promotion and education related to coyotes and the Coyote Management Plan.
5. Cooperate and coordinate with the Parks and Community Services, Animal Care Services, events, initiatives, and projects.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Committee member Lavin moved to approve the committee goals for 2020. Seconded by Committee member Gardiner.

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:**

Vice Chair Litvak spoke positively about the committee's accomplishments, agreed with the idea of recognizing the Eagle Scout's project, and looks forward to expanding on the goals in new areas.

Alternate Committee member Minjares is proud of where the committee currently stands.

Mayor Pro Tem Stephens thanked the committee members and staff for their accomplishments and activity since 2017, commented on the upcoming Tet Festival at the OC Fairgrounds, and suggested for staff to coordinate with the Chief of Staff to recognize Mr. Romine at an upcoming City Council meeting.

Alternate Committee member Kwoun reminded the committee of the upcoming Spring Bark Bash happening at the Costa Mesa Bark Park on Saturday, May 2, 2020 and asked for animal rescue group contacts of those who may be interested in attending the event.

Committee member Lavin thanked the committee and staff for their hard work and expressed the need to get more people at events.

Chair Walls mentioned Priceless Pet Rescue's anniversary event on Saturday, February 15, acknowledged the exact two-year anniversary with our current operations, and praised Just Food For Dogs for supplying Priceless Pet Rescue with free food for a year at The Orphanage Costa Mesa.

**8. STAFF COMMENTS:**

Ms. Habiger mentioned that she will be providing a TNR presentation to the committee at the March meeting and commented on upcoming events, which included the Volunteer & Foster Orientation on February 1, “Furever Yours” Dog Adoption Event on February 8, and Priceless Pet Rescue’s Costa Mesa one-year anniversary celebration on February 15.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Walls at 6:19 p.m.

**The Next Meeting of the Animal Services Committee  
is on Wednesday, March 25, 2020**