

City of Costa Mesa
ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 26, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Animal Services Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Becca Walls at 4:00 p.m. on January 26, 2022 via Zoom Webinar.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Becca Walls, Vice Chair Jay Litvak, Committee Members Angela Minjares and Steve Parker

Absent: Committee Members Diana Gardiner, Linda Kwoun, Alyssa McKay, and Alternate Committee Member Andrea Pike

Liaison Present: Council Member Loren Gameros

Staff Present: Jessica Torrejon, Recreation Coordinator; Tracy Habiger, Assistant Recreation Supervisor; Ashley Thomas, Recreation Supervisor; Jason Minter, Parks and Community Services Director

3. **PRESENTATION**

1. Animal Care Services Statistics

Ms. Torrejon presented the Animal Care Services monthly statistics for November and December 2021.

Vice Chair Litvak inquired about behavioral assessments for owner requested euthanasia cases and microchips for animals returned to their owners.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Walls asked if the Committee had any questions or comments before approving the minutes.

Vice Chair Litvak clarified that the statement he made regarding animal ages should be adjusted to “animal ages are not difficult to determine.”

Ms. Torrejon notated the change would be made.

Ms. Fautua opened this item for public comment.

Seeing no hands raised, public comment was closed.

MOTION/SECOND: Committee Member Minjares motioned to approve the September 22, 2021 meeting minutes with the adjusted comment./Second by Vice Chair Litvak. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Walls, Vice Chair Litvak, Committee Members Minjares and Parker.

Nays: None

Absent: Committee Members Gardiner, Kwoun, and McKay

Motion Carries: 4-0

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Fautua opened public comments.

Seeing no hands raised, Ms. Fautua closed Public Comments.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS, COMMENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS

Committee Member Minjares commented on her belief that the committee is not as involved as it previously was, should be utilized to its fullest potential, and mentioned a disconnect between staff and Committee members.

Vice Chair Litvak commented on the difficulty of meeting during the COVID period.

Council Member Gamos recommended for the Committee to contact him with any concerns.

Chair Walls inquired where owner surrender fees go toward and suggested the fees to be routed to the Animal Services Costa Mesa Foundation account.

7. LIAISONS & STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Torrejon provided an update on the Barktoberfest event that occurred in October, thanked Committee members and contractors for their involvement, mentioned an upcoming meeting with the animal shelter and adoption contractors, and stated the Spring Bark Bash will be held in May.

Ms. Habiger mentioned that staff recently met with Animal Control and provided an update regarding cat impound procedures.

Chair Walls suggested allowing Costa Mesa residents access to take stray cats directly to the shelter.

Ms. Thomas replied that Animal Care Services would provide public outreach regarding shelter protocols and suggested for Committee members to provide goals to staff to create an action plan to best utilize the Committee.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a) TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program Research Working Group Update

Ms. Torrejon informed the Committee the working group was planning to meet online soon.

Ms. Thomas suggested creating an action plan to ensure the TNR goal is achieved.

b) Community Education Working Group Update

Committee Member Minjares suggested a promotional item regarding stray cat procedures.

c) Events Working Group Update

Committee Member Steve Parker provided an update on the October Barktoberfest event and the upcoming Spring Bark Bash in May.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a) 2022 Goals

Ms. Torrejon reviewed the 2021 Committee goals and opened a discussion regarding potential 2022 Committee goals.

A general discussion ensued regarding potential goals focusing on TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program, strengthening the perception of Animal Control within the community, continuing Paws 101 videos, promoting shelter procedures, and providing new educational items to the public in person and on the website.

Following the discussion, Ms. Torrejon asked the Committee to email her potential goals by February 9.

10. FINAL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Minter introduced himself and mentioned upcoming changes to the City webpages to ensure easier navigation and readability.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walls adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: March 23, 2022, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom Webinar