

**City of Costa Mesa
ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES: MAY 25, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: The Animal Services Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Walls at 4:01pm on May 25, 2022 via Zoom webinar.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Becca Walls, Committee Members Sharon Elder, Angela Minjares, Christina Poulos, Steve Parker, and Alternate Committee Member Jennifer Tanaka

Absent: Committee Members Diana Gardiner and Lisa Harker

Liaison Present: Councilmember Loren Gamos

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

PRESENTATION

1. Animal Control Overview

Presentation by Animal Control Officer Joshua Swisher.

General question and answer discussion ensued regarding animal licensing, off leash dogs, specialized training, and feral cat protocols.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Fautua opened public comments.

Priceless Pet Rescue Executive Director Lisa Price commented on feral cats within the City of Costa Mesa and expressed her willingness to assist with the TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Release) Program.

Seeing no additional hands raised, public comment was closed.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND LIAISON COMMENTS

Committee Member Elder introduced herself and commented on dog licensing.

Alternate Committee Member Tanaka introduced herself.

Committee Member Minjares expressed concern about Committee member attendance.

Ms. Torrejon provided an update on the "Spring Bark Bash" event that took place on Saturday, May 21 at TeWinkle Park.

Ms. Habiger mentioned that the "Barktoberfest" event is scheduled for Saturday, October 22 at TeWinkle Park and provided an update on the Animal Services account through the Costa Mesa Foundation.

Committee Member Parker inquired about shelter paperwork and animal transfers.

Ms. Torrejon mentioned the animal transfers and paperwork have improved.

Council member Gamos commented that staff are monitoring the animal transfers and paperwork.

Ms. Villasenor stated that the animal transfers are operating smoothly and are progressing forward.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 25, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

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

Ms. Fautua opened this item for public comment.

Seeing no hands raised, public comment was closed.

MOTION/SECOND: Committee Member Parker motioned to approve the March 23, 2022 meeting minutes./Second by Committee Member Minjares. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Walls, Committee Members Elder, Poulos, Minjares, Parker, and Alternate Committee Member Tanaka.

Nays: None

Absent: Committee Members Gardiner and Harker

Motion Carries: 6-0

2. OLD BUSINESS - None

3. NEW BUSINESS

a) Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Ms. Torrejon asked if the committee had any questions or comments regarding the staff report before opening nominations.

Mr. Minter spoke on the importance of selecting a new Chair and Vice Chair Person.

Ms. Torrejon opened nominations for Chair.

Ms. Fautua opened this item for public comment. Seeing no hands raised, public comment was closed.

MOTION/SECOND: Committee Member Minjares moved to approve Chair Walls as Chair./Second by Committee Member Parker. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Walls, Committee Members Elder, Poulos, Minjares, Parker, and Alternate Committee Member Tanaka.

Nays: None

Absent: Committee Members Gardiner and Harker

Motion Carries: 6-0

Ms. Torrejon opened nominations for Vice Chair.

Ms. Fautua opened this item for public comment. Seeing no hands raised, public comment was closed.

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Walls moved to approve Committee Member Minjares as Vice Chair Person./Second by Committee Member Poulos. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Walls, Committee Members Elder, Poulos, Minjares, Parker, and Alternate Committee Member Tanaka.

Nays: None

Absent: Committee Members Gardiner and Harker

Motion Carries: 6-0

4. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

a. Release of Live Animal Ordinance

Ms. Torrejon shared the City's animal related municipal codes and clarified the City does not have a code that pertains to the release of live animals.

Chair Walls suggested for the Committee to create a new municipal code instead of changing a preexisting code.

Vice Chair Minjares recommended looking at other city municipal codes for examples.

Ms. Habiger asked if any members would like to research other municipal codes. With no response, Ms. Habiger stated staff would email the Committee with their results.

b. Working Group Action Plans

Ms. Torrejon presented the working groups members could volunteer for to accomplish their goals: Community Outreach, Events & Education, and Beekeeping Ordinance, and asked members to select their preferred working group.

Seeing no immediate response, Ms. Torrejon informed the Committee she would reach out via email for members to choose their preferred working group.

5. MONTHLY REPORTS

Ms. Torrejon presented the Animal Care Services monthly statistics for March and April 2022.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walls adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: July 27, 2022, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom Webinar