



MINUTES
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday May 29, 2007
10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL
200 N. Spring St.
Room 1060
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Commissioners: Tariq Khero, President
 Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President
 Marie Atake
 Glenn Brown
 Archie Quincey, Jr.

COMMISSION MEETING

Commission Vice President Riordan called the Commission Meeting to order at 10:08 A.M. Present were Commissioners Riordan, Atake, Brown and Quincey. Commissioner Khero was absent.

1. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – EDWARD BOKS

In the absence of General Manager Edward Boks, Assistant General Manager Linda Barth gave the Oral Report of the General Manager.

- The General Manager has been working very closely with the Office of the Mayor, lobbyists in Sacramento, Assembly Member Lloyd Levine, and other Assembly Members supporting Assembly Bill 1634. The Bill, originally scheduled to go before the Assembly on May 31, would be delayed until the following week.
- At the last City Council Meeting, the Council voted to restore ten License Canvasser positions with funding to the Department. There was also a motion approved by the Council to restore three Administrative Hearing Program positions.
- The Department has recently published Annual Report, covering the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year. The Report also continues thru the month of December, covering an eighteen-month period. The Report has been available on the Department's Website for the past few weeks.

Public Comments

Daniel Guss: Asked if the Commission could be advised when the General Manager would be absent from Commission Meeting. The General Manager should have mentioned that he would be speaking at a town hall meeting, co-sponsored by Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP.

2. EMPLOYEE COMMENDATIONS

A. Animal Care Technician Mario Ochoa, North Central Animal Care Center

Assistant General Manager Deborah Knaan recognized Mr. Ochoa's contributions to the North Central Center. Mr. Ochoa has been very helpful in creating brochures, signs, and advertising materials for the Department on his own initiative. Lt. Guillermo Moreno further commented on Mr. Ochoa's passion and dedication to the North Central Center.

B. Animal Care Technician Kristi Navarro, Harbor Animal Care Center

Ms. Knaan commented on the background of Ms. Navarro and recognized her service and dedication as a Volunteer Liaison, especially her efforts during the Big Sunday Event. Captain Danny Pantoja further commented on Ms. Navarro's leadership and service to the Harbor Center.

C. Sr. Animal Control Officer Gil Moreno, North Central Animal Care Center

Ms. Knaan commented on Lt. Moreno's leadership in assuming the duties of District Manager for the North Central Center when the former manager stepped down from the position in March. While serving as Acting District Manager, Lt. Moreno has also continued to maintain his active duties as the Field Supervisor, embodying the goals and mission of the Department.

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of March 27, April 9, 2007, and May 14, 2007

Commissioner Atake requested that details regarding comments made by the General Manager be included in the minutes of the March 27, 2007 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Atake motioned to approve the minutes for the April 9, 2007 Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riordan and passed on a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Riordan requested that changes be added to the May 14, 2007 Commission Meeting regarding the Commission appeal decision for Barking Dog Case BD06338WV. Commissioner Atake wanted to clarify that she was asked by the City Council to attend a meeting concerning the Department's Volunteer Program.

Action Item: Approval of the Minutes for March 27 and May 14, 2007 to return as an agenda item for the Commission Meeting on 05/29/07.

B. Oral Report by the Commission on Meetings and Events Attended

Commissioner Atake held dog adoption events on May 19, and May 26. On May 24, she was invited to the inaugural meeting of the Asian Pacific Community Programs headed by Mr. Blackman. Commissioners Riordan, Brown, and Quincey had nothing to report.

Public Comments

Daniel Guss: Suggested that the Commission consider having the General Manager also report at Commission Meetings on the meetings and events he has recently attended. Wanted the Department to investigate the relationship of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP to the meeting the General Manager would be speaking at.

C. Appointment of Appeals Commissioner

Due to the absence of Commissioner Khoro, the Commission agreed to reschedule the appointment of the Appeals Commissioner to the next Commission Meeting on June 11, 2007.

Action Item: Appointment of Appeals Commissioner to return as an agenda item for the Commission Meeting on 06/11/07.

4. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Temporary Right of Entry to Provide Spay/Neuter Services at the North Central Animal Care Center

Ms. Barth reported on the Department's efforts for increasing the availability of low-cost spay/ neuter services. One way the Department has attempted to do this has been by establishing long-term agreements with qualified veterinarians to occupy spay/neuter clinics at each of the Department's Animal Care Centers. On October 23, 2006, the Board approved the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operation of the spay/neuter veterinary clinics at the Department's South Los Angeles and North Central Animal Care Centers. In response to that RFP, the Department received one proposal for the operation of the clinic at the South Los Angeles location only, and awarded that proposer an agreement, which is pending Council approval. In the meantime, the contractor has begun operations at South Los Angeles under a temporary right of entry. No proposals were received for the operation of the clinic at the North Central clinic.

However, it remains imperative for the health of animals in the area of the North Central Center that spay and neuter services be provided as soon as possible on a temporary basis, while a new RFP can be released. Therefore, the Department has negotiated with FixNation Inc. to temporarily occupy the clinic at the North Central Center and provide services five days per week needed to sterilize the Center's adopted cats, other City of Los Angeles Animal Care Center cats, and feral cats. Services will include spay/neuter surgeries as well as testing cats for the presence of Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV). A temporary Right of Entry was drafted and would be executed subject to Board approval, and approval of the City Attorney. FixNation would be required to conform to all federal, state, and local humane laws and statutes.

Public Comments

Daniel Guss: Wanted to know why the RFPs were not being responded to. What are the incentives to get better responses? The Department needs real auditors and business people to find the answers. The Department would have a better financial situation if more people were competing for the contract.

Phyllis Daugherty: Commented that Dr. Mackey had the time to assist the Department. Claimed that Mark Dodge is a lawyer and that he did not have any experience running a spay/neuter clinic. Nothing in the Board Report stated that FixNation would provide services for the general public. In the past, they have received grants to perform sterilization procedures for feral cats only. There needed to be a way to properly evaluate the program at North Central.

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Commissioner Riordan commented that the paperwork to bid on the contract with the Department was quite extensive, and that it may have discouraged many potential bidders. Commissioner Quincey recommended that the Department consult with the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association.

The Commission agreed to revisit the item at the next Commission Meeting to give the Department the opportunity to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Action Item: Temporary Right of Entry to Provide Spay/Neuter Services at the North Central Animal Care Center to return as an agenda item for the Commission Meeting on 06/11/07.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Phyllis Daugherty: The Department needs to be very cautious with entering into a contract with a group that has not had the experience of being in the position previously. It is appalling that the Department did not do a good job renovating the North Central spay/neuter clinic with all the money set aside in the budget to use towards overhauling the shelters. Mentioned that the LAPD recently did their first dog-fighting bust. Eighteen animals were confiscated. Concerned with the shelter figures that 247 dogs have died as a result of probably being killed by other animals, or suffering when they should have been euthanized.

Bill Dyer: Announced the recent passing of Ms. Gretchen Wilder. Commented on her life and on her many contributions to animal issues and animal welfare.

Daniel Guss: Received an email stating that the new East Valley Animal Care Center is already at capacity. 650 animals were killed in March. The General Manager however, is putting out commentaries that March was a No Kill month. There needs to be a new statistic of how many dead bodies leave the shelters versus how many bodies come into the shelters.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Requests from Commissioners For Future Agenda Items:

- Commissioner Atake wanted a discussion item on the overcrowding situation in the Department's shelter facilities.
- Commissioner Atake requested to have an actual body count for all shelter animals with a distinction for animals euthanized for medical reasons and those euthanized for other reasons.
- Commissioner Riordan requested that a discussion on incentives for pet shops for increasing licensing be added to the future agenda item regarding the summary of trends in annual dog licensing.
- Commissioner Quincey requested to have a discussion item on humane education in primary schools.
- Commissioner Riordan requested to have a full report on animal care and evacuation procedures for animals during heat waves and fires.
- Commissioner Atake wanted a report on the status for the follow-up of animals released without sterilization to be placed on the agenda for the June 11, 2007 Commission Meeting.

- Commissioner Riordan wanted a report on premise permits to be tabled as a future agenda item.

Public Comments

Daniel Guss: Department failed to respond to an emergency call. A rottweiler was off-leash at an elementary school. The principal was told by the shelter to catch the dog herself and bring it into the East Valley shelter. Mentioned that ESPN published a story that NFL star quarterback Michael Vick was allegedly involved in dog fighting and gambling. The Department may want to investigate the relationship of local professional and college athletics and their involvement with animal fighting and gambling.

Phyllis Daugherty: Announced that the General Manager would be speaking at a law firm meeting entitled "A Noon Briefing." The tickets to attend the meeting were \$18 and it had been published for quite some time. The Department should be looking into the issue of premise permits. There are at least three shelters that currently do not have the legal right to be performing any medical procedures.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission Meeting was adjourned in the memory of Ms. Gretchen Wilder at 12:14 P.M.