

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012
7:00 PM



**EAST VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER
14409 VANOWEN STREET
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA 91405**

LISA McCURDY
President

KATHLEEN RIORDAN
Vice-President

JIM JENSVOLD
TARIQ A. KHERO
ALANA YAÑEZ

Commissioners McCurdy, Yanez and Jensvold were in attendance. Commissioners Riordan and Khero arrived at 7:12 and 7:15 respectively

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Called To Order at 7:00 PM

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - (Comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction and on items not on the Agenda.)

Public Comments: The Brown Act prohibits the Board and staff from responding to the speakers' comments. Some of the matters raised in public comment may appear on a future agenda.

Public Comment:

The following individuals presented comments dealing with Department policies, procedures, employees and work processes. Comments both praised the Department and pointed out areas where improvement were needed.

Mary Catalano
Phyllis Daugherty
Linda Carel
Laura Beth Heisen
Whitney Smith

Danielle Farrington
Daniel Guss
Andrew Brown
Jane Garcia

Pnina Gersten
Robin Purell
Julie Chadwick
Sergio Rios

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the minutes for the November 13, 2012 meetings.

Commissioner Jensvold made a motion to approve the November 13, 2012 minutes, with recommended changes, with a second by Commissioner Yanez. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

3. BOARD REPORTS

- A. Acceptance Of A Grant Program From The American Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals, Carroll Petrie Foundation.

General Manager Brenda Barnette explained the purpose of the grant application. She indicated that the ASPCA/Carroll Petrie Foundation would pay the Department a fee for animals adopted, fostered, or transferred to a permanent off-site location. In support of this, the Department received a check in the amount of \$35,650 for the first month of the program

Public Comment

Laura Beth Heisen commented that the monies received may not be used for spay and neuter but used to support the Meet Your Match (MYM) SAFER Program.

Commissioner McCurdy made a motion to approve grant program, accept the \$35,650 and forward the program to the Mayor and Council for approval. A second was put forward by Commissioner Yanez. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

- B. Bequest from the Estate of Walter Shuster and David Cunard.

Assistant General Manager John Chavez reported that the Department had received a letter from the executor of the estate of Walter Shuster and David Cunard. Mister Shuster and Cunard named that the East Valley Shelter in their wills and the Department has received a check in the amount of \$53,876.10 as its portion of the estate. Funds will be deposited into the Animal Welfare Trust Fund and restrict these funds for the purpose of the bequest.

Commissioner Yanez made a motion to approve grant program, accept the \$53,876.10 and forward the bequest to the Mayor and Council for approval. A second was put forward by Commissioner McCurdy. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Commissioner McCurdy made a motion to approve grant program, accept the \$35,650 and forward the program to the Mayor and Council for approval. A

second was put forward by Commissioner Yanez. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

C. ASPCA Meet Your Match (MYM) and SAFER (Continued from the Meeting of November 13, 2012)

General Manager Brenda Barnette introduced the ASPCA representative who presented a slide show about the benefits of the Meet Your Match (MYM) and SAFER programs. Also in attendance, by way of a video feed, was Emily Weiss of the ASPCA.

Public Comment:

Public comment followed the presentation, with 48 speaker cards submitted. The comments were both in favor and opposed to the proposal. Speakers in opposition to the program questioned the ability of the Department to adequately support the program without diverting scarce resources from other programs. Other comments included questions when the evaluation would occur, differences in evaluator and individual criteria used by employees. Speakers in support of the program believed it would add to the programs available to save animal lives.

Speakers included:

Brandon Fouche	Allison Polumbus	Lisa Spivey
Natalia Ermolova	Kristina Kirstin	Jackie Wollner
Lori Golden	Marion Winkler	Barbara Niven
Laura Beth Heisen	Jacqueline Gaillard	Danielle Farrington
Kristen Larson	Jacky de Havland	Karen Snook
Bobby Dorafshar	Patty Naegely	Lisa Spivey
Stephanie Draven	Karen Simondet	Piny Denma
Mary Catalano	Laurel Kinder	Christi Metrapol
Cheri Shankar	Haze Lynn	Eileen Smulson
Dawn Smith	Christine Hogan	Pnina Gersten
Dianne Prado	Josh Liddy	Jane Garcia
Whitney Smith	Marla Tauscher	Tina Clark
Daniel Guss	Michael King	Aimee Gilbeath
Marysia Wojcik	Julie Chadwick	Karen Fogerty
Clara Richardson	Andrew Brown	Linda Carel
Phyllis Daugherty	Robin Purrell	Michelle Peacock

Commissioner made a motion to form a committee to come up with an alternative program. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner McCurdy made a motion to approve the General Manager's recommendations with the following changes

That the Board authorize the Department of Animal Services to work with the ASPCA's Meet Your Match® (MYM) and SAFER® (Safety Assessment For Evaluating Re-homing) experts to develop ~~and operate~~ a pilot program at one Los Angeles animal shelter to aid the staff and volunteers in placing pets in the best homes for the pet and the family with the goal of decreasing the animals returned to the shelter after adoption and to significantly increase the Live Release Rate (LRR) in the shelter. The Department will periodically report back to the Board on the development and progress of this pilot program. At no time would the program be used to identify animals to be euthanized. The ASPCA's Meet Your Match® (MYM) and SAFER® (Safety Assessment For Evaluating Re-homing) is not temperament testing, however, if the Board feels that it is necessary, the Board may want to modify its adopted policy prohibiting "temperament testing" to accommodate this pilot program.

Further – a working group to consist of staff of LAAS, volunteers for and against the pilot, new hope partners for and against the pilot, a commission member will be selected by President McCurdy and GM Barnette along with the ASPCA to develop the pilot program for one shelter in Los Angeles.

The Commission President and GM will also determine when the Department will report back with its findings and recommendation(s).

The motion was seconded and was approved on a 4-1 vote

4. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

None

5. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was presented by Commissioner Riordan and seconded. The motion and it was approved on a vote of 5-0.