

MEETING SUMMARY FOR THE COMMISSON MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2014

(Audio MP-3 Recording of the Meeting Available
On the Commission's Website)



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Room 1050
Los Angeles, California 90012



DAVID ZAFT
President

ALANA YANEZ
Vice-President

JENNIFER BRENT
LISA McCURDY
ROGER WOLFSON

Commissioners, Zaft, Yanez, Brent and Wolfson were in attendance. Commissioner Yanez left the meeting after Agenda Item 4A. (23 minutes into the meeting)

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

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.)

Dan Guss: Question about live releases to NKLA and 4,000 animals to Best Friends and what becomes of them. Why are we calling them live releases. Commented on a business that has dog breeder licenses at automotive business. Why don't they have junkyard licenses.

Sue Matson: Spoke on statistics. Proposed project to sponsor independent audit in conjunction with UCLA. She has on disagreement with the wolfstat report.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Election of Board Officers

Commissioner Yanez made a motion to nominate David Zaft as Commission President. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brent. Commissioner Zaft was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Commissioner Brent made a motion to nominate Alana Yanez as Commission Vice-President. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wolfson. Commissioner Yanez was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Public Comment:

Dan Guss: Objected to the nomination of Commissioner Yanez due to her ties HSUS.

B. Approval of the Minutes for the Meetings of January 28, 2014

Commissioner Wolfson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yanez, and approved by a 4-0 vote.

C. Report on the Duties and Responsibilities of the Board by the City Attorney

Assistant City Attorney Dov Lesel reported on the duties and responsibilities of the Commission. The Animal Services Commission is the ultimate authority over the General Manager of the Department. They have the ability to approve contract and the policies of the Department. These duties do not include day to day operations of the Department. This responsibility is the responsibility of the General Manager. The General Manager is appointed by the Mayor and ultimately responsible to the Mayor. The power and authority is under the City Charter and Administrative Code. A 10 year old City Attorney's letter outlines the power and duties of the Board. Contracts for \$20,000 do not have to be approved by the City Council and thus not necessary for Board approval. The City Attorney letter will be available at the next meeting.

Public Comment

Dan Guss: GM works for the Commission. Reach out to employees and rescue groups for information. Misses out on dog license revenue. Why are we transferring animals outside the City without city microchips.

Sue Matson: Changing game on how citizens participate. Must open a channel for open citizen participation.

D. Discussion on the Brown Act by the City Attorney

Commissioner Zaft requested the Brown Act discussion be held over to the next meeting when all Commissioners are available.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Report Making Trapping of Wildlife in the City More Humane

GM Barnette reported that the Council directed the Department to prepare legislation that would make the trapping of wildlife more humane within the City. This report is merely to inform the Board on the direction the Department intended to go and the basis of a report that was to be sent to the PAW Committee. Commissioner Wolfson commended the Department on a well prepared report. The sentiment was seconded by Commissioner Brent. Commissioner Zaft commented on the size of the City and the potential to meet wildlife within different areas of the City. CD 13 (Mitch Farrell) Christine Peters indicated that the Council motion was as the result of a pet being caught in a trap as opposed to a wild animal for which it was intended. This would raise the City to standards now in effect in other cities. This would amend an existing ordinance to include traps for wild animals. Although this is a discussion item, the Commission indicated that they support the effort.

4. BOARD REPORTS

A. Board Report on Vaccination Clinic Report and Draft Agreement

Assistant General Manager John Chavez commented on the vaccination clinic report and the potential vendor SNP LA. Questions regarding bilingual outreach, transportation of animals were raised. SNP LA indicated they would have flyers in English and Spanish. Outreach would be in associated with other groups and have tables at other events. No formal transportation agreement has been made. The canvassing efforts in neighborhoods are another area that is unclear. The Department wants to enter into contract negotiations with SNP LA and have these questions answered through contract negotiations. Commissioner Yanez asked about including in the contract, door to door canvassing of neighborhoods and wanted to make sure it was not just leaving door hangars on residential doors in the contract and shots for parvo and other diseases.. Also wanted to make sure it was in neighborhoods that are underserved and low income. General Manager suggested that the wording should be parvo and other diseases. AGM Chavez indicated that these items were being non negotiable items. Commissioner Brent asked as to why the Department did not choose to go inside with the program. It was explained that the City requires a study before a Department can issue an RFP for services. The study indicated that the Department did not have the staff to perform the services in-house.

Public Comment:

Sue Matson: Wants the same information from contractors as to services performed that is required by the Department in accordance with CPRA requests.

Commissioner Zaft made a motion approve the Board Report along with suggestions set forth by the Commission. Commissioner Wolfson seconded the motion and it was approved on a vote of 4-0.

B. Board Report to Direct Staff to Enter Into Contract Negotiations With Found Animals and Present a Draft Contract for Board Consideration.

Two Commissioners were recused from discussing or voting for this item. As a result there was not a quorum of the Commission. The item was held over to a future meeting.

5. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

The General Manager, Brenda Barnette, commented on the following items:

- The shelter intervention at South LA is doing a great job. The change in shelter locations has an effect. Better information after one year at the new shelter
- Statistics reflect noses in vs. noses out. Count all neonates and arrivals. Best Friends report the microchip numbers for tracking.
- New Hope Report will come back to a future meeting for your consideration.
- Other jurisdictions do not put animals up for adoption for rescue groups for a period of time. Want to drive adoption to City shelter.
- Working on the reestablishment of Volunteer Liaisons. ACT'S are eligible to apply and interviews will be by a panel of Department staff and the Personnel Department.
- Working on a Joint Labor Committee.
- GSD is working on sewer line issues at North Central.
- Safety vests have been purchased vest for officers.
- Thefts of animals at the North Central Shelter have been reported. Working on increased lighting and police patrols.
- Presented the Wolfstat report

Public Comment

Dan Guss: There is a \$25.00 turn-in fee. People who do not have the funds cannot turn in animals. A letter from a law firm reported a woman who has 30 dogs does not have the funds to turn in the dogs. What are the criteria for turning in animals. Must compare apples to apples and not pizza.

Sue Matson: Great time to become educated on reading the numbers.

Board Availability for the Meeting of February 25, 2014.

7, ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zaft made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wolfson seconded the motion and it was approved on a vote of 3-0.