

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, February 26, 2013
10:00 AM



**Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Room 1060
Los Angeles, California 90012**

LISA McCURDY
President

KATHLEEN RIORDAN
Vice-President

JIM JENSVOLD
TARIQ A. KHERO
ALANA YAÑEZ

Mp3 Minutes are available at www.laanimalservices.com

Commissioners McCurdy, Riordan, Jensvold, Yanez, and Khero were in attendance.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

1. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING.

- A. Barking Dog Case Number: BD 12595 EV
Appellant: Alison and Brian McGarry
Complaining Witness: George Metsos
Field Operations Supervisor East Valley Animal Care Center, Lt. Kerri DeMascio

Alison and Brian McGarry presented the appeal. The Board voted 4-1 to uphold the decision of the General Manager with an additional condition that the dog owners could appeal to the General Manager to modify the Terms and Conditions when the license expires.

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.)

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:

Cathy Serksnas: Concerns about the West Los Angeles Animal Shelter.

Tami Pearsall: Spoke on how the public is treated at the shelters. Does not feel employees are responsive to public.

Amy; Breyer: Introduced the Animal History Museum.

Michael Rotsten: Commented on Appeal Process and requested changes.

Dan Guss: Spoke on New Hope and the fee schedule.

Laura Beth Heisen: Spoke on transports and failure to follow-up on animals.

Michael Dee: Supports the Animal History Museum

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Approval of the minutes for the February 12, 2013 meetings.

No public comments. Commissioner McCurdy made a motion to approve the corrected minutes, with a second by Commissioner Yanez. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Discussion Item: Trust Fund Balances for the Animal Welfare Trust Fund (Fund 859) and the Spay and Neuter Trust Fund (Fund 543 and 842)

The Trust Fund report was presented to the Board. Questions were raised about funds spent \$5,692 from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund for Office and Administrative purposes. States that the fund is not used for general fund purposes. Commissioner Yanez asked about travel to a conference in Las Vegas. A question regarding a transfer of \$211,000 from the account for administrative purposes. AGM John Chavez. Explained that the CAO transferred the funds to support staff that handles coupons. The General Manager clarified that she had questions about the Animal Welfare Trust Fund uses for administrative purposes. Commissioner Riordan asked about the \$52,000 used for the CEQA report and where it was in the report. GM Barnette indicated that the Trust Funds will be reviewed and a more comprehensive report will be presented to the Board.

Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty: Spoke on the \$2.00 that goes into the Spay and Neuter Fund. Wants this item brought back for further discussion.

Laura Beth Heisen: Commented on the inaccurate numbers.

Commissioner Jensvold asked that an update report be provided in a month. Commissioner Riordan asked for a breakdown and additional information on the \$211,000 expenditure.

4. BOARD REPORTS

A. Amended Changes to the New Hope Program (Continued from the Board Meeting of October 9, 2012).

Director of Field Operations Jan Selder explained the changes incorporated into the New Hope Program. Commissioner Jensvold indicated that he questioned about placing additional burdens on rescue community by additional fees. The General Manager indicated that the Red and Blue lists were free and the Department would lose money on the revised program. Commissioner McCurdy had questions on the Rules of Conduct. There was a concern that this would infringe on the First Amendment rights of the rescue community. A question was asked about the difficulty of tracking animals to the end user. Laurel Kinder reported that the animals oftentimes passed through several rescue groups and to find the end dog owner would cause some difficulty. Many rescue groups do not want to share information on who adopts animals. Commissioner Khoro was concerned that when the Board Report is update that the question about the code of conduct be answered.

Public Comment;

Laurel Kinder; Indicated there was difficulty in pulling animals. Questioned why staff does want rescue groups in the shelters early.

Paul Castro: Don't see any employees at the meeting because they are afraid. Make sure program is cost neutral.

Phyllis Daugherty: Asked when spay and neuter was done if animals were pulled on Monday and transported on Thursday.

Laura Beth Heisen: Cannot release animals without spay and neuter unless certified by licensed vet.

Paul Darrigo: Wants to create a positive and good feeling at the shelter.

A motion was made and seconded to return the Board Report for additional information. The motion was approved 5-0.

5. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

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

- Meeting on February 21, 2012 with the Mayor/CAO re: 2013-14 budget
 - This is the beginning of the budget process.
 - Two key milestones:
 - **March 5**, Election Day: If ½-cent sales tax is defeated, expect further budget reductions.
 - Friday, **April 19**: Mayor releases his 2013-14 budget
- Animal Services released the following two procurements:
 - On February 20, we mailed out a Request For Quotation for **Wildlife Handling and Humane Capture**. Animal Services issued an RFP last year, but got only one response. It was not a thorough proposal, so we deemed it “non-responsive” and mailed out a Request for Quotation instead. Sent this to five potential vendors. Quotes due **March 22, 2013**.
 - On February 22, we posted the **Wild and Exotic Animal Veterinarian RFQ**, which was approved by the Board on February 12, 2013. This RFQ is due on **March 29, 2013**.
- Donations:
 - **\$49,246.15** to date for Holiday Fundraising Drive 2012
 - **\$4,316.26** from the Louis C. Mirabile Trust (attached). South LA animal shelter is the beneficiary of this donation. (Note: Since the amount is below \$5000, we can deposit this amount into the AWTF without Board approval.)
- Statistics:
 - January 2013 Woofstat
 - February 14, 2013 letter from Best Friends re: successes (attached)
- MYM/SAFER:
 - Staff met last Wednesday at the Harbor shelter; ASPCA report recommends Harbor for pilot “Felinality; this will go back to the Working Group; and GM will present findings to the Commission
 - GM working with another organization (Bound Angels) that may offer alternative assessment program
- Atomic Dog Radio

Public Comment

Laura Beth Heisen: Questioned how many animals are transported as how many are rescued in the City.

5. Board Availability for the Meeting of March 12, 2013.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner McCurdy made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Yanez seconded the motion and it was approved on a vote of 5-0.