

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011
10:00 AM



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

Melanie Ramsayer, President
Ruthanne Secunda, Vice-President
Tariq Khero
Terri Macellaro
Kathleen Riordan

mp3 Minutes are available at www.laanimalservices.com

Commissioners Ramsayer, Secunda, Macellaro and Riordan (Arrived at 10:34) were in attendance. Commissioner Khero and was absent.

Meeting started at 10:25 AM.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Michelle Kelly: Complemented the staff and volunteers regarding care of rabbits. Improvements have been made in the area of rabbit care. She has been a shelter volunteer since 1998 or 1999. Clinico is an important resource and should be expanded to more shelters.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentation of Information and Plans for the new South Los Angeles Shelter

Sr. Management Analyst II Linda Gordon gave a brief history of the 2000 bond issue to renovate, replace and add shelters. The new South Los Angeles Shelter is presently in the construction stage. Rania Alimar, project architect, presented an overview of the shelter's design. She described the area as an industrial area that is undergoing change. The wall facing the street is made of glass. As such the spay and neuter clinic, public animal receiving and other public areas face the street. Various features of the shelter were described by the architect and Ms. Gordon. The Commissioners raised concerns regarding space for cats and the including a cat room, the small animal area, exotic animal holding area and other areas. The Commission was concerned that they were not apprised of the plans and kept in the loop regarding the construction planning.

Public Comment:

Michelle Kelly: Very happy that new shelter has indoor area for the rabbits. Concerns exits for volunteers, flat concrete floors and larger cages.

B. Tutorial and information regarding Commission's responsibilities in dealing with Administrative Appeals as well as discussion and update of the Hearing Ordinance

Item put over to future meeting.

C. Discussion of List of Commission's Items

Item put over to future meeting.

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of Commission Minutes for February 8, 2011

Commissioner Ramsayer recommended approval of the minutes for the meeting of February 8, 2011, with the requested corrections. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

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

Commissioner Macellaro: Visited shelters outside the City's jurisdiction.

4. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Agreements with FixNation, Inc., to Provide As-Needed Spay/Neuter Services

General Manager Barnette indicated this was vehicle that would enable the Department to pay outstanding invoices. Commissioner Riordan raised concerns that the contract, which the Controller's audit recommended should be a Letter of Agreement, is too cumbersome and that many vets are not signing due to its present requirements and form. The City Attorney stated they are reviewing the issue. Commissioner Riordan asked that if the contract, in its present form, is changed and made more business friendly, would the item have to come back to the commission for approval. The General Manager indicated that the Department has a contract manager who can handle any complaint up to canceling a contract.

Public Comment:

None

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to approve the General Manager's recommendation as stated. Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

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B. Assembly Bill 564 – Personal Income Tax Deduction for Municipal Shelter Spay and Neuter Fund

Commissioner Secunda presented a motion to amend the General Manager's report. In addition to the Mayor and Council's support of AB 564 that the bills author be requested to amend the bill to read that the Food and Agriculture Code Section 30525 be changed to read that:

"The responsible city, county or counties may specify the means by which the dog owner shall provide proof of his or her dogs spay or neuter surgery including but not limited to electronic transmission or facsimile."

Commissioner Riordan commented that the Franchise Tax Board, the State Controller and the Department of Food and Agriculture will deduct a portion of the donated fees for administrative costs and a cap for such costs is only stated for the Department of Food and Ag. She supports the bill but is concerned about how much revenue will actually reach eligible municipal shelters. She suggested that all administrative fees should be capped and that this be communicated to Council along with support of the bill.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty: Suggested that the electronic transmission of spay and neuter process will be problematic. She suggested that the electronic transmittal issue be reported separately.

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to approve the General Manager's recommendation with a recommendation to cap the administrative fees. Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

C. Assembly Bill 610 – California Pet Lover's License Plate

Public Comment

Lindsay Espinoza: Reported that 2,600 pre-orders have been received for the plates. Current regulations require that 7,500 plates be ordered prior to the plates being approved for production.

Commissioner Riordan was concerned that additional efforts should be made to obtain additional pre-orders prior to changing the minimum number of plates required. By lowering the minimum number of plates, unforeseen circumstances may allow objectionable plates to be issued.

Commissioner Ramsayer indicated that in June of last year a press conference encouraged the pre-ordering of license plates. She is for lowering the number of license plates required.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to approve the General Manager's recommendation as written. Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion and the motion passed with 3 votes and 1 abstention.

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

The General Manager reported on the following items:

- St. Pawtricks Day Green Adoption Event: Scott Sorentino and company
- Best Friend is expecting their Mobile Adoption Van to be ready to roll in March
- MUTTSHACK is planning 6 adoption events for LAAS partnering with Phoenix House. MUTTSHACK—with extensive experience in Katrina and with member on the ground during 911 has offered to do additional emergency preparation training for our staff.
- New web site has moved to the Spanish translation stage.
- Banners and Signage Meeting: Judie Mancuso, Aimee Gilbreath, Jeffrey Ebenstein, Jim Bickhart, Lu Parker. Light pole banners leading to shelters and spay/neuter license plate banners around DVM headquarters in LA City. May develop into an art contest for children and more.
- Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP), held the 2011 Trailblazers Award Reception on Wednesday, February 16, in the Tom Bradley Room at City Hall. For the first time in the organization's history, the Los Angeles City Association of Black Personnel selected an Animal Control Officer as one of six outstanding Los Angeles City employees honored. The Trailblazers Award is for their contributions to the advancement of African Americans in city government. Shatana was born in Los Angeles and graduated from Susan Miller Dorsey High School. She began her college studies at California State University, Los Angeles and then transferred to Cal Poly, Pomona, where she graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Animal Science. Shatana then earned her Master's in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. Shatana has been with the department for 5 1/2 years. She is married and has a one year old son, Clay. Shatana is a solid officer who consistently and capably completes her responsibilities each month. She is focused and observant in recognizing potential animal abuse and neglect cases. She is compassionate and caring with a history of rescuing abused animals and those living in deplorable situations. She is an excellent communicator and mediator whether she is called on to speak in barking dog meetings, or to testify as a Department representative in dangerous animal hearings. Shatana was nominated for the Trailblazers Award by Animal Care Technician Rodney Bingley.
- Budget Meeting with the Mayor's Budget Director and his staff on

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- Meeting to discuss S. LA Animal Shelter Annex occurred on February 19, 2011
- Found Animals First Annual Spay Event at Council member Jan Perry's field office
- Best Friends LA ACATemy Awards at the Palomar hotel ballroom, West LA.
- CFDC gave a presentation at East Valley that was attended by some staff and volunteers. The presentation had a focus on breed identification, dog body language and training. The attendees felt that the presentation was educational and useful so the presentation will be repeated later this month for the supervisors.
- UCLA - Ninth Annual Public Symposium: "Made for Each Other? Dog and Human Co-evolution"
- Captains had the option to close East and West Valley shelters for the afternoon so staff could attend Helen Brakemeir's memorial services. In accordance with City requirements, emergency services were available at all shelters. Helen was an integral and important member of the LAAS family for well over two decades.
- Visited with Terri Austin at the Amanda Foundation and toured their facility and mobile spay/neuter clinic.
- Met with ASM Holly Mitchell for a tour of SLA Shelter. She holds a Christmas in July event in her district and we discussed participation including trying to get Found Animals or Amanda Foundation to be there with a mobile spay/neuter clinic.
- Attended and gave a presentation to the LANCC. It was a good opportunity to make some friends for LAAS, to answer questions and to take some good suggestions.

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5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS i

Item was tabled pending review of the Future Agenda list

7. MEETING ADJOURNED

Next Commission meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., March 22, 2011, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting in memory of Captain Helen Brakemeier. Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

The meeting ended at 12:55 P.M.