

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010
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, Macellaro, Khero, and Secunda were in attendance.
Commissioner Riordan was absent.

Meeting started at 10:23 AM.

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of Commission Meeting Dates for 2011

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to approve the Commission Meeting dates for 2011. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Khero. The motion was approved on a 4-0 vote

B. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes October 26 and November 9, 2010

Commissioner Ramsayer recommended approval of the minutes for October 26, 2010, with the requested corrections. Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Ramsayer recommended approval of the minutes for November 9, 2010, with the requested corrections. Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

C. Oral Report by the Commissioners on Meetings and Events attended

Commissioner Macellaro attended an adoption event at Roxbury Park, a seminar by Found Animal Foundation, a presentation for the Washington State Bar Association and visited the North Central and West Los Angeles Shelters.

2. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Adjustments to Adoption, Discount and Permit Fees for 2011-12 Budget

Assistant General Manager Linda Barth reported on the Board Report and the cost recovery method used to determine costs. Each year the Department updates the cost recovery amount for the budget. For this year the cost remains the same. Therefore the fees will remain the same with the exception of the animal transfer fee will be the same as the breeding permit fee of \$235. In addition, the discount fee will be extended to include holidays. Found Animal Foundation is interested in cats in so far as the second cat is at a reduced fee. General Manager Brenda Barnette commented that after 10 days a reduced fee will encourage adoption of healthy and adoptable animals. Commissioner Khero commented that he was pleased with the willingness of the Department to be flexible on fees.

Public Comment:

Cathy Turner. Questioned whether the fee increase could be considered a tax and subject to new laws. (The representative of the City Attorney's office indicated that it was not a tax).

Phyllis Daugherty. Pleased to see the changes. Hope this does not apply to "bully breed" dogs. Need to make people responsible for animals

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

B. Annual Budget for Spay/Neuter Program Funding for 2011-2012

AGM Barth reported on the Board Report. She explained the forthcoming budget was in line with the Controller's reports and structured to get control over the spay and neuter program. This is to make sure the program money is spent in the best way. The budget outlines the sources of funds for spay and neuter and how the Department proposed to expend the funds.

A slide presentation outlined the voucher program and how it is implemented.

Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty. Commented on the use of hand held devices. Some officers are computer challenged. Complemented AGM Barth on updating technology.

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

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Budget Submission for 2011-2012

AGM Barth outlined the Department budget for the forthcoming year. She commented on the payout required for the early retirements. In addition, an explanation of the effect additional furloughs and layoffs will have on maintaining open shelters. Budgeting for the new South Los Angeles Shelter was included for the forthcoming year. GM Barnette commented that under normal circumstances the Budget would have been presented to the Board prior to submission. However, due to the timeframe for submittal of the budget, this was not possible.

Public Comment:

Glen Bailey: Commented on the number of dog licenses issued as opposed to the number of dogs within the City. Also, all licensing information should be put on the website.

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Some relief on the number of animals coming into the shelters.

Crafted a report on goal setting for the Mayor's office based on information outlined from the strategic planning session.

The Public Safety Committee looked at the pet limit issue and decided to send it to the Planning Department who is now reviewing the proposed changes.

Visited the Lange Foundation Ranch.

Had two meetings with groups of volunteers and call them Volunteer Ambassadors.

Held a volunteer Town Hall Meeting. Will hold them every two months.

Met with the Bark Foundation. They are interested in doing additional videos for the Department.

Visited the Western Veterinary School.

Visited the shelters over the holidays and was impressed with the dedication of the staff.

Met with the Director of the Petsmart Charities.

Presenter for the Best Friends webinar and had approximately 50 participants.

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalservices.com

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Glen Bailey: Difficult to get information on the Board Agenda. Also telephone system is not working and it is difficult to use the internet to listen to the Board meetings. No recent meetings for the Director of Animal Welfare. Visited several Neighborhood Council meetings and there is confusion over the increase in the pet limit issue.

Cathy Turner: Requested a copy of the study on the number of dogs within the City. Recently a group of veterinarians volunteered to work at the Shelters but were turned away. The vets now provide free spay and neuter services for Actors and Others for Animals. Willing to work for shelters if it becomes possible. Disappointed that the transfer permit is so expensive. Purpose of transfer permit is to know where a dog is when it is given to another person.

Phyllis Daugherty: Good time to raise issue of cat licensing. Pulse magazine supports only five (5) animals per household.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

GM Barnette wants to schedule wildlife presentation.

Commissioner Macellaro suggested that Board members adopt a shelter.

Commissioner Ramsayer requested an update on the D-300.

Commissioner Macellaro requested an update report on pets in public housing.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., January 11, 2011, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Macellaro seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

The meeting ended at 1:45 PM.