

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010
10:00 AM



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

Melanie Ramsayer, President
Irene Ponce, Vice-President
Tariq Khero
Kathleen Riordan
Ruthanne Secunda

mp3 Minutes are available at www.laanimalservices.com

The meeting was called to order at 10:19 am. Commissioners Ramsayer, Khero, and Ponce were present. Commissioner Riordan and Secunda were absent.

COMMISSION MEETING

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for January 26, and February 9, 2010

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to accept the January 26, 2010 minutes with a suggested correction. Commissioner Ponce seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Ponce requested that the February 9, 2010 minutes be tabled until the next meeting.

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

Commissioner Khero had nothing to report.

Commissioner Ramsayer attended the Valentine's Day adoption event at the East Valley Animal Care Center. She noted it was a festive, successful event.

Commissioner Ponce attended the Valentine's Day adoption event at the North Central Animal Care Center. She would like to meet with the organizers to help them maximize adoptions and logistics better next year. Her friend, Dan, will perform a shamanic blessing at the South LA Animal Care Center with the proceeds going to the S/N trust fund.

C. Oral Report on Status of the General Manager Recruitment

Item held pending arrival of Mayor's representative.

2. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to Expand the Ban on Sales of Animals to Include Banning Purchase

That the Board request that the Mayor, and subsequently the City Council, direct the City Attorney to amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 53.42 to augment as necessary and appropriate all current prohibitions on the sale or giving away of animals on public streets and/or sidewalks with a prohibition on purchasing, or receiving without cost, animals under the same circumstances currently enumerated in Section 53.42

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Secunda arrived at 10:28am.

B. Oral Report on Status of the General Manager Recruitment **(Item 1C taken out of order)**

Jim Bickhart from the Mayor's office provided an update. The application period closed on February 22, 2010. One hundred seventeen applications from within and out of the animal control industry have been received. City Gate believes they will interview between 25 – 30 people in Round 1 and narrow this group down to 3 candidates by Mid-March. Two interview panels will interview all of the semi-final candidates.

C. Flexibility in Donation Amount and Acknowledgement Period for the Program of Animal Care Center Sponsorship for Individuals **(Item 2B taken out of order)**

That the Board approve flexibility in setting donation levels and acknowledgment periods for the program of solicitation and acknowledgement.

Interim GM Davis explained that when the program was launched at the Harbor Animal Care Center, the limit was set at \$500. The Department would like to revisit and drop the limit below \$500 to open the opportunity up to more donors.

There are 1876 kennels available.

A discussion of the program and how to promote it ensued.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to approve the flexibility in setting donation levels and acknowledgment periods for the program of solicitation and acknowledgement. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **(Continued from the February 9, 2010 Commission Meeting)** Discussion and input from the public on effective and efficient ideas for raising money to supplement funding for Department core responsibilities of greatest financial need, and direction to staff relative to ideas presented.

Interim GM Davis presented the highlights discussed at the last meeting with updates so far and the Board discussed each one:

1. RACO : Project Description provided to Commission members; grant request submitted to PetCo Foundation and approved to the next step in the grant request process.
2. Targeted Spay/Neuter (i.e. Pits and Pals): Discussion of continued funding with the Heigl Foundation is in process. We applied for a grant from the State Food and Ag Department Municipal Spay/Neuter Fund.
3. Radios: We received specifications from ITA for 800mhz radios that are the new standard for the City and therefore both compatible and can be maintained, Harris 5400 series. A full package with batteries, charger, microphone, and holder is about \$2,000 each.
4. Medicines/Flea Control: No staff update at this time.
5. Public Relations Campaigns: No staff update at this time.
6. Medical Equipment for Spay/Neuter Clinics: A roster of basic equipment is available. Cost in 2008 was approximately \$61,000.
7. Emergency Equipment for each Animal Care Center: No staff update at this time except that generator at Harbor would cost \$10K-\$12,000.
8. Renovations to close in rabbit areas at WLA and West Valley: No staff update at this time except that a check of records revealed a \$21,000 estimate for West LA changes in 2008.
9. Foster Supplies: We can accept and share any unopened kitten or puppy food with foster parents. Our principle specific need is for 28 oz. powdered KMR (Kitten Milk Replacer) and Esbilac (for Puppies) with bottles. Cost to get a litter of four through a month is at least \$200.

Other items from Staff:

- The Volunteer Coordinator contacted the LA Times about extra newspapers without a call back yet, however he learned that some animal care centers end up with surplus of newspapers which they were taking to recycle; Volunteer Division will monitor who has needs and who has surplus to make sure everyone is supplied.
- We submitted a request to hire As-Needed (one-day-a-week) Veterinarians to do pre-spay/neuter of adoptable pets as cost saving and revenue generating strategy, as well as an adoption enhancement.

Commissioner Khero left the meeting at 11:40 am.

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Interim GM Davis presented the following report to the Board:

- Our budget outlook continues to weaken. Last week, there was an announcement that the City will layoff 4,000 employees. An Emergency General Manager Meeting was called on Friday. We were advised on several key issues as follows:
 - Three departments are being eliminated (Environmental Affairs, Human Services and DONE)
 - No further ERIP is expected or contemplated at this time
 - No target dollar reduction will be provided to departments. Instead, CAO will begin discussions with each dept. this week to determine the extent of the cuts.

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Some departments will be cut more than others. The cuts will be more surgical this time.

- The City will proceed with the layoff of 1,000 employees. For our Department, this means the layoff of 14 employees and the elimination of our Call Center and our Canvassing Team, effective 7-1-10.
- We will continue to provide information as it becomes available.
- Our Valentine's Event was fun and successful! We adopted 559 dogs and cats plus had two spectacular affairs at NC and EV. The neighborhood came out in force at NC. The neighborhood council even paid \$25 towards the adoption costs for the first 10 adoptions. EV was also jammed with people and events sponsored by The Pet Care Foundation. While we fell short of beating 2009's record adoptions by 57, we far exceeded 2008 adoptions by 204. In all, it was a great adoption event.
- Univision will now be featuring PSA's that promote our weekly Mobile Pet Adoption locations.
- Council member Garcetti is sponsoring a pet food drive benefitting our Centers, which began Feb. 15 and is running through March 15. We will be emailing you a copy of the flyer shortly.
- Last week, The Petco Foundation donated 9 pallets of pet food, treats and toys.
- Our next Pits and Pals day is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 27 at North Central. The Amanda Foundation will be providing services which will be paid for by The Heigl Foundation
- We are also preparing for Woofstock 90210 at Roxbury Park on March 14 from 11AM – 3PM. This is a large event that will involve pets from all our Centers. LA County will also be participating at this event. We had good results last year and **are hoping for an even bigger result this year.**

5. 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.)

Paul Darrigo- Volunteer with the RACO program. Suggested approaching the Neighborhood Councils for grants to fund RACO. Also suggested using PSAs and free press and offered his support of the Department.

Phyllis Daugharty – She informed the Commission that very little is given away in the pet industry. Suggested that the Commission send thank you notes for donations. Reminded the Commission that animal control is a law enforcement agency and focus on the public safety aspect to raise funds. Commented on the Animal Care Conference.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Secunda is interested in a report about the revenue that comes from licensing and what is tied to licensing. (AGM Barth informed the Board the Department is planning to present a report in March).

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Commissioner Ramsayer requested a discussion item about the goal of licensing and if it can be separate from rabies. Continue fundraising discussion at all meetings.

Commissioner Ponce would like ACOs to be able to come to the Commission to share their ideas about how to generate revenue and run shelters more efficiently. She would also like to know how we can open stores on site at the Animal Care Centers. She would also like to explore fitness requirements for ACOs.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Ponce seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The meeting ended at 12:10 pm.

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., March 9, 2010 Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.