

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, March 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 10:18 am. Commissioners Ponce, Riordan and Ramsayer were present. Commissioners Secunda and Khero were absent.

COMMISSION MEETING

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Presentation of Service Awards to:

Linda Gordon 30 Years
Nashaat Eskander 20 Years
Keith Kramer 25 Years
Edmund Loria 20 Years

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty – She expressed her appreciation and gratitude.

B. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for February 9 and 23, 2010

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/9 and Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/23 with the typo correction and Commissioner Ponce seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

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

Commissioner Riordan had nothing to report.

Commissioner Ramsayer attended the Pits and Pals event at North Central on 2/27 and spent the afternoon at the East Valley Animal Care Center on 3/14.

Commissioner Ponce attended a dog funeral and memorial service for her friend's dog, Sparky

D. Oral Report on Status of the General Manager Recruitment

Jim Bickhart from the Mayor's Office provided an update to the Commission.

City Gate will be delivering a group of candidates to the City's Personnel office later this week and will determine which candidates will go on to the next level of panel interviews. The candidates include a few people from inside the animal control industry and several candidates from the business and non-profit world. Questions for the review panel interviews are being reviewed and the panel interviews are tentatively scheduled for mid-April.

2. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

None

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. **(Continued from the February 9, and 23, 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.

AGM Barth provided a chart to the Board of all of the fundraising ideas that were discussed at previous meetings as an analysis document to help determine what the best place is to focus our energies. She informed the Board that the Department is working on two bequests – one for \$135K to be received in May and another for \$50K restricted to North Central.

Interim GM Davis informed the Commission that since the Kennel Sponsorship re-launch, in one week 21 sponsorships have been purchased and donations made totaling \$21,544 as compared to \$511 for the same period last year.

AGM Barth also provided requested information from the Department of Recreation and Parks regarding creating a 501 (c) 3 fundraising group and sponsorship types.

City Attorney Lesel handed out a 3 page memo to address sponsorship issues that may be encountered, including explanations for prohibitions, appropriateness and examples of dos and don'ts.

A discussion about fundraising ensued.

Commissioner Riordan requested a report on the Animal Welfare Trust Fund including what has been received and how monies have been spent.

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Commissioner Ponce requested that the in-kind donation amount cap from \$25K to \$50K.

Commissioner Ramsayer requested a report on what the Department is spending on food and contracts. She also wanted to know what items the Department can seek sponsorships for –i.e. targeted sponsorships.

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER (Item 4 taken out of order)

Commendations were presented to the staff involved in stopping the break-in at the West Valley Animal Care Center on January 7, 2010.

5. Discussion of Dog Licensing, including current processes and statistics, process changes, other possible improvements, and streamlining efforts, and direction to staff about possible actions or recommendations to return to the Board at a future meeting. (Item 3C taken out of order)

Public Comment

Ivan Curry – LAAS Canvasser - Canvassers provide important info to the public and their jobs are important to the City. They need to know if they are going to have a job.

Carloise Lane – LAAS Canvasser – asked for the opportunity to keep their job. They issue licenses and get the word out about S/N.

Jacob Miller – LAAS ACT – the Canvassers are making 100% of their salaries. They can do their jobs if the roadblocks are removed. Asked Commission to compel Council to keep the Canvasser's jobs.

Phyllis Daugharty – There is a lawsuit against the S/N ordinance. The lawsuit was not allowed as an injunction because it was not presented properly. Ordinance creates breeders – need to change. City should offer multi-year licenses and juvenile licensing.

Amy Gilbreath – Found Animals – She provided a PowerPoint presentation printout to the Board. Some parts of LAAS licensing policy are best practices and some are antiquated and don't work. Found Animals would like to design, fund and market a program, but need changes implemented.

Commissioner Ponce left the meeting at 11:34 am. No Quorum

Teri Austin – Canvassers are valuable ambassadors in the field. Asked Found Animals to make a mailer about licensing and to provide \$150K to cover the Canvasser's salaries.

Commissioner Riordan read the July motion that the Board took regarding the Canvassers.

Commissioner Riordan questioned why the City can not charge a fee for service for the Canvassers.

Interim GM Davis informed the Board that the Department was asked to meet with the County and to learn what they are doing with their program and the pros and cons of contracting with the County. The Department will present a report to Council in April and bring the report to the Board.

Discussion of on-line licensing, cat registration and microchipping

Commissioner Ramsayer requested a report on what is realistic to charge for cat registration.

6. Discussion and direction to staff on including in the scope of Proposition F (Animal Facilities Bond) Phase II work at the North Central Animal Care Center sufficient office, storage, and meeting space to accommodate all administrative, licensing and support staff of the Department. (Item 3B taken out of order)

7. Report of the General Manager (Part II) (Item 4 taken out of order)

Interim GM Davis presented the following report to the Commission:

- On March 10, 2010, ACTF served a warrant on 2 properties covering more than 3 acres in Sylmar. A total of 2,234 game fowl were seized. Cockfighting paraphernalia were also found on the property. The case has been presented to the City Attorney. In total, there were 15 LAPD Officers and 17 LAAS employees involved when the search warrant was issued.
- Effective March 28, 2010, Lt. Dennis Ballas, the Officer-In-Charge of the Human Trafficking Section, Detective Services and Vice Division will be the Lt. in charge of ACTF.
- On March 13, our officers responded to a request from LAPD regarding animals being sold on the sidewalk in Santee Alley. Our officer confiscated bunnies, turtles and iguanas. All animals have been placed with appropriate rescue organizations.
- Budget Update: The Mayor and City Controller have delayed allocations to the City's General fund expense accounts and frozen some types of expenditures. Each month the Department receive about 1/12th of the total expense monthly budgeted in each account for the year. The Mayor's action to halt further allocations of money means that we have available only the leftover money from the prior 8 months in this fiscal year to spend until June, unless we request to receive some of the money from future months because of an urgent need. We have looked over the account balances and it appears we may be able to get through the next few months. Some accounts, such as food and office supplies, are going to be extremely tight. Because our staff has been very frugal, we are in fair shape, and in a position to make good arguments if we need a little more.
- The contract with Antech, which does the testing of tissue and other samples sent in by medical staff, is expiring this year. For many years, General Services has managed the contract, but since it is for services, they are deferring to Departments to bid and award their own contracts. We are

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working with the LA Zoo, which also uses the services. When the bid process is complete in a few months, staff will present an award recommendation to the Board.

- February 27, 2010 we held another Pits and Pals day at North Central. During the two day event, 128 dogs received sterilization surgeries. That brings us to more than 1,000 dogs in a little over a year.

8. 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.) **(Item 5 taken out of order)**

Phyllis Daugharty - Addressing dog and cock fighting in the City is essential to reducing breeding for fighting.

Teri Austin – She commended staff at North Central for the Pits and Pals event. She requested that the Commission look at the laws and rules for obtaining a kennel license. It is currently too difficult for the City to enforce laws. It should be a privilege not a right to have a kennel license.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Item 6 taken out of order)

Commissioner Riordan requested a report on the number of calls and responses per shelter within a 3-6 month period for ACOs. Also how many of these call resulted in a citation and cases filed.

10. ADJOURNMENT (Item 7 taken out of order)

No Quorum

Meeting ended at 12:47 pm

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., April 13, 2010, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.