

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, May 11, 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 Khoro
Kathleen Riordan
Ruthanne Secunda

mp3 Minutes are available at www.laanimalservices.com

Commissioners Ponce, Ramsayer, and Riordan were in attendance. Commissioners Khoro and Secunda were absent.

Meeting was called to order at 10:15am

1. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

A. Barking Dog Revocation Case Number: BD 093122 WV
Appellant: Adam and Pamela Eisenberg
Complaining Witness: Michael Venditto
Field Operations Supervisor, West Valley Animal Care Center, Lt. Susan Botta
Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Riordan stated for the record that she had had a pre-appeal communication with Bobbi Dorafshar, however it was not regarding the case before the Commission.

Commissioner Khoro arrived at 10:33 am

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to reinstate the license under the following amended Terms and Conditions: (1) Both dogs must be maintained inside the house except for sanitary reasons and access to the doggie door be removed when the owners are not in residence, (2) both dogs are to be allowed access to the back yard only for a short period of time for sanitary purposes and in the presence of the owners or designated caretaker and should be maintained in the front yard, (3) dogs must be walked on a leash by a competent adult, (4) Kona must wear a shock collar and Tieran must wear an anti-bark collar when outside, (5) both dogs must receive additional bark cessation training from a competent trainer, and (6) the owners must obey all animal laws of the City of LA. Commissioner Ponce seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-1.

COMMISSION MEETING

The Commission meeting began at 11:31 am. Commissioners Ponce, Riordan, Ramsayer, and Khero were present.

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for April 27, 2010

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Khero seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0 with 1 abstention.

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

Commissioner Ramsayer attended a Washington State University Veterinary School dinner where they provided interesting information about what they are doing at the school.

Commissioners Khero had nothing to report.

Commissioner Ponce met with Dan Jordan regarding donation of land for a potential dog park.

Commissioner Riordan spoke with the LA County Veterinarian Dr Bueller about MRSA and spoke with Dr. Feldman about raccoon distemper.

C. Oral Report on Status of the General Manager Recruitment

Jim Bickhart from the Mayor's Office stated the status of the GM search is similar to what was last reported. They are closer to final interviews and background reviews of the final three candidates are in process. The interviews with the Mayor are tentatively scheduled for June. If a new GM is not sworn in by June 30th, the Mayor will appoint a new Interim GM while the nominated candidate continues to go through the formal approval process of the Public Safety Committee and Full Council.

2. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

None

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fund Raising (Continued from the February 9th, February 23rd, March 23rd, and April 27th, 2010, Commission Meetings)

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.

Commissioner Ramsayer asked for clarification about the rules for someone who wants to hold a fundraiser for the Department. AGM Barth stated that a letter of commitment outlining the terms and conditions would be needed.

Commissioner Riordan inquired about further movement on creating a 501 (c) 3 for the Department. Interim GM Davis explained that creating a 501 (c) 3 is time and labor intensive. The right mix of people needs to be identified to form a Board that can be self-sustaining and form a partnership opportunity that can last for decades.

Further discussion ensued.

B. Proposed Budget for 2010-2011. (Continued from the April 27th, 2010 Meeting)

Summary of the Mayor's proposed budget for 2010-2011 and assessment of impacts on the Department's Operations.

AGM Barth gave an update on the budget proceedings and presented a memo to further clarify and answer additional questions raised by Councilmembers at the budget hearing held on May 5, 2010.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty – She believes that Council thinks the Department is irrelevant and the Department has not emphasized the public safety aspect enough.

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Interim GM Davis presented a brief summary of activities conducted:

- We now have a weekly segment on Channel 18, KSCI – Asian Media Group Television. They are allowing us to feature 2 pets for a 10 minute segment and they dub in Mandarin Chinese. Shortly, Dr. Lee, our vet at WLA who is fluent in Mandarin Chinese, will also be appearing on a sporadic basis to discuss responsible pet ownership. We look forward to the fruits of their labors in higher adoptions and through building stronger connections with the population Channel 18 reaches.
- Pictures speak a thousand words. We all recognize the value of great pictures for our pets. Towards that end, we have an exceptionally talented Animal Care Technician at EV who will be teaching his picture tricks to other Centers in the hopes of further improving adoptions.
- New West Charter School in WLA held a bake sale and brought us \$269.65 as a donation.
- United Pacific Pet donated more than 5,000 pounds of dog food to our West LA Center. It will go a long way towards helping to keep the cupboard full.
- On Thursday, May 6, our staff seized 18 ponies from an individual in Sylmar. The owner had been ordered by our officers to obtain appropriate medical care for the ponies and he failed to do so. Primarily, their issues surrounded serious hoof damage due to lack of care. After brining the ponies to our NE Center, the ponies were examined and unfortunately, one had to be euthanized. The remaining 17 ponies were shuttled to a rescue in San Diego, whom we've worked with before, where they immediately began receiving treatment. Our officers have been in touch with the City Prosecutor during the investigation and will be submitting the case for filing shortly.
- Our Mother's Day Discount Adoption Event was a smashing success! We adopted 549 pets compared to 475 during the same time period last year – an increase of 74 adoptions!

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

- Univision Radio Station AM 1020 has taken up our cause and one of their personalities, Luz Maria Briseno, promoted our Discount event on their show. She appeared at our SLA Center on Saturday, May 8, to sign autographs and further encourage adoptions. More than 200 people swarmed the Center.

Upcoming Events:

- EV will be the host location for a 2-day mini-conference with Chameleon on May 25 and 26. About half the attendees will be from LA Animal Services. This will allow two or more staff from each location and Administration to have a chance to increase their Chameleon knowledge and skills, which will make them resources for fellow employees. The training conference is free to the Department. Staff from other local agencies will fill the other slots, creating great networking possibilities.
- Our next Pits and Pals Day is scheduled for May 15 and 16 at SLA. This time, the donation is coming from a private party, Mrs. Joan Kelly.
- Seattle Humane Society will be back on Wednesday (tomorrow) to take another batch of 60 dogs. This will be their third trip and we're hoping for many more.

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.)

Phyllis Daugherty – She discussed the response to her editorial in the Daily News. She questioned the Western Arizona Humane Society ad in the LA Magazine. She also stated that the Council needs to see that the Department has more interest in revenue raising ideas.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Ponce told the Commission about her friend Dan Giordinelli has a friend who is interested in donating property valued at \$1.5 million in Eagle Rock for a dog park and \$125,000 for the properties maintenance. She asked AGM Barth how to bring this to the attention of the Department of Recreation and Parks and asked for the matter to be agendaized.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The meeting concluded at 12:58 pm.

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., May 25, 2010, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.