

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday August 10, 2009
10:00 A.M.
LOS ANGELES CITY HALL
200 N. Spring St., Room 1060
Los Angeles, CA 90012



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

mp3 Minutes available at www.laanimalservices.com

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am. Commissioners Secunda, Khero, Riordan, and Ponce were present.

COMMISSION MEETING

1. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Interim General Manager Kathleen Davis gave the following update:

- We received an amazing donation from Hot Pepper Studios of a wall mural that has been installed at East Valley. The picture features a dog and cat curled up on a bench and contains the words "Prevent homelessness. Save animals' lives. Spay or neuter your pet".
- Summer Buddies Event began July 21 and continues through the end of August at our Harbor and East Valley Centers. The Found Animal Foundation is generously picking up the cost of a second cat adoption. In the first two weeks (July 21-Aug. 2), 43 second cats or kittens were adopted.
- Our next Spay Day Event is scheduled for East Valley on August 29. Our goal is to perform 100 sterilization surgeries. The event is being funded by a donor through The Amanda Foundation. Councilmember Cardenas will hold a press event during the morning of the event.
- Our next Discount Adoption Days are scheduled for August 19-23. We're hoping for record adoptions to help offset the record intakes.
- We found a new partnership with the Santa Cruz Humane SPCA in July. They graciously took 21 dogs from East Valley Center. We've been in contact with them since the transfer and they report adoptions of our 21 dogs is going so well they would like to take another batch. We are working with local volunteers on the selection and transfer.
- The installation of the X-Ray machine is now complete at North Central.
- New Hope Update: Out of 124 active New Hope groups, 17 groups remain suspended for not filing monthly reports and 12 groups that are in a pending

situation because they have been in contact and have promised reports by the end of the month. The rest are in good standing.

- Having New Hope Partners report the addresses of new dog owners does appear to be helpful in licensing enforcement. So far, staff has checked and input approximately 200 City of LA addresses so far – and only 15 of them were already licensed.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugharty – She is concerned that the 2 for 1 or free animals are being returned to the shelter within 30 days. She suggested that someone call to check on the status.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for April 27, May 11, May 26 and June 22, 2009.

Commissioner Ponce requested the tapes for the May 11th and May 26th meetings.

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to approve the April 27th and June 22nd minutes. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

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

Commissioner Ponce called staff.

Commissioner Secunda went to the South LA Animal Care Center on shelter business and observed the cat situation.

Commissioners Khoro and Riordan had nothing to report.

C. Election of Officers.

The Commissioners requested to hold the elections until a fifth Commissioner is appointed.

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to table the agenda item and Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Development and Implementation of Administrative Citation Program

That the Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council that the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst, or other City agencies as Board of Animal Services Commission Meeting appropriate, undertake the development and implementation of an Administrative Citation Program for the Department of Animal Services or other City Departments.

AGM Barth reminded the Commission that this was an agenda item for discussion 1 ½ months ago. As a result, in order to expedite the process, the Department would like to initiate a request to the Council to have the CAO, CLA, Building and Safety, the City Attorney's Office, and other

City agencies that would need to be involved, get involved now so that they can work concurrently with Department staff to achieve the goal faster.

Commissioner Riordan hopes that this citation program will encourage enforcement and empower the officers, while helping to increase revenue.

A discussion about the fiscal impact of the citation program ensued.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugharty – She supports the Administrative Citation Program.

Commissioner Riordan made a motion that the Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council that the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst, or other City agencies as Board of Animal Services Commission Meeting appropriate, undertake the development and implementation of an Administrative Citation Program for the Department of Animal Services or other City Departments. Commissioner Ponce seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Log of clarifications and modifications to the design for the new South Los Angeles Animal Care Center.

Linda Gordon gave a presentation and overview of the design process of the new South Los Angeles Animal Care Center.

Commissioner Ponce expressed concern regarding specific design changes made for cost reduction.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugharty – Wants there to be separate entrances for dogs and cats coming into the shelter.

B. Budget and Workload Priorities for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

AGM Barth explained that there is no way for the Department to balance its budget. The Department will not know what lies ahead until the Council gives final direction and we may have to make cuts that we do not want to make in the future. Department may have. Although there seems to be an improvement in the national economy, the City is typically one to two years behind what is happening to the rest of the economy. She presented a report that laid out the four principal programs of the Department and the most prominent activities that the Department engages in within these programs, so that the Commissioners can provide input about what the priorities should be as future budget decisions are made.

A discussion ensued.

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 Daugharty - She thanked Linda Gordon for her work building the new shelters. She wants to go back to the old logo.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Special Meeting for Appeals.

Commissioners decided to dedicate a future regularly scheduled meeting for appeals.

B. Requests from Commissioners for future Agenda Items.

Commissioner Riordan requested:

- Employee commendations to be given at the Commission meeting for retirements or pins;
- A breakdown on the trust funds and donors over \$200 and itemized expenditures over \$200;
- An update on the status of the dangerous dog code change;
- An update on transfer permits.

Commissioner Ponce requested an increase in the cap on donations to be increased beyond \$25K;

Commissioner Khero requested a way to revise the appeal process.

Commissioner Secunda requested:

- A report on the illegal sale of puppies in public spaces;
- A report on what shelters have had an increase in the number of cases of disease and how are we addressing the problem through training, etc.
- A report from the volunteer coordinator regarding to what extent we can use volunteers to balance out the cuts to staffing;
- A report on how decisions are made to transfer animals between shelters i.e., the numbers, time.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting ended at 11:35am.

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M., August 24, 2009, North Central Animal Shelter, 3201 Lacy Street, Los Angeles, California 90031