

MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, September 14, 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

Commissioners Ponce, Ramsayer, Secunda, and Riordan were in attendance. Commissioner Khero was absent.

City Attorney Basia Jenkowski attended in the absence of City Attorney Dov Lesel.

Appeal started at 10:33 am.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

A. Barking Dog Revocation Case Number: BD 10323 WL

Appellant: Diane Minasian

Complaining Witness: Joshua Kaplan

Field Operations Supervisor, West Los Angeles Animal Care Center, Lt. Jesse Castillo

Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to uphold the Terms and Conditions with the modification of condition #4 to include "for probable cause." Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-1.

The Commissioners took a break at 11:17am.

COMMISSION MEETING

The Commission meeting commenced at 11:23am.

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Annual Election of Commission Officers for 2010-2011

Commissioner Ramsayer requested to table this item until the meeting on 9/28.

B. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2010

Commissioner Ponce approved the minutes with the requested corrections. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

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

Commissioners Riordan and Ramsayer had nothing to report.

Commissioner Ponce had discussions with staff.

Commissioner Secunda attended the Much Love Animal Rescue adoption event on Saturday 9/11 in Venice.

2. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Gap Contracts for As-Needed Veterinary Service Providers to Reimburse Spay/Neuter Vouchers

That the Board authorize the General Manager to execute agreements, substantially in the form as on file and subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form, with the veterinary service providers listed in the body of this Report, for payment of Spay/Neuter Vouchers issued by the Department, accepted by said veterinarians, and redeemed with the Department as a subsidy for pet sterilizations completed according to the terms of the Department's Spay/Neuter Voucher Program; and, direct the Department to proceed forthwith to process payments to veterinarians for redeemed vouchers immediately upon execution, and under the terms of said agreements.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to table this item until the next meeting on 9/28. Motion died for a lack of a second. The Commission decided to hear Public Comment on this item first.

City Attorney Jenkowski suggested that Commissioner Khoro review the recording of the public comments on this item prior to the next meeting.

Public Comment

Mark Dodge – President, Fix Nation – He thanked the staff. He stated the agreement in the form presented is almost identical to the one that Fix Nation already signed and they concur with the current agreement.

Phyllis Daugharty – She is concerned with the location of the vets. She also wonders how the Clinico clinics figure into the agreement.

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to continue the item at the next meeting on 9/28. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramsayer and passed 4-0.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Proposed Ordinance Amending the Hearing Appeal Process and Barking Dog Complaints. Proposed ordinance prepared by the City Attorney amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections 53.18.5 and 53.63 and adding 53.34.3, relative to the administrative hearing process,

barking dog criteria, and restricted dog permit, in accordance with the Board's direction at their meeting of October 26, 2009: discussion and comments to the City Attorney and staff.

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to continue this item at the next meeting on 9/28.
Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Riordan requested a City Attorney opinion on the proposed ordinance. AGM Barth explained that the ordinance has not yet been transmitted to Council because the City Attorney wanted to present the item for discussion with the Board.

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

General Manager Barnette presented the following summary of her activities to the Board:

First few days

August 16: Began position as GM of LA Animal Services
August 18: Ground breaking at South LA Shelter
August 19: Clinico Press Conference
August 24: Interview on FOX11 News—re: vet payments.

Shelter Visits

North Central (haven't had official tour)/Capt. Figueroa 3201 Lacy Street
West Los Angeles 11361 West Pico Blvd., (haven't had official tour)
West Valley/ Keith Kramer 20655 Plummer St., Chatsworth, CA 91311
East Valley Shelter Visit w/Linda Gordon 14409 Vanowen St., Van Nuys
South LA Shelter (Danny)

She met with the following staff, volunteers, City departments, and community members:

Staff

Attended Captains/Lieutenants/ACT Supervisors Meeting
Focus group discussion about organizational chart for shelter/field division
Lieutenants and Supervisors meeting
Smart and DART – Capt Karen Knipscheer Cox and A.J. Navarette
Interspersed meetings with various admin staff
Staff meeting for Admin Staff
Dr. Feldman
Dr. Prupas
George Mossman

Volunteers

Volunteer meeting
Previously Terminated Volunteer Report
Rabbit Transport

LA City

Established weekly meeting schedule with Dov
Jim Bickhart---probably every other week
ACTF meeting
Randi Levin-GM for CITY ITA Systems
Mayor's General Manager's Meeting

General Managers Budget Meeting
General Managers Association-- LACGMA
Maggie Whelan—GM for Personnel

Meetings/Events with Community

Christi Metropole (Stray Cat Alliance)
Pet Rush Opening
Council member Koretz
Laura Beth Heisen
Shannon's (Bark n Bitches) Take a quick tour and go to lunch. Melanie Pozez, Kim Sill, Dan Morrison
Bobby Dorafshar
Actors and others for Animals
Carolee Reiling
Terri Maccelero
Melanie Ramsayer
IDA reception
Lawrence Rose
Best Friends
HSUS
Found Animals
Dan Gus (STAND)
Found Animals Overview of Free Electronic Registration Service
Dr. Shane Aaron Lachtman Occidental College -Trick or Treat

Upcoming

1. Town Meetings: September 22 and 16: Public Input Raising Pet Limits
2. Format monthly report to show ALL numbers, i.e. incoming, breakdown of how they leave the shelter (adoption, redemption, transfer, PTS), volunteer numbers and hours, budget YTD, spay/neuters, etc.
3. Computers in Trucks—keep pets out of shelters if possible
4. Foster program
5. Refresh website
6. Personnel Review
7. Training for co-workers, i.e. staff requested (verbal judo for field officers, report writing, animal handling, safety for law enforcement officers, CPR)
8. Ride along, Smart Rescue, DART Rescue
9. October 15-17: Presenter at Best Friends No More Homeless Pets Conference—Foster Program
10. Focus on saying yes to the animals and the community

General Manager Barnette then presented a Certificate of Recognition to Commissioner Ponce to thank her for her work on the Commission.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugharty – She congratulated Irene. She warned that some non-profits have been using the City logo on their flyers. She suggested that since anyone may attend the upcoming Town hall meetings that the Department needs to make sure to only consider the opinions of LA City residents.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

Phyllis Daugharty – She informed the Commission that the educational piece about leaving dogs in hot cars will officially be included in the California DMV manual to be printed in November 2010 in nine languages. She also stated that if Animal Control Officers begin giving animals a ride home, they should only do so if the animals are licensed and S/N.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Riordan requested:

- 1) To see the signed contract with Fix Nation
- 2) A sample RFQ from July
- 3) A copy of the Sam Simon letter
- 4) A copy of the 2009 Controller's audit
- 5) To have Field Service activities included on future GM reports

Commissioner Ramsayer requested to revisit the items from the last few meetings.

Commissioner Ponce requested:

- 1) That the Department focus its energy on adoption in Downtown LA – there is a new dog park on 4th street.
- 2) Every 2nd Thursday there is an Art Walk where the Department should have mobile adoptions.
- 3) That the Department have a Dodger dog and adoption night with the Dodgers.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 12:05 pm.

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., September 28, 2010, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.