



ANIMAL CARE SERVICES CITIZENS ADVISORY

MINUTES

March 31, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Members

Eugene Lukehart
Marge Carpenter
Abbi Novotny
Patricia Wilcox

Excused Absence

Bev Gonsalves
Marge Carpenter
Maria (Lety) Sanchez

Staff

Dan Torres
Rhea Serran
Laura Warner
Kim Heckes
Reina Schwartz

Public

Mary Bruck
Dia Goode

Note: MSP is used in the minutes as an abbreviation to indicate Moved, Seconded and Passed. MSF is used in the minutes as an abbreviation to indicate Moved, Seconded and Failed.

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at the new Animal Shelter Cattery, 2127 Front Street – Multipurpose Room, Sacramento, California, at 6:00 p.m. by Director of General Services, Reina Schwartz.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF 1/27/09

Motion to approve the minutes of 1/27/09 as amended was made by Pat Wilcox, seconded by Abbi Novotny. MSP by unanimous vote.

2. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion to nominate new Chair, Marge, by Eugene. Abbi seconded nomination for Marge.

Motion to nominate new Vice-Chair, Eugene, by Marge. Pat seconded nomination for Eugene. MSP by unanimous vote.

STAFF REPORTS

3. STAFF REPORT ON DONATION TREE

Updated information regarding the cattery's donation tree. Donation tree construction

continues. Rhino Designs is currently working on the leaves and will email a photo of progress to share with committee. Report received and filed.

Motion by Eugene to add to next meeting's agenda to begin solicitation of donations.

4. STAFF REVIEW OF SHELTER'S ADOPTABILITY GUIDELINES

Notes attached. Report received and filed.

5. REPORT BACK ON SHELTER SIGNAGE

Marge reported that she contacted Bucky from the City's Sign Shop and he needs the sign parameters and design. It is less expensive to order and purchase the signage from the City than an outside vendor. It needs to be determined how the signage will be paid for – FOCAS funds or other.

Report received and filed.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT – UPDATE ON FACILITIES AND SHELTER EVENTS

R. Schwartz, Interim Animal Care Division Manager, addressed the following:

- 1) Volunteer Report presented. Report attached, received and filed.
- 2) Animal Care Services Budget (and all General Fund budgets) – to be presented at the May 1 City Council meeting. General Fund departments, on average, have a 35% cut in the budget on top of the 20% reduction from the current Fiscal Year. Final budget cuts to Animal Care are about 25% - higher reductions were made in Administration (30-40% reduction), while other areas – shelter is at 20% and field is about 20-30% reductions. No Animal Care employees are being laid off, but open positions will be closed, and all vacant position will remain frozen. The 35% reductions pending the negotiations with labor union increases – final budget will be determined in May/June. Due to the tighter budget, Animal Care will focus on mandated requirements – the care of the animals. Costs need to be reduced and streamlines where it is possible, get animals out of the shelter, reduce intake and euthanasia. Reina requested additional help from volunteers and the CAC.
- 3) Shelter/Field Operations Update, Danny addressed the following:
 - a. Training: One (1) ACO was sent to training course – Animal Law Enforcement Training Academy
 - b. The case of the pit bull puppy that was kicked so viciously that it had to be euthanized was filed as a felony cruelty case with the DA. Final verdict will be known in May.
 - c. Dia asked who is the lead investigator for animal cruelty cases? Danny responded Peter Alarcon, Senior Animal Care Officer.

5. SHELTER REPORT – SPAY/NEUTER FUND and SHELTER STATISTICS

Rhea Serran distributed the spay/neuter expenditure reports and provided shelter statistics for January and March. Report received and filed.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Dia asked that Cat Movement/Cattery Operations to be considered as an agenda item for the 4/28 meeting. The CAC agreed since adoptions should be better at the cattery. It was also questioned why the cattery was not full.

Eugene asked that the CAC take personal respect to the public and have the ability to respond directly by email. Reina commented that she will look into it and establish an email address for CAC. Also, if 311 receives comments or questions, it will be forwarded to CAC members for a response.

7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, AND IDEAS

None

8. SET FUTURE AGENDA

Agenda items: 1) Approval of Minutes; 2) Staff Update on Donation Tree; 3) Review of Shelter's Adoptability Guidelines; 4) Report Back on Shelter Signage; 5) Manager's Report; 6) Cat Movement/Cattery Operations; 7) Shelter Reports – FOCAS/Shelter Statistics; 8) Public Comments - Matters not on the Agenda; 9) Committee Comments, Questions and Ideas; 10) Set Future Agenda; 11) Adjournment.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Marge made motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Abbi. MSP by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.