

**CITY OF COSTA MESA  
ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES: February 28, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Animal Services Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Walls at 5:37 p.m. on February 28, 2024.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chair Becca Walls, Vice Chair Angela Minjares, Committee Members Calvin Alvarez, and Jennifer Tanaka.

**Absent:** Christina Poulos, Lisa A. Harker, Diana Gardiner

**Staff Present:** Jessica Torrejon, Recreation Coordinator; D. Cattouse, Animal Control Supervisor; Lieutenant S. Selinske, Animal Services Manager

**Liaisons Present:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Walls opened Public Comments.

Seeing no hands raised, public comments were closed by Chair Walls.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER AND LIAISON COMMENTS**

Chair Walls spoke about a microchip reader idea for residents inspired by the City of Baltimore where residents can access it in a public setting and scan for a microchip of a found pet. Ms. Walls spoke about how it would be set up and possible locations including the city's dog park.

Lt. Selinske asked about liability to City for having public access to a microchip reader. Ms. Selinske mentioned Bark Park might not be the best option for this to be installed.

Chair Walls said there would be implied consent to those that choose to use it.

Chair Walls spoke of the cost of the microchip reader, said the cost would be roughly \$400.00.

Ms. Walls asked Staff Liaison Torrejon how much funds are in the Costa Mesa Funds. Ms. Torrejon said she would need to follow up on that with the Finance Department.

Committee Member Alvarez and Vice Chair Minjares also spoke about microchip readers.

Lt. Selinske asked if this is something the committee would need to put together and present to the city council for approval.

Ms. Walls said it should be no different from when the committee approved installing a kiosk for bulletins at the Bark Park.

Ms. Torrejon said she could ask the City Clerks office for clarification.

Committee Member Tanaka commented on pet adoptions and how dogs don't always get

adopted out sterilized. Ms. Tanaka asked about different dog license fees and asked if an extension could be possible if a dog is too young to be fixed or for health reasons.

Animal Control Supervisor Cattouse said if a valid reason is provided, some leniency can be provided.

Lt. Selinske mentioned the onboarding of a new Animal Control Officer.

Chair Walls shared concerns about the gap between the community and asked for a social media presence of Animal Control.

## **1. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 24,2024 MEETING MINUTES**

Committee Member Tanaka asked for a typo on her name to be adjusted.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Committee Member Tanaka motioned to approve the January 24, 2024, meeting minutes./ Second by Vice Chair Angela. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Walls, Vice Chair Minjares, Committee Members Alvarez and Tanaka.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carries: 4-0

## **2. OLD BUSINESS**

a. None

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

a. None

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Walls opened Public Comments.

Seeing no hands raised, public comments were closed by Chair Walls.

## **4. MONTHLY REPORTS**

a. Animal Care Services Staff Report

Ms. Torrejon presented the Animal Care Services Staff Report to the committee.

Ms. Torrejon updated the Committee on the upcoming Spring Bark Bash Event and provided the animal shelter statistics.

Committee Member Alvarez asked to include an end count of animals in the care of the shelter for shelter transparency. Expressed that stats are unclear to him and said there

have been concerns from animal activists online. Asked if pending outcomes can be added to the stats.

Chair Walls explained to Mr. Calvin that Priceless Pets Rescue spread their pets within four locations.

Ms. Torrejon asked if there were any other comments from the committee on the staff report.

A member from the public spoke up and commented on the Spay and Neuter Program. He mentioned he was unhappy with the application process.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Walls adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2024, at 5:30pm at City Hall – Community Room.