



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 8, 2010

Animal Campus Commission



City of Cathedral City

Mayor Kathleen DeRosa

City of Coachella

Councilmember Jesse Villarreal



City of Desert Hot Springs

Councilmember Karl Baker, Jr.
Vice-Chair

City of Indian Wells

Councilman Larry Spicer



City of La Quinta

Mayor Pro Tem Kristy Franklin

City of Palm Desert

Mayor Cindy Finerty



City of Rancho Mirage

Councilmember G. Dana Hobart
Chairperson

County of Riverside

John J. Benoit, 4th District
Marion Ashley, 5th District



Animal Samaritans

Bill Blue, President
Ex-Officio



Supervisor Wilson's Staff

Lynda J. Kerney
Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, July 8 at 9:37 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 115, Palm Desert, CA by Vice Chair Kristy Franklin, Councilmember, City of La Quinta.

A roll call was conducted and it was determined that there was a quorum. The following were present:

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Kathleen DeRosa, City of Cathedral City
Karl Baker, Jr., City of Desert Hot Springs
Larry Spicer, City of Indian Wells
Cindy Finerty, City of Palm Desert
John J. Benoit, County of Riverside

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian, County Animal Services
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, County Animal Services
John Welsh, Public Info Officer, County Animal Services
Earl Moss, City of Cathedral City
Anthony Moreno, City of La Quinta
Mel Windsor, City of Indian Wells
Fred Saunders, Executive Director, Animal Samaritans
Janet McAfee
Jacqueline Mercier Berman
Lynda Kerney, County of Riverside
Frank Curry, County of Riverside
Noel Loughrin, County of Riverside
Michelle DeArmond, County of Riverside
Deanna Burnett, County Animal Services
Betsy Ritchie, County Animal Services
Rita Gutierrez, County Animal Services

2. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA

No changes.

72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, CA 92276

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

None.

4. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Commissioner Finerty suggested that current research shows rabies vaccinations may no longer be necessary or needed at such frequency. She is concerned that animals may be harmed, or remain unlicensed due to vaccination laws. Dr. Drusys explained there is research in progress which may alter the vaccination protocol, but results and acceptance by the scientific community are likely several more years in the future.

Commissioner Benoit introduced his new Chief of Staff, Michelle DeArmond.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Earl Moss from the City of Cathedral City provided an authorization letter from the City to vote on behalf of the jurisdiction. (With the attendance of Mayor DeRosa, the letter was unnecessary.)

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 13, 2010 Animal Campus Commission Meeting were presented for approval. M/S (Baker / Spicer) to approve the May 13, 2010 meeting minutes.

7. COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

John Welsh explained that a new fee schedule for Animal Services will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on July 13. It includes the new field and shelter service rates, which have increased. He also reported that local news station KMIR covered a story on the training the Animal Campus staff recently received on snakes. Adopt-a-Dog segments on television have been productive.

Coachella Valley Animal Campus

8. ANIMAL SAMARITANS – Fred Saunders, Executive Director

Saunders reported an increase in the number of office visits to the veterinary clinic. Two additional exam rooms are already needed, and there are four full time vets on staff. The goal of AS is to provide full services to the public at an affordable rate. He expects office hours to soon extend to 7:30 p.m.

Animal Samaritans will continue its outreach to the east valley, including pet transport for spay-neuter surgeries or vaccinations. The organization has been asked to do additional spay-neuter programs for Duroville. Pet overpopulation at the site is an ongoing problem.

The old Animal Samaritans building on Ramon Road will be renovated for shelter services and humane education. Commissioner Baker indicated the former Desert Hot Springs shelter is vacant, and could be used by another group. Saunders will investigate possibilities.

9. FRIENDS OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS

Saunders reported that he is working with Sam Esposito on the Memorial Garden. Design plans have been reduced.

10. LUCY'S LAW

Ms. Berman requested that the County establish a local ordinance to regulate training and certification of pet groomers. Commissioner Benoit explained that this is an issue that must go through the state legislators. He will contact Assemblyman Perez again. It was suggested that this should be brought to the attention of a statewide or national association that has lobbyists.

Commissioner Baker offered to take the information to the League of California Cities.

The discussion was tabled to the September meeting.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 23 at 9:30 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus in Thousand Palms.

12. ADJOURNMENT