



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 23, 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

Noel Loughrin
Board Assistant

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(760) 343-3644 or (888) 636-7387

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, September 23 at 9:35 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, 72-05 Petland Place, Thousand Palms, 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

Jesse Villarreal, City of Coachella
Larry Spicer, City of Indian Wells
Kristy Franklin, City of La Quinta
Cindy Finerty, City of Palm Desert
John J. Benoit, County of Riverside

OTHERS PRESENT

Gordon Moller, City of Rancho Mirage (**Authorized to vote**)
Fred Saunders, Animal Samaritans
Dr. Allan Drusys, Chief Veterinarian, County Animal Services
Frank Corvino, Deputy Director, County Animal Services
Jacqueline Mercier Berman
Noel Loughrin, County of Riverside
Deanna Burnett, County Animal Services
Sam Esposito, Friends of the Coachella Valley Animal Campus
Karen Esposito, K.A.S.E.
Susan Jacoy
Deby Conrad, City of La Quinta
Susanne Inhaber, Animal Samaritans

2. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA

No changes.

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

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3. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Jacqueline Mercier Berman provided an update on the status of Lucy's Law. The bill has been drafted and has sent it to Sacramento and will get to committee by January. The California Veterinary Board has contacted Jacqueline to express support of the bill.

4. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Supervisor John Benoit introduced his new Animal Campus staff liaison Noel Loughrin. Noel has been with the Supervisor's office for the past four years working as the Youth Advisory Council Coordinator.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

-None-

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 8, 2010 Animal Campus Commission Meeting were presented for approval. M/S (Finerty / Spicer) (Moller abstain) to approve the July 8, 2010 meeting minutes.

7. COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

Frank Corvino mentioned that the Department of Animal Services is making headway with the local tribes. DAS has submitted an MOU to the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. If agreed to the MOU would be a formal agreement allowing Animal Control officers on to Indian land to pick up animals if it is an emergency situation. The tribes will pay the regular fee for these services.

The Shimmy for Critters event earlier this month resulted in 22 pet adoptions.

Commissioner Spicer inquired about how the department is doing with all of the cutbacks. Frank Corvino said that the department has lost the adoption and animal behavior programs. The vet staff has been taking care of all of the daily activities at the Animal Campus. Supervisor Benoit commended the department for doing such a terrific job under these circumstances.

Dr. Drusys said DAS received a phone call from a vet in the western end of the county who wants to be part of the Pit Bull project. DAS is currently looking for a grant to provide assistance for that vet. There are currently 300 Pit Bull owners on the Pit Bull project waiting list. Funding for this program was provided through the Board of Supervisors and

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through donations. The donations have been exhausted. The project was awarded at \$2,500 grant in May 2010 and was supposed to receive this money by July; the money has not been received yet.

Frank Corvino warned the Commission about a scam group that has targeted Coachella Valley residents. The scam group has been sending out letters with the DAS logo saying that they are a group with the County and are collecting licensing fees. DAS has contacted the Palm Springs Police Department since the P.O. Box listed on the letter is in Palm Springs. DAS has held off on informing the media so to provide all of the information to the authorities first. John Welsh will be sending out a press release soon. Copies of the letters will be sent out to the Commission members so it can be discussed it at City Council meetings. Deby Conrad mentioned that a few La Quinta residents have received this letter. Frank asked that all letters be given to him. Fred Saunders said that Animal Samaritans has to deal with a similar scam and they were able to track it to DHS. Fred offered to send out an email blast to the Animal Samaritans email list. Supervisor Benoit also offered to place a warning in the Benoit Bulletin. There have not be any arrests related to this scam.

Sam Esposito mentioned that August 21 begins Homeless Animals Awareness Month. An event was held at the Animal Campus on August 21, 2010. Local TV stations KESQ and KMIR came out but there was not a lot of participation from the community. Sam hopes that next year the Commission can do something to get the word out.

Commissioner Finerty mentioned that the Palm Desert City Council will vote today on providing \$16,500 to waive adoption fees for residents. Frank Corvino said the \$20 discounted adoption fee ends this month and fees will go back to \$105 for dogs and \$95 for cats.

8. ANIMAL SAMARITANS – Fred Saunders, Executive Director

Fred Saunders reported that the clinic is doing well. Due to the prices at other clinics the requests for services at the Animal Samaritans clinic have gone up. Animal Samaritans has introduced the “Second Opinion” program which provides pet owners with lower cost veterinary care.

Animal Samaritans is looking into providing emergency services

Due to the economy Animal Samaritans has seen a decrease in donations and grants. The organization has had to cut back on human services and education, assisted therapy, and shelter and adoptions. Free spay and neuter services have been limited as they have had to dip into the operations budget to keep the services going. The spay and neuter transport services is doing well and has been to Coachella, Mecca, Banning, and Beaumont.

The new building is wonderful and is a welcomed addition to the community.

9. FRIENDS OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS

Sam Esposito said that the Friends of the Animal Campus has its next meeting in October and there are new board members. Friends was able to raise enough money to purchase a shelter for horses at the Animal Campus. They would also like to eventually get

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automatic water dispenser for the horses.

Dr. Drusys said that there has been an increase in horses in the Riverside County shelters. A few years ago the shelters would get one or two a year; now they are getting 1 per week. Recently the new Riverside shelter was housing seven or eight horses in their barn. Horses are held for two weeks and are then adopted out.

10. Animal Campus Inspiration Garden- Karen Esposito

Keeping Animals Safe Everyday (KASE) is working with Animal Samaritans to design an inspiration garden between the Animal Samaritans clinic and the Thousand Palms shelter. The San Diego Humane Society building is the inspiration for this garden. Karen Esposito from KASE suggested selling memorial bricks to help raise funds for this project. It was also suggested that cities donate money to build a fountain. Vice-Chair Kristy Franklin suggested presenting this idea to each city to ask for support. Plants can be provided by the Living Desert through a planting program they have.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fred Saunders-

Stray animals are still a problem in Durroville. About a month and a half ago Animal Samaritans brought pet food to the area and began a vaccination program. Animeals used to deliver 25 pound bags of pet food through Meals on Wheels until their transportation broke down. Jacqueline Mercier-Berman suggested going to grocery stores and ask for donations of expired pet food. Unfortunately, government agencies can't do this because of liability issues if the animals get sick.

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for Thursday, November 18th, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Room 115, Palm Desert.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Kristy Franklin adjourned the meeting at 10:43am