



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

MINUTES

Thursday – November 3, 2022
9:30 a.m.

Commission Meeting
ZOOM

Animal Campus Commission

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Rob Bernheimer

City of Desert Hot Springs

City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Mark Carnevale

Chairman

Mayor Ernesto Gutierrez
(Alternate)

City of Coachella

Councilmember Denise Delgado
Vacant (Alternate)

City of Indio

Councilmember Ramos Amith
Councilmember Elaine Holmes
(Alternate)
Scott Trujillo
(City Representative)

City of La Quinta

Councilmember Steve Sanchez
Councilmember Kathleen
Fitzpatrick (Alternate)

City of Palm Desert

Councilmember Karina Quintanilla

Vice-Chairman

~~Councilmember Susan Marie
Weber (Alternate)~~

Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

Vacant
Executive Director

Friends of Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

Tamara Hedges- President
Ex- Officio

City of Rancho Mirage

Councilmember Steve Downs
(Alternate) - Mayor Ted Weill

County of Riverside

V. Manuel Perez, 4th District
Alexis Perez, Board Assistant
Jeff Hewitt, 5th District

Animal Samaritans

Len D. Betz, President
Ex-Officio
Tom Snyder, CEO

County Staff

Laurie Dozier
Executive Assistant I

1. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-001 (CHAIRMAN)

The resolution was adopted by all members of the Commission. Adopting this resolution means that all agree to hold this meeting in a virtual forum, and recognizing the need for social distancing due to the state emergency order put in place by Governor Newsom.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM by Chairman Mark Carnevale, Cathedral City.

A roll call was conducted by the County Staff, Laurie Dozier, and it was determined that there was a quorum. The following were present:

Members in Attendance:

Board Assistant Alexis Perez, Riverside County
Councilmember Steve Sanchez, City of La Quinta
Councilmember Mark Carnevale, Cathedral City
Councilmember Rob Bernheimer, City of Indian Wells
Councilmember Steve Downs, City of Rancho Mirage

Others in attendance:

Erin Gettis, Director, County of Riverside Animal Services
Kim McWhorter, Deputy Director of Operations, County of Riverside Animal Services
Josh Sisler, Commander of Field, Riverside Animal Services
Michelle Bergeron, Animal Samaritans, Coachella Valley
Michael Phipps-Russell, Loving All Animals
Jessica Castillo – Loving All Animals
Laurie Dozier, Executive Assistant, County of Riverside Animal Services

4. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from August 4, 2022, were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

8. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

9. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

Erin Gettis, Director:

Erin Gettis presented Animal Services' 90-day report. It was discussed that most are having a problem hiring and keeping veterinarian surgeons due to the pay rate. County HR has been challenged to check on surrounding areas and their pay to hire more veterinarians on a per diem basis county wide. There seems to be a 50% turnover rate on entry level jobs. Animal Services has hired an Administrative Services Officer to help with this by being more flexible, building morale by holding regular all staff meetings, manager retreats, team building, and collaboration. DAS is looking at improving benefit offerings, updating recruitment videos, and more focused on training. Mark Carnevale thanked Erin for presenting Animal Services' 90-day report.

Kim Youngberg, Deputy Director of Operations:

Kim Youngberg stated that Animal Services' mobile bus will be in Blythe for three days hosting a spay and neuter event, as well as a vaccine clinic on Saturday for the public.

10. ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):

Tom Snyder discussed the veterinarian shortage. Animal Samaritans lost four veterinarians over the last four years. They have also recruited four more veterinarians and have increased wages and benefits. In 2021 Animal Samaritans opened urgent care services in Indio and Thousand Palms where services are available seven days a week. Tom Snyder stated he will contact Kirk Geiger (public speaker) to discuss grant opportunities to help with the public as well.

11. PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Dan Rossi, Executive Director):

Dan Rossi stated they are still impounding large dogs, although not many are going out. Small dogs continue to move. They are seeing a lot more unsocialized cats coming in. Some through hoarding cases which makes them not a candidate for TNR. These cats have never been outside, but they continue to slowly work with them to socialize them. The Palm Springs shelter is masking up again for Covid-19. A few staff members are out sick weekly which hinders their work.

12. FRIENDS OF PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Tamara Hedges, President):

Not present.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for February 2, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.