



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

MINUTES

Thursday – November 4, 2021
9:30 a.m.
Commission Meeting
ZOOM

Animal Campus Commission

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Kimberly Muzik

City of Desert Hot Springs

City of Cathedral City

Councilmember Mark Carnevale

Chairman

Councilmember Raymond Gregory
(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

Mayor Ted Weill
(Alternate) - Vacant

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 4, 2021, 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:

Councilmember G. Dana Hobart, City of Rancho Mirage
Board Assistant, Alexis Perez, Riverside County
Councilmember Steve Sanchez, city of La Quinta
Councilmember Mark Carnevale, Cathedral City
Councilmember Kimberly Muzik, City of Indian Wells
Assistant City Manager, Scott Trujillo, City of Indio

Others in attendance:

Charissa Leach, Interim Director, County of Animal Services
Chris Mayer, Commander of Field Service, County of Riverside Animal Services
Kim McWhorter, Program Chief, County of Riverside Animal Services
Jackie Schart, Operations Chief, County of Riverside Animal Services
John Welsh, Public Information Officer, County of Riverside Animal Services
Tom Snyder, CEO of Animal Samaritans, Coachella Valley
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 12, 2021, were approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence.

7. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

No comments

8. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

Charissa Leach, Interim Director: Due to the departure of Julie Bank from the County of Riverside, Department of Animal Services, Charissa Leach introduced herself as the Interim Director of Animal Services. She is working with animal services leadership team to fill the director position and stated there will be positive changes.

Kim Youngberg: A \$50,000 grant from PetSmart Charities was received by animal services. The grant is for adoptions and spay/neuter efforts. The department has been working on outreach events in the Coachella valley.

Jackie Schart: The intake numbers for the Coachella Valley Animal Campus are up. There are 100 dogs and 150 cats at this time. This information is shared with constituents. We are moving forward with adoptions and the Foster Field Trip program. Our Chief Veterinarian, Dr. Sara Strongin addresses the public if asked about dog to human Covid-19 transmissions. There are no cases, and it is not common. Covid exposed animals are quarantined. Impounds are still lower now than in 2019.

Chris Mayer: Animal services conducted a successful sweep in Mecca and the North Shore area. The request came from schools and residents in the area. The children in the area was our biggest concern and the need to protect them from the stray dogs in the area. There were packs of loose dogs. The department was able to do an education outreach event the week before and the spay/neuter bus went out on November 3rd in that same area. Animal services impounded 37 dogs during the sweep. The intake process was done as normal with a vet check and scanned for a microchip. One injured dog was claimed by its owner. The other dogs are up for adoption. A press release went out regarding the sweep. Our officers repaired 2 fences for the public and offered solutions to keep their dogs contained. Dog were returned to the owners in the field if owners flagged down the animal control trucks. Education is a huge component in that area regarding loose dogs.

John Welsh: On Wednesday, November 3rd, in the North Shore area, our friends at CAL Fire/Riverside County Fire Department and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department assisted with a dog stuck in a canal. Firefighters used ropes to safely lasso the dog, a handsome, male 6-year-old Golden retriever. An officer transported the dog to the Coachella Valley Animal Campus in Thousand Palms in hopes that the owner will come to claim their pet. Councilmember Dana Hobart suggested that Animal Services should look into bringing a dog to the desert council meetings to encourage adoptions.

9. ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO): Animal Samaritans, in partnership with the Riverside County Department of Animal Services and The Community Food Bank at The Center, provided free pet spay and neuter surgeries and pet vaccinations for dogs belonging to homeless and low-income residents Oct. 27-29. The event was generously funded by the DJ & T Foundation. The Men of the Desert fundraiser is happening on December 5th at the Palm Springs Air Museum to help support animal rescue programs. The building of the Pet Adoption Center has slowed down due to Covid-19.

10. PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Vacant, Executive Director):

Not present.

11. FRIENDS OF PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER (Tamara Hedges, President): Palm Springs Animal Shelter is in the process of hiring a new director. The position should be filled sometime in December. Strays and large dogs are continuing to come into the shelter, adoptions have been great. Programs such as, pet food banks, vaccine clinics once a week, and other outreach for homeless folks are still happening. Community resources need to continue and be made available to our constituents.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for February 3, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:05am.