



Coachella Valley Animal Campus

MINUTES

Thursday – August 4, 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, August 4, 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 Karina Quintanilla, Palm Desert
Councilmember Rob Bernheimer, City of Indian Wells
City Representative Scott Trujillo, City of Indio

Others in attendance:

Erin Gettis, Director, County of Riverside Animal Services
Kim McWhorter, Deputy Director of Operations, County of Riverside Animal Services
Jackie Schart, Operations Chief, County of Riverside Animal Services
John Welsh, Public Information Officer, County of Riverside Animal Services
Michelle Bergeron, Animal Samaritans, Coachella Valley
Laurie Dozier, Executive Assistant, County of Riverside Animal Services
Dan Rossi, Executive Director, Palm Springs Animal Shelter

4. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from May 5, 2022, were approved. Councilmember Rob Bernheimer abstained. He was not in attendance May 5, 2022.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Noelle and Kirk Geiger stated he and his team are looking for a facility and fosters in the east valley area to help the underserved low-income areas. They also rescue dogs from the streets and just want to help. It was suggested that Kirk Geiger get in touch with city council members. Jackie Schart, the Coachella Valley Animal Campus Chief will get in touch with Mr. Geiger.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was received appointing Robert Bernheimer, City of Indian Wells their new representative on the commission until their election on November 8, 2022. A new council will be seated at their December meeting.

8. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

9. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

Erin Gettis, Director:

Erin Gettis stated Animal Services 90-day report has been delayed until August 30, 2022. Erin will share this report at the next scheduled meeting. Animal Services is in the process of hiring a third veterinarian, who was also one of the departments contract vets. The department spay/neuter bus cost 3k per day to sent out and can do up to 40 surgeries per day. The bus is out two times a week now. Large dogs are too big for the bus. Moving forward animal services will sort out how to handle large dog surgeries in the field.

Kim Youngberg, Deputy Director of Operations:

Kim Youngberg reported that Riverside Animal Services has recruited a new Volunteer Manager. This position will help department wide with the recruitment of volunteers.

John Welsh, Public Information Officer:

John Welsh gave updates on the media front. Clear the Shelters with NBC and Palm Springs is the whole month of August. Adoptions are free. August 27, 2022 will be a big push day for the month-long event at the Riverside shelter. A four-acre fire broke out in Thermal, although no immediate need for our services were requested until later that evening. Our officers took out some dog crates and pet food. Our Coachella Valley shelter officers, along with Indio police department, and fire rescued a deer from a canal. The coyote situation has always been a concern for many people. Coyotes have been here for years, and now we live in their country. John will share a flyer with the commission regarding coyotes from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as the flyer for Clear the Shelters.

Jackie Schart, Animal Services Chief:

Jackie Schart stated that there is a line forming for the vaccine and free microchip clinic happening today at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus. She also stated they are reminding the public about the 4th of July holiday coming up and to make sure to microchip and put a collar with a tag on your pet to get them home. During this time of year animal services puts logos on their animal control trucks stating fireworks are illegal in Riverside County to help through the 4th of July.

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 in four more veterinarians and have increased wages and benefits. In 2021 Animal Samaritans opened Urgent Care services in Indio and Thousand Palms, 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 November 3, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.