



Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission Meeting (Minutes)

Thursday – August 03, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Commission Meeting
ZOOM

Animal Campus Commission

City of Indian Wells
Councilmember Ty Peabody
Vice - Chairman

City of Desert Hot Springs

City of Cathedral City
Councilmember Mark Carnevale
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
Chairman

Palm Springs

Animal Shelter
Dan Rossi
Executive Director

Friends of Palm Springs

Animal Shelter
Tamara Hedges- President
Ex- Officio

City of Rancho Mirage

Councilmember Meg Marker
Councilmember Lynn Mallotto
(Alternate)

County of Riverside

V. Manuel Perez, 4th District
Alexis Perez, Board Assistant

Animal Samaritans

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

County Staff

Laurie Dozier
Executive Assistant I

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Ex. Officio Tom Snyder, CEO Animal Samaritans

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Animal Campus Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, August 03, 2022, at 9:36 a.m. in person by **Mayor Pro Tem; Karina Quintanilla (Chair)**, City of Palm Desert.

A roll call was conducted by the **Mayor Pro Tem; Karina Quintanilla (Chair)**, City of Palm Desert., and it was determined that there was a quorum. The following were present:

Members in Attendance:

Councilmember Denise Delgado, City of Coachella
Board Assistant Alexis Perez, Riverside County
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick, City of La Quinta
Assistant City Manager Scott Trujillo, city of Indio
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla, City of Palm Desert (Chair)

Staff in attendance:

Erin Gettis, Director, County of Riverside Animal Services
Kim Youngberg, Assist Director of Operations, County of Riverside Animal Services
Michelle Bergeron, Animal Samaritans, Coachella Valley
Dr. Sara Strongin, Chief Veterinarian, County of Riverside Animal Services
Kasey Saldarelli, Executive Assistant, County of Riverside Animal Services
Ex. Officio Dan Rossi, Executive Director, Palm Springs Animal Shelter
Ex. Officio Tom Snyder, CEO, Animal Samaritans

3. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes from February 02, 2023, were approved.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Speaker 1: Kim Hardee) Thanked RCDAS for their S/N process and for the 2 new buses on order. Recently did a bus on the reservation, a little challenging. Participates in two clinics a year in Indio, the hottest months of the year. Jeanine does 7 throughout the valley. I feel like we had control before COVID, but not anymore. We are making a huge effort but need to do better. I had 6 feral cats but now have 16 and they all need to be altered. City of Palm Springs animal shelter does not clinic with Traveling Paws Rescue. **(Speaker 2: Brad Anderson)** I reside in City of Rancho Mirage. I am glad we are hosting this meeting in person. I was sad that the last meeting was canceled. I understand the Commission is limited. The city should draw all its resources and fund RCDAS. I have no solutions and only one person. The commission needs to advocate with City Counsel and bring this up.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was not received.

7. ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

- **Councilmember Denise Delgado** City of Coachella mentioned that they are facing many challenges with cats in multiple neighborhoods which are not altered and now forced to deal with non-responsible owners. They are experiencing lots of folks who are backyard breeding which creates a huge problem. We need to update our policies on breeding. Working on providing incentives. Denise asked a question to Animal Services regarding their policy on breeding. Kim Youngberg replied that animal services have a mandatory spay and neuter. We do have ordinance, but this is found with hoarding cases.
- **Ex. Officio Tom Snyder** Animal Samaritans is opening more spay and neuter appointments, 15 slots per day. They have two doctors that stagger back and forth to accomplish S/N, working so far. Thrilled to hear of the two new buses on order. We received grant money for S/N in East Valley, but that has been postponed until fall. I look forward to leaning more about RCDAS S/N bus. We received some grant money for cats and used it all up. We are expecting more soon. Animal Samaritans has been in the process for the last few years with a campaign for a new pet adoption and education center which will be placed next door. It will roughly house 40-50 animals. Michelle Gear with Animal Samaritans also mentioned that she is also concerned with backyard breeding in the Valley, and it has become a problem that we need to address.
- **Asst. City Manager Scott Trillio** The City of Indio contracted out roughly 30K to Coachella Animal Network for S/N. City of Indio has community grants up to \$5000 4 times a year, utilizing resources for small communities.
- **Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick** The City of La Quinta has community grants every year up to \$5000.00 which help fund resources for our communities such as S/N or other pressing issues. All Information is posted on our website.

- **Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla (Chair)** stated that reimbursement for adoption fees is currently taking place with the City of Palm Desert. They are extending their foster programs. Trying to strategize with housing commission to find homelessness task force. Karina requested that we possibly add to the agenda (at large member) in compliance with the Brown Act.
- **Ex. Officio Dan Rossi** explained that Palm Springs Animal Shelter is at high population with over 500 animals. They are at critical capacity and shelter tension is rising. They are needing a creative solution. PSAS recently transferred 20 dogs to Canada. The spread of Panleukopenia is out of control.
- **Board Asst. Alexis Perez** with District 4 (County of Riverside) mentioned that spay and neuter clinic in Northshore was successful. District 4 moved offices to 78015 Main Street, Suite 205, La Quinta, Ca 92253

9. RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

Erin Gettis, Director:

The end of June this year, Department of Animals Services received 3.4 million which has allowed us to reopen our San Jacinto Animal Campus. This shelter is currently taking the overflow from our Coachella Valley Campus. Our shelters are faced with challenges such as over population, younger population coming in, and keeping up with spay and neuter. We have two spay and neuter buses that were ordered in June of 2022 and expecting the 1st bus towards the end of November and the 2nd bus in early 2024. More offerings in unincorporated areas and other cities. Our department is looking to expand the foster program which is another option that helps animals exit our shelters. Another option for animals is our Wellness Clinics which provide vaccinations, microchips, flea treatment and deworming. We offer low-cost clinics every Thursday at our Coachella Valley Campus. We believe this relieves the load off local vets. Our new Public Information Officer Kerri Mabee and Graphic Designer Sarah Castro have created a seasonal tool kit with helpful information such as statics and information on owning a pet. RCDAS participated in a community value survey which was performed outside animal services with an independent group. Reclaiming fees are often a burden for people. We offer funding to reunite pets and their families.

Kim Youngberg, Deputy Director of Operations:

We currently have started a pet support table to divert animals from being impounded at two of our locations (Riverside and Coachella Valley). This has opened a position for an Animal Service Counselor. The pet support table is aimed at offering resources and support. We are encouraging to keep the pet found and post online. This support table has reduced our impounds by 54% with no complaints. Most of what we are dealing with is the lack of knowledge but the will to want to help. This process has reduced 1000 animals from entering our shelter. Currently working with Petco LoveLost on facial recognition for lost pets. Mobile clinics get huge requests because many residents comply.

10. ANIMAL SAMARITANS (Tom Snyder, CEO):

Tom inquired on the cost of the spay and neuter bus and wanted to know if large breeds can be accommodated on the bus. Animal services responded that the bus cost \$3000 and that they could accommodate 2-4 large dogs in one day. The bus is not set up to service a day of large dogs.

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

Dan Rossi mentioned the idea of having a large adoption event to help the overpopulation that everyone is experiencing. PSAS has free adoptions the month of August on Saturdays 10-4pm.

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

Tamara Hedges was not in attendance.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Animal Campus Commission is scheduled for November 02,2023; at 9:30 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.