

Monterey County of Monterey Animal Control Program Advisory Board meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2017

Location:

Monterey County Animal Services Center
160 Hitchcock Rd, Salinas CA 93906

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monterey County of Monterey Animal Control Program Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm on October 19, 2017 at 160 Hitchcock Rd, Salinas CA 93906.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Six members attended, a quorum was present.

Mary Arnold, Appointee of the Director of Health
David Alexander, Representing- District 5 Supervisor Adams
Nannette Newbury, Representing- District 2 Supervisor Phillips
Frank Kocher, DVM, Appointee of the Director of Health
Basil Smith, Appointee of District 3, Supervisor Salinas
Tom Bailey, Appointee of the Director of Health

MEMBERS ABSENT

Leslie McDaniel, Appointee of the Director of Health
Vacant, Representing-District 1 Supervisor Alejo
Vacant, Representing-District 4 Supervisor Parker

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Edward Moreno, M.D., Monterey County Health Officer
Commander Joseph Banuelos, Monterey County Sheriff's Office

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Mary Koch
Debra Long
Devon Nichols

COUNTY OF MONTEREY STAFF:

John Ramirez, Director of Environmental Health
Ric Encarnacion, Assistant Director of Environmental Health
Rebecca Cenicerros, County Counsel
Elias Salamah, County Counsel
Robin Kimball, Management Analyst, Environmental Health

INTRODUCTION:

Chairperson Mary Arnold called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m., introductions were made.

II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Chair Arnold acknowledged public comments regarding concerns about mandatory spay/neutering and microchipping for animals found roaming at large; whether human antibiotic eye medications can be used on animals; and dog fighting within city limits.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No changes to the agenda were presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by David Alexander, seconded by Nannette Newbury and carried to approve the August 3, 2017 meeting minutes.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of New Board Members and New Deputy County Counsel

Chair Arnold introduced Dr. Frank Kocher as the newest member of the advisory board as an appointee of the Health Department and new Deputy County Counsel Elias Salameh. Chair Arnold also announced that a second advisory board member, Dr. Leslie McDaniel has been appointed as an appointee of the Health Department, however Dr. McDaniel was not in attendance.

B. Member Appointment Terms

Chair Arnold reviewed the member appointment terms with the Board and reminded members to be mindful of their appointment term dates to ensure continuity of Board participation. Discussion was held regarding the process for responsibilities of Board appointees.

C. Discuss Department of Health's Use of Social Media to Solicit Food Donations

Chair Arnold brought a concern forward regarding the use of Facebook to ask for food donations for animals at the shelter. John Ramirez stated that the County has social media guidelines and staff can use social media to post pictures of animals for adoption, solicit donations for blankets, food and various shelter "wish list" special items. Pet Smart has a program to donate food to the shelter and continues to supply food for City and County shelter. The Animal Services budget has money reserved for food purchases should donations not be provided.

D. Discuss Department of Health's Draft Letter Supporting AB 485 (2017—18 Session) Regarding the Regulation of Pet Sales Through Retailers to Rescue Animals Only

John Ramirez reported that letters of support for various legislative matters are drafted and reviewed by the Director of Health. Chair Arnold stated that letters of support, such as the letter supporting AB485 which was made on County of Monterey letterhead, is a violation. Discussion of this item expanded to include the relationship between the ACPAB and Environmental Health, the Statutory Tethering Restrictions and the time and effort that members of the Board have committed to the ACPAB to utilize their expertise. John Ramirez addressed items presented, including the letter that was drafted in support of AB485 which is within his right to do so. As an advisory board, when an item is developed to be moved forward, a proposal needs to be presented to the Health Department for action. In response to the Statutory Tethering Restrictions, he explained that the minutes addressing this issue were based on the email exchange between two Board members. County Counsel reported that as a Department, draft proposals can be submitted to the Legislative Committee for review and support which is different than the Advisory Board. After further discussion the Board will review procedurally how to submit items for formal recommendations and proposals. John reviewed the next steps once a recommendation is approved by the Board and how to submit a proposal based on the recommendation.

The ACPAB was distressed that John Ramirez wasted so much time addressing the ability of the ACPAB to change state law (on the subject of Tethering) when he knew full well that it was not the intention of the ACPAB to do so. The ACPAB noted that this is an example of how John Ramirez continues to work against the intentions of the ACPAB and not in cooperation with it. The ACPAB also noted that actions such as this contribute to a lack of trust.

E. Discuss Possibility of Free Adoption Promotions

Chair Arnold reported that recently other shelter/animal agencies have had a free adoption of shelter animals and inquired about free/reduced adoptions through the County shelter. John reported that the fees collected for animals in the shelter are budgeted for and if free/reduced adoptions are offered, the funds have to be made up in some other way and suggested that sponsored events might be an option whereby the sponsoring agency will offset the loss of adoption fee revenue.

V. REPORTS

Animal Services Monthly Statistics

Ric Encarnacion presented monthly statistics and reviewed in detail how the statistics are compiled, the abbreviations used as well as standardization of how the information is entered into the database. A request was made to have the statistics sent out in advance of the meetings and also if there is value in having the statistics on the website. A request was made by Nannette Newbury to have an ad hoc committee review the value of having the statistics on the website. Nannette will be the contact for this committee.

Ric stated that he is working towards making the report the same as compiled by the City of Salinas as a step towards a combined operation. Frank Kocher was informed that the ACPAB cannot access the database from which the report is derived.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discuss Environmental Health and ACPAB Relationship

Reviewed in New Business Item D., no further discussion needed.

B. Discuss Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2017 ACPAB Meeting with Regard to Statutory Tethering Restrictions

Reviewed in New Business Item D, no further discussion needed.

C. Discuss Status of Recruitment for Animal Services Positions Authorized by the Board of Supervisors

John Ramirez reported that three Animal Care Technicians have been hired and two more are in process. Two Veterinarian applications have been received, two Registered Veterinarian Technician applications have been received and these recruitments are continuous until filled. The vacant Office Assistant position cannot be filled at this time due to a request from Human Resources because of potential layoffs in other departments. A temporary staff person will be in place until the position can be filled. The Operations Manager interviews have been held and hiring steps are in process. Additional funding is being requested for the positions the Board of Supervisors originally approved to fund for six months. A request for funding was made for the period January to June 2017. A note was made that the current Vet is leaving in November.

D. Receive Update on Veterinary X-Ray Machine Donation

Central Coast College has not provided requested information regarding the x-ray machine. Mary Arnold stated she will contact Jonathan Fradkin to assist. Serial numbers are still required. Frank Kocher offered to assist.

E. Receive Update on Potential Combination of County Animal Services and City of Salinas' Animal Services

A meeting of the original stakeholders will be held on October 25, 2017 at which time the Memorandum of Agreement will be reviewed for the management of both shelters.

F. Receive Update on County Animal Services' Outreach Clinics

Ric Encarnacion reported that there are no outreach clinics planned at this time and that the focus is on hiring instead. Outreach was provided over the July 4th weekend regarding care for animals and the effects of fireworks on animals. Volunteers are

always welcome for outreach events. John Ramirez commented that there is a desire to coordinate with the City shelter on events.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. and will be held in Monterey County Animal Services Center. Meeting Location: 160 Hitchcock Rd, Salinas CA 93906