

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS*

**KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

Kern County Administrative Building
1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301
3rd Floor, Multipurpose Room

April 26th, 2017 – 6:00p.m.

*This meeting was only held for 30 minutes due to time constraints on the conference room

A. ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
Commissioners Present: Ms. Anderson –Chairperson/Commissioner
Ms. Geary – Commissioner
Ms. Taggart – Commissioner
Ms. Madigan - Commissioner

Commissioners Excused:
Mr. Blackburn – Vice Chairperson/Commissioner
Ms. Perez – Commissioner (*non-voting member*)

Staff Present:
Nick Cullen – Director, Kern County Animal Services
Jerri S. Bradley – Deputy County Counsel
Blake Smith – Business Manager, Kern County Animal Services
Lisa Richardson – Shelter Supervisor, Kern County Animal Services
Jeff George – Volunteer Coordinator, Kern County Animal Services
Amber Chrissakis –Volunteer OSS, Kern County Animal Services

[When names appear in parenthesis, the motion initiating action on the agenda item was made by the first Commissioner named and seconded by the second Commissioner named.]

B. APPROVAL OF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS:

1. March 15th, 2017 Regular Meeting.

Motion to Receive and File (*Geary/Taggart*) – All in favor

C. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. CORRESPONDENCE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION - Receive and File

- a. Email received 02/04/17 regarding "Cat Hoarding". This item was requested by the Commission to be moved from last month's meeting to this month's meeting.

Heard from Director Cullen who reports that there has been correspondence back and forth with the individual who wrote the email. He also reports that field services has gone to the residence in which there were 40 cats and field services has explained the TNR program.

- b. Email received 03/13/17 from Aaron Thames regarding "Kim Bennett and Kern County"
- c. Email received 03/16/17 from Chase Hunter regarding "Problems with Animal Control"
- d. Email received 03/16/17 from Chase Hunter regarding "CORRECTION Problems with Animal Control"

Heard from Jerri S. Bradley who reports that the issue is resolved. She reports that Chase Hunter is the individual who sold the dog owner the insurance spoken about in the correspondence. She refused to provide proof that the insurance she sold the dog owner actually covers dog bites and if so how much medical it covered. Jerri worked closely with the dog owner and his sister to obtain proof. Because of this incident, Commissioner Geary is modifying the typical order when insurance is ordered to specifically state certain requirements. She reports the dog owner complied with the order and picked up his dogs.

- e. Email received 03/22/17 from Aaron Thames regarding "Kim Bennett and Kern County"

Heard from Director Cullen who states that when situations warrant the seizure of animals on a property and arrests can be made, that is in fact done by Animal Services. He states that there are some people who do just enough to be abiding by the law. He believes that Ms. Bennett is one of those people. Director Cullen states the most recent complaint stemmed from a social media post in which someone claimed there was no water running to Ms. Bennett's property and that the dogs were dying. Field services made a visit to the property and found that the claims were unfounded. Commissioner Madigan volunteered to meet with the complainants and make some proactive plans about how to solve the problem and reiterate what needs to be done and by whom. Director Cullen clarified that Mr. Thames used to be the owner of one of the dogs on Ms. Bennett's property and he willingly gave the dog to Ms. Bennett. Director Cullen states he would be more than happy to set up a meeting for Commissioner Madigan if that is her request. Director Cullen also clarified that there are other agencies now involved in the situation.

Items a., d., and e removed from consent

Motion to receive and file – (*Geary/Madigan*) – All in favor

D. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commissioners may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification; make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Commission at a later meeting. Also, the Commission may act to direct the staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. Please state your name and address for the record before making your presentation. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES.**

Heard from Sue Bennett from Kern Humane Society. She reports on the statistics for Kern Humane Society for the month of April.

E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and file

Heard from Director Cullen who reports on the statistics for the month of March from the Director's report.

B. APPROVAL OF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS:

1. March 15th, 2017 Regular Meeting.

Jerri Bradley states an error was found in the March 15th, 2017 summary

Motion to approve March 15th, 2017 Summary of Proceedings as amended
(*Madigan/Geary*) – All in favor

1. VOLUNTEER UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Jeff George who reports the volunteer statistics for the month of March from the Director's report. He also speaks about the students and program at CSUB. He states that the students have completed 120 hours of time with the department. They learned all aspects of the shelter at a faster pace. They were allowed to spend a day with the Veterinarian and observe surgeries. Jeff also reports that National Volunteer Day is this Saturday from 10-2 and there is going to be lots going on at the shelter.

2. SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Blake Smith who reports on the data on the Spay/Neuter report. He reports that spending is on track and he isn't concerned with running out of funding at this point. He also reports that they are working with the County Administrator's Office and hoping to get funding again in the next fiscal year.

Motion to receive and file - (*Madigan/Taggart*) – All in favor

F. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

On their own initiative, Commissioners may make an announcement or a report on their own activities. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff, or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Government Code Section 54954.2(a)).

Heard from Commissioner Geary who states that the Mega Adoption event that Animal Services held was extremely well organized. She also reports she went to a Friends event and that was great as well.

Heard from Commissioner Madigan who reports that the Red Cross is honoring Animal Services at a gala this coming Saturday for their efforts during the Erskin fires. She also reports that the Mega Adoption event was fun. She said while she was there she spoke with the volunteers that make the beds for the animals. They gave her a list of supplies they need and she is going to ask Friends to help provide that for the volunteers. Commissioner Madigan asked about a grant that was given to Animal Services Foster Coordinator. Director Cullen explains that it was a grant given to the department and Deanna went to San Francisco for 3 days and she brought back some valuable information. Commissioner Madigan also states that the Friends event was fun. Commissioner Madigan would like to further talk about it in the next meeting but she feels that a discussion needs to happen about re-defining what the Commission is doing and how they can be the go between for the Board and the department as was intended in the creation of the Commission. She also reports that she has a new email: susanstablet@outlook.com. Lastly, Commissioner Madigan expresses her concerns with the way the Commission handled an item of correspondence in the March meeting that she was not present for. She feels very strongly that items of correspondence that are sent directly to the Commission be responded to by the Commission, especially in situations where the correspondence is emotionally charged.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. STAFF REFERRALS
2. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUB-COMMITTEE
3. FRIENDS OF THE KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS UPDATE

4. CITIZEN'S PATROL SUB COMMITTEE
5. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FREQUENCY OF FUTURE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSION MEETINGS

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSS THE IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN DOGS AS REQUESTED BY CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON

Motion to table Items G. Old Business and H. New Business until next month's meeting.
(*Geary/Taggart*) – All in favor.

I. ADJOURNMENT:


Motion to adjourn (*Geary/Taggart*) – All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

The next Animal Services Commission meeting is scheduled for:

May 17th, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Attest:



Janice Anderson
Chairman

**A full recording of the proceedings can be heard at http://www.co.kern.ca.us/acd/AAC_AS.aspx*