

Commission on Animal Care & Control
Minutes of January 19, 2023 Commission Meeting
Approved at the March 16, 2023 meeting

Commissioners Attending (8 of 9)

Cynthia Bathurst, Chair, private citizen
Tonette Duggar, Chicago Department of Streets & Sanitation Member
Ramona Griffin, private citizen
JB Bruederle, Veterinarian Member
Charleen Propsom, private citizen
Janna Kerins, Chicago Health Department Member
Paula Fasseas, Humane Society Member
Thomas Beazley, Lieutenant, Chicago Police Department Member

Commissioners Absent (1 of 9)

Heather Owen, private citizen

Also Attending

Mamadou Diakhate, Executive Director, CACC
Susan Cappello, Deputy Director, CACC
Arthur Hamilton, Shelter Manager, CACC
Angela Rayburn, Operations Manager, CACC
Armando Tejada, Executive Administrative Asst, CACC
Members of the public – via livestream

Agenda Item #1: Determination of Quorum and Call to Order

C. Bathurst performed roll call, determined a quorum and called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Agenda Item #2: Public Comment

Public Comment Requests are to be emailed to askcacc@cityofchicago.org in advance of the meeting.

K. Atwater – Her email to askcacc: current web page placed animals from CACC on the page for adoption or transfer. Make suggestions for less euthanasia. Include low-cost S/N, more funding for Veterinarians, create a low cost clinic. Dogs found on the south side, pit mixes, Petfinder and CACC transfer page and age. This screams as back yard breeders. Who is the best to contact to permit breeding and a hefty fine for breeding. Reward whistleblowers. Gain foster, volunteers, need more staff and trained volunteers. Potential adopters are turned away. Animals in cages getting worse. Reward volunteers as volunteer of the month. Who is the best person to email further comments and questions?

Agenda Item #3: Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes from the September 15, 2022 and the November 17, 2022 minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #4: Report of Chairperson

C. Bathurst thanked all Commissioners, welcomed CACC staff and those listening to the live stream of the meeting. C Bathurst reminded all commissioners of their role on the commission per the Municipal Code of Chicago. Her PowerPoint slides are attached to these minutes. C Bathurst requested that all Commissioners provide a paragraph or two within the next month for the annual report. She also asked the Commissioners if they reached out to their Police District to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Director

M. Diakhate acknowledged the public speaker Ms Atwater for her comments. Reported that the department has the top 5 goals for 2023: increase Community Outreach; remove barriers to pet ownership retention with diversion & resources and reunification efforts; review and recommend municipal code updates; diversify the volunteer program; continue advancing racial justice. S. Cappello reported on hiring & vacancies. A. Hamilton reported on statistics. A. Rayburn reported on field statistics, RTO in the field and diversion tracking. A. Tejada reported on the upcoming adoption event on January 21, 2023 and the role of the Executive Administrative Assistant and Public Relations tasks.

C Bathurst asked which staff manages the volunteers at CACC, S Cappello responded that the volunteers report to the Animal Placement Coordinators then the Shelter Manager and Deputy Director. R Griffin asked about vacancies and RTO in the field. C Bathurst asked what some diversion examples would be and how would you increase diversion. A Rayburn reported that CACC would provide food, medical and other resources. M Diakhate reported that, working with the University of Wisconsin, we will be going out to 2 communities in Chicago to see what they need from CACC. A Tejada reported that we are saying 'what can we do to help you keep your pet' instead of just taking the pet from the client. C Bathurst thanked the department for the report and reminded everyone that all statistics are available on the City's website along with recordings from previous meetings.

Agenda Item #6: City Agency Reports

- J. Kerins (Health) – In 2022 main issue was rabies and then avian influenza (lesser of an issue) with animals. COVID continues to be something that the Department deals with and they are aware of COVID cases within pets (dog and cat). On the Public Health side, recommend that people wear their masks if positive around both pets and others in the household. JB Bruederle reported that as a practitioner he never tested animals for COVID, always treated as respiratory.
- T. Duggar (Streets & Sanitation) – No report. Still actively using the two scanners that they were provided.
- T. Beazley (Police) – Someone at the Police Academy will be helping out on Commission-related matters. Each district and detective unit handle animal crimes as there is no Animal Crimes Team. Ask to speak to the Desk Sergeant if the Officer at the desk won't help with scanning animals at districts.

Agenda Item #7: Commissioner Reports

- R. Griffin – 105 animals adopted from the Bissell adoption event Dec 1-11, 2022 and 24 volunteers showed up to help at the event. Will focus on ways to keep families together and tracking reasons and ways to get animals into homes.
- H. Owen – No report. C. Bathurst reported that H. Owen brought up concerns about managed intake.
- C. Propsom – After Hours Crisis Program; 2022 67 critically injured or ill animals, spent \$162,000 on the program. Additionally, FCACC maintain 2 adoptions centers at Petsmart Stores, purchased a new washer and dryer for CACC, and working on additional chip scanners for CACC.
- P. Fasseas – PAWS Chicago (CACC's largest transfer partner) so far in 2023 transferred 163 animals; in 2022 PAWS transferred 1036 animals with goals to increase numbers. PAWS spay-neuter clinic is up to 5 days per week. PAWS will offer S/N to Rescues outside the city who pull from CACC.
- JB Bruederle – Clinics opening back up, vet field is understaffed everywhere. AVMA discussion about Vet and Tech schools talking about the Tech Manager position and the AVMA decided to go against that.
- C. Bathurst – No report due to time constraints.

Agenda Item #8: Other Business

Recommendation for an in-person meeting, possibly May 2023. P. Fasseas offered to use the PAWS Chicago S/N clinic Board Room for the July meeting.

Agenda Item #9: New Business

None.

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m. The next virtual meeting is March 16, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.