

**Commission on Animal Care & Control**  
**Minutes of March 17, 2022 Commission Meeting**  
**Approved at the May 19, 2022 meeting**

**Commissioners Attending (5 of 9)**

**Cynthia Bathurst, Chair, private citizen**

**Ramona Griffin, private citizen**

**Tonette Dugar, Chicago Department of Streets & Sanitation Member**

**Charleen Propsom, private citizen**

**Heather Owen, private citizen**

**Commissioners Absent (4 of 9)**

**JB Bruederle, Veterinarian Member**

**Paula Fasseas, Humane Society Member**

**Thomas Beazley, Lieutenant, Chicago Police Department Member**

**Janna Kerins, Chicago Health Department Member**

**Also Attending**

**Mamadou Diakhate, Executive Director, CACC**

**Susan Cappello, Deputy Director, CACC**

**Arthur Hamilton, Shelter Manager, CACC**

**Jennifer Schlueter, Executive Administrative Assistant, CACC**

**Angela Rayburn, Operations Manager, CACC**

**Doniella Felton, Staff Assistant, 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 8:40 a.m.

C. Bathurst sends condolences to Commissioner Paula Fasseas on the loss of her husband.

Announcement to appreciate an adoptable dog. Schlueter reported on Captain (Cat) & Daisy (Dog).

**Agenda Item #2: Public Comment**

Public Comment requests are to be emailed to [askcacc@cityofchicago.org](mailto:askcacc@cityofchicago.org) in advance of the meeting. None submitted and no requests for comments.

**Agenda Item #3: Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes from the March 17, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved by all in attendance.

**Agenda Item #4: Report of Chairperson**

Reported on the importance of comments to both the Department and Commission to

[askcacc@cityofchicago.org](mailto:askcacc@cityofchicago.org); asking all Commissioners to show participation on a special time to visit the department especially to the events and/or to schedule a special meet & greet with the Commissioners. The Commission is working on their annual report for the 2020 & 2021 years.

**Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Director**

ED reviewed the previously submitted report. In 2022 we are doing well and about to launch a self booking system for adoptions to provide an easier and better process and to ease the transition to walk in adoptions with a goal of May; next fee waived walk-in adoption event this upcoming weekend; partners still helping with robust transfers and keeping us above the 90% live release rate. ED Diakhate reviewed statistical numbers for shelter

and field – all numbers are available on the website: [www.chicago.gov](http://www.chicago.gov). ED Diakhate also reviewed the vacancy report to include the Animal Control Inspector recently vacated by Allen Holcomb after almost 49 years of service to Chicago. A special thank you to the Commission and the Rescues who help us out daily. C Bathurst asked where can the wildlife plan be found?

[https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cacc/PDFFiles/FINAL\\_CHICAGO\\_WILDLIFE\\_Management\\_&\\_Coexistence\\_plan2021.pdf](https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cacc/PDFFiles/FINAL_CHICAGO_WILDLIFE_Management_&_Coexistence_plan2021.pdf)

J Schlueter reported on the Volunteer program, 112 attended the Information session, 61 sent in their information to continue, 15 cleared the fingerprint process and awaiting approval from DHR. J Schlueter also reported on the upcoming weekend event and will provide rainchecks for the waived fee. Staff and volunteer training has started on the new adoption screening process with a self booking system to start on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

ED Diakhate reported that CACC meets with the Mayors Office weekly to report on what is happening at CACC.

C Bathurst asked if SM Hamilton had any specific things that should be noted in the Stats? A. Hamilton seeing more stray animals in 2022 and wildlife is down but we have seen more small animals, guinea pigs/rabbits/etc. coming in. C. Bathurst asked CACC if there is anything that the Commission can do to help? A. Hamilton responded to spread the word on adoptions at CACC.

A Hamilton reported on staffing for cleaning and the WSHA program.

R. Griffin asked if there has been an increase of any hoarding cases? A Rayburn responded that there is no way to actually track what a hoarding case is, but we don't have a tracking mechanism for this. C Bathurst shared that the court system relies on State Law and in Illinois, hoarding is not a violation to be charged but a finding of the court associated with a defendant. it is about the amount and quality of care to animals (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1717&ChapterID=41>). M Diakhate reported that hoarding is usually a mental health issue. R Griffin responded that it's a multi inter agency process. C Propsom asked what happens with the animals in these cases. M Diakhate reported that CACC works with other agencies to transfer the animals. A Rayburn reported that many partners will help CACC on site at the hoarding case location so that some animals do not come to CACC.

A Rayburn added that CACC can use the help from the Commission to look into how to help people who need additional help to keep pets in their homes.

#### **Agenda Item #6: City Agency Reports**

- T. Dugar (Streets & Sanitation) – nothing new to report. C Bathurst thanked S&S for the work that they do.
- J. Kerins (Health) – No report.
- T. Beazley (Police) – No report. C Bathurst reported that there is work being done to provide training to CPD.

#### **Agenda Item #7: Commissioner Reports**

- JB. Bruederle – No report.
- C. Propsom – Reported on the FCACC After Hours Care Program and is looking for fosters for this program; FCACC has hired an employee to help with CACC's volunteer efforts; added to the idea of education on cruelty.
- R. Griffin – asked about the volunteer process, what does it mean to go through the interview process? J Schlueter reported that this is a meeting just to meet with the candidates, get their interests, what they are looking to do in the department. R Griffin reported that she will be at the adoption event this weekend and asked if CACC had any dogs around 30-35 pounds. J Schlueter responded that new dogs

come in daily.

- H. Owen – Continuing the CRISP program with CACC and staff is still funneling people to CRISP. OTAT is happy to be supportive of taking big dogs from CACC but are struggling with foster and adoption.
- C. Bathurst – Reported on Safe Humane Chicago programs: a new program called Safe Humane PALs that continues to support dogs associated with criminal court cases but includes other CACC dogs for participating in programs with the community; includes an assessment procedure and a new class C.L.A.S.S. (Canine Life and Social Skills) to provide certifications to dogs; continuing programs with other organizations such as Instituto Justice & Leadership Academy and the Y's Youth Safety & Violence Prevention (YSVP) program as well as corporate volunteer days; reported on 6-year-long Safe Humane Court Advocacy effort associated with murder of Robert Howard Jr from the V.A.L.O.R. program whose dog Apollo adopted from CACC was re-adopted.
- P. Fasseas – No report.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Other Business**

Recommending a commendation and well wishes to Allen Holcomb on behalf his service to Chicago and animals of Chicago. R Griffin congratulations to Holcomb for his number of years and history of the department – thank you for your service. CBathurst will draft the resolution.

#### **Agenda Item #9: New Business**

None.

#### **Agenda Item #10: Adjournment**

Meetings will continue to be virtual. Meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m. The next virtual meeting is May 19, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.