

Commission on Animal Care & Control
Minutes of March 16, 2023, Commission Meeting
Reviewed and approved at the May 18, 2023, meeting

Commissioners Attending (5 of 9)

Cynthia Bathurst, Chair, private citizen
Ramona Griffin, private citizen
Heather Owen, private citizen
Charleen Propsom, private citizen
Michelle Funk, Chicago Health Department Member

Commissioners Absent (3 of 9)

Josie Cruz, Chicago Department of Streets & Sanitation Member
Paula Fasseas, Humane Society Member
Thomas Beazley, Lieutenant, Chicago Police Department Member

Commissioners Vacant (1 of 9)

VACANT - Veterinarian Member

Also Attending

Susan Cappello, Acting Executive 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 8:32 a.m.

Agenda Item #2: Public Comment

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

J. Jurcak: CACC is a taxpayer shelter and should be fair equal treatment to all animals, dogs in the Safe Humane program need to be transferred and in a foster. Not a fan of animals in cages. This is inhumane to animals. Applaud CACC for everything they do.

S. Cappello relayed an email from C. Purtell regarding spay/neuter contest hearings under 7-12.

Agenda Item #3: Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes from the January 19, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Report of Chairperson

C. Bathurst reported that the May 18th meeting will be in person at Chicago Animal Care and Control with a tour and will also be live streamed for the public. Microchip scanners have been counted at all Chicago Police stations thanks to the help of the Animal Control Officers. Every district has at least one working scanner. We are working on obtaining additional scanners so each district has 2 scanners. Lt Beazley from CPD reached out regarding obtaining catch poles for the SWAT Team and Safe Humane purchased them. C. Bathurst reviewed data available on the CACC website to bring up concerns regarding the data, managed intake, intake and outcome numbers and live release percentages. Shared charts produced by Ed Wang (long time CACC Volunteer)

from those numbers. R. Griffin asked if we are tracking where the Stray intake numbers are coming from. S Cappello responded that these are tracked through intake in Chameleon and the calls on stray animals in 311.

Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Director

S. Cappello thanked everyone for attending. As of May 11, 2023, the Illinois Public Health Emergency will end which means we will be back to in person meetings for our May 18th Commission meeting. Members of public bodies will still be permitted to attend a public meeting remotely pursuant to the pre-pandemic rules. Under the following provisions, a member of a public body may attend a public meeting remotely (1) in accordance with the rules adopted by the public body; (2) if a quorum of the members of the public body is physically present; and (3) if the reason that the public official cannot physically attend is because of personal illness or disability, employment purposes, or a family or other emergency. We will still provide a virtual platform to allow the public to view and participate in the meetings remotely, but Commissioners and CACC Staff will meet in person on May 18th at CACC. S. Cappello reported on the CACC website and new buttons, recent media attention on goats impounded at CACC; Doggie Day Out program, volunteer program, Rescue Open House, and vacancy/hiring report. A Hamilton reported on stats. A Rayburn reported on field service numbers and the scanner project. C Bathurst reported on talking about the CPD Animal Crimes Team. A Tejada reported on upcoming events (fee waived adoptions and upcoming vaccine and microchip clinics), with special thanks to Commissioner Griffin and the volunteers who stepped up to help with the adoption events.

Agenda Item #6: City Agency Reports

- M. Funk (Health) – No specific updates. COVID continues to be something that the Department deals with. Recommend that if you do test positive, please mask up and follow isolation guidelines.
- J. Cruz (Streets & Sanitation) – No report.
- T. Beazley (Police) - No report.

Agenda Item #7: Commissioner Reports

- R. Griffin – Invited all Commissioners to the upcoming adoption event. Question on scanners at CPD.
- H. Owen – CRISP was virtual for the past two years and recently returned to the shelter on Saturdays only, providing owner support, medical support, or networking support. Groups in CRISP are One Tail at a Time, Alive Rescue, Mutts of the Midway and Second City Canine Rescue.
- C. Propsom – After Hours Crisis Program has been the focus of FCACC with 3 recent cases. FCACC is pleading for foster homes.
- P. Fasseas – No report.
- C. Bathurst – Safe Humane and Friends of CACC split the cost of test kits for CACC’s medical division. Safe Humane continues to run programs at CACC: PALs program, manners, skills, corporate volunteer events, and Lifetime Bonds with the Illinois Youth Center Chicago. Safe Humane provides additional support to the dogs in these programs.

Agenda Item #8: Other Business

None.

Agenda Item #9: New Business

None.

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m. The next meeting is May 18, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in person in the Auditorium at Chicago Animal Care and Control, 2741 South Western Ave., Chicago.