

San Francisco Commission of Animal Control & Welfare Meeting Minutes April 14, 2022

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Jane Tobin, Michael Angelo Torres, Annemarie Fortier, Irina Ozernoy, Brian Van Horn, DVM, Iris Chan, Nina Irani, Shari O'Neill, DVM/ACC

Absent: Christopher Campbell, SF RPD, Officer Joe Majeski SFPD

2. General Public Comment - No public comment

3. Approval of Draft Minutes from the March 10, Meeting - Approved with a minor edit to date.

4. Chairperson's and Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Irani updated the commission on the State Legislation Committee to support our Plant-Based Meals and Milk Bill and sent it to State Senate for consideration. Hopefully, it will be passed and become law later this year.
- Commissioner Irani also noted the Agriculture Bill /Smart Climate Agriculture Program unfortunately the state assembly member who proposed it will not be putting it forward this year but the State Legislative Committee is open to hearing about it or similar bills in the future.
- Commissioner Irani also thanked Commissioner Chan for her work on the proposals and Chairperson Torres for attending the State Legislation Committee meeting.

5. New Business

Mothers Building, Brian Stokle, Planner, Planning and Capital Division at SF Rec and Park, Richard Rothman, photograph and mural preservationist, Commissioner Tobin - Animal Commission

- Brian Stokle and Jane Tobin presented a series of ideas for the proposed use of the Mothers Building. The Mothers Building located on San Francisco Zoo property is a historic building built in 1924 and updated in the 1930s with funding from the WPA to include murals and mosaics by women artists. The goal is to support the Zoo's mission of conservation action. Restoring this building ties into additional planned development and conservation action goals along the Great Highway. Richard Rothman shared the historic significance of the building and the women artists that created the murals and mosaics.

Supervisors Melgar and Mar are working to secure funding for an economic feasibility study for the ideas presented and also recommending designating the Mothers Building a San Francisco landmark to the full Board of Supervisors in April. Questions from commissioners included the fundraising for the building which will be part of the economic feasibility analysis. Another question involved security during nighttime events. Secure fencing needs to comply with USDA guidelines for the safety of the animals and the public.

6. Old Business

Reporting from Animal Care & Control [Commissioner Torres and Dr. Shari O'Neill]

Shelter Animal Stats -Dr. O'Neill provided the number of animals at the shelter and in foster care.

Update distemper - Fish and Wildlife captured two skunks, both tested negative for rabies but positive for canine distemper. This continues to be a concern.

ACO hiring progress - New Animal Care Attendant trainee was hired. Also, a new Animal Care Officer trainee was hired. Hiring is slow and restructuring will need to happen shortly as Office Sadler resigned and Captain Corso will be on maternity leave beginning in the summer.

Emergency After Hours Contract update - In process with one with the hope of a contract by May 1. A second contract is also in process.

Live Rescue Show - The reality show that featured SF ACC is coming back for filming in May to create a "sizzle reel" to shop and ACO-centered show. The Board of Supervisors approved.

Happy Hour with Cat Volunteers - new ideas shared back and forth between staff and volunteers. Commissioner Irani had questions about the cat policy change from a couple of years back and the status of the policy. What is the impact of the policy? Dr. O'Neill shared that the pandemic makes comparing numbers challenging but that this policy is the trend nationwide.

Commissioner Ozernoy asked about language and links on "What to do if...."
Dr. O'Neill said new resources for cats/kittens and wildlife should be up on the website within a week.

7. Commission Governance - Commissioner Torres

- Seats 1, 2, and 7 are coming to term. Hearing for re-appointment on Monday.
- Meetings continue to be held remotely. The Commission will be given 2 months' notice about resuming in person. Commission will vote in May for approval of the continuation of remote meetings.
- The website is being transitioned to a new website by IT to adhere to new guidelines. Commissioners may create profile pages. Template coming soon.

8. Items to be put on the Agenda for Future Commission Meetings

The next meeting is on Thursday, May 12. Yqgdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue (YUWR) will present. January-March 2022 quarterly reports. ACC Shelter report

9. Adjournment - approximately 7 p.m.