

# **MINUTES**

**South Pasadena Animal Commission (SPAC)  
1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030**

**Monday, September 9, 2019 :: Emergency Operating Center of SPPD – 6:30 pm**

## **South Pasadena Animal Commission**

**In attendance: Elisabeth Emerhanian (Chair), Erin Fleming (Vice-Chair)  
Katherine Offenhauser, Jason Rosner, and Evie Porter**

**City Councilmember Dr. Richard Schneider, Council Liaison (present)  
Acting Police Captain Tom Jacobs, Staff Liaison (present)**

**Public in Attendance: Schlomo Nitzani**

### **1) MINUTES from June 3, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM. Katherine Offenhauser moved to approve June 3, 2019 Minutes as written. Jason Rosner seconded. Minutes were approved by 4 yea and 1 abstention.

### **2) LIAISON REPORTS/COMMENTS**

- a. Staff Liaison Report :: Council is not moving forward with the expansion ordinance on the ban of sale of live animals due to priorities taking Council's time at present. Once priorities are cleared, we can feel free to resubmit to Council in 2020.
- b. Council Liaison Report :: Dr. Schneider was unaware of the ordinance not moving forward and will be looking into it.

### **3) PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Public comment :: No Comments

### **4) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- a. Introduction of Evie Porter as a new Commissioner on SPAC. She has always loved animals and is new to the area. She met Erin Fleming at the South Pawsadena Dog Park and decided to apply to be involved in something she is passionate about — animals.

Tom Jacobs encouraged Mrs. Rose to contact the police department about the location of the den. PHS has been the city's resource on coyotes. They log and tack locations. They can trap and relocate coyotes if needed. The best course of action is to let SPPD know and they'll assess the situation.

#### **4) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Erin Fleming thinks it's great the city is opening up the meeting to citizens in city hall and that recordings of the meeting will be accessible.

#### **5) DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. New Member Responsibilities -** Defer to February 3rd meeting since only three commissioners are sworn in at this time.
- B. Peafowl**

Tom Jacobs with Peafowl report - several comments placed into the 2019 annual report that will be presented in the commissioner congress. This includes adding peafowl into the education process through public forums (Feb 20th & June 9th) and distributing flyers to the community about peafowl.

Annual report - city ordinance revisions - SIGNAGE - could be a consideration. In order to get signage about peafowl feeding restrictions, the commission needs to address the fiscal responsibility of designing and creating signs as well as determine a location with a site survey. This will require assistance from the city attorney. At this time, the city ordinance does not have any verbiage in the municipal code restricting the feeding of peafowl. And there is no fine attached. An amendment or new ordinance must be added to the municipal code to restrict peafowl feeding and add a fine. At this time, the municipal code only restricts the feeding of coyotes and the fine is \$25.

Erin Fleming asked Tom Jacobs if it's possible to attach peafowl to the existing coyote ordinance. Tom Jacobs notes this is not a possibility.

Erin Fleming asked whether a study/site survey and writing an ordinance can happen concurrently? Tom says it the cost of signage and placement has to be determined. This can happen simultaneously but it won't necessarily speed up the process. .

Katherine Offenhauser asked if there is a short-cut or workaround. She believes a \$25 fine isn't enough. If neighbors create and sign a petition in the affected area and bring it to city council will it help?

Erin Fleming suggested another educational meeting and the possibility of sending flyers to Monterey schools?

Erin Fleming referred to the November meeting. The police chief said they would increase presence where there were traffic issues. Did this occur?

Tom Jacobs confirmed this was the case, but he doesn't have the exact details.

Eavie Porter asked if it's possible to have signage that says wildlife vs. coyotes and that fines may apply. Erin Fleming said any potential signs need to indicate the danger of peafowl & coyotes.

Katherine Offenhauser reiterated the fines should be posted and more than \$25.

Erin Fleming confirmed the commission needs to contact the city for requirements on signage study. This will include contacting the city clerk and the department of public works down the line. Katherine Offenhauser moved that the animal commission contact the city to discover requirements to implement the sign process. Eavie Porter 2nd. Unanimous agreement.

Erin Fleming will contact the city clerk before the next meeting.

Peafowl 2) Motion to create an ordinance banning the feeding of peafowl + fine attached?

Tom Jacobs suggested the commission get feedback and legal advice from the city attorney on how the ordinance could be applied/enforcement of it. The commission can send a letter to the city attorney indicating concerns about peafowl being fed, the possibility of creating an ordinance, signage, fine. etc.

Eavie Porter motioned to contact city attorney as the "animal commission" to address this peafowl issue. Tom Jacobs suggested penning a letter and bringing to the next meeting. Each commission member will put together a letter with thoughts so they can send a collective email to the city attorney the 1st week of February.

#### **More public comments from John Hagland**

John Hagland notes Arcadia has a \$1000 fine for peafowl feeding. He questioned the value signage with no backbone while recognizing it could take years to pass an ordinance. Is there an option to create social guilt with signage in addition to educational flyers and meetings?

Erin Fleming suggested getting publicity for the educational meeting about feeding peafowl since relocating peafowl is not a legal option at the moment.

The commission wondered how often is someone is cited in Arcadia for feeding peacocks? It's important to note an individual has to be caught in the act of feeding a peafowl by a police officer to be sighted.

Katherine Offenhauser suggested trying to determine which neighbors are feeding peafowl by seeing who refuses to sign a petition banning the practice. John Hagland says he knows the neighbor that does it and has asked them to stop. The primary issue is drivers who stop to their cars to feed them. His primary concern is this traffic issue an drivers feeding the flocks.

Erin Fleming thinks the ordinance would take at least a year.

Commissioners discussed moving forward with signage survey.

#### **C. Public Forum Events**

Feb 20th & June 9th are locked in for public forums in the community room. Both meetings will be 90 minutes. Tom Jacobs advised the commission to have an agenda for these forums/programs. The first will be public education on coyotes & peafowl. Between now & Feb. 3rd - create syllabus & contact PHS to help with the program. The commission also needs to arrange a speaker with PHS (1/2 hour presentation) This event should Include flyers, public comments, informal reaction to this discussion.

Who would like to spearhead the speaker series? Need an agenda and a speaker

Coexisting with wildlife - - Backup plan would be PETA/ Department of Fish and Game

Jason Rosner: Without killing the peafowl, who would take them? Essentially the trapper negotiates the fee based on rehoming, typically in Tehachapi. Dr. Schneider: Why not just cover your car? The damage has been done and covers are utilized but Mr. Nitzani stated it isn't reasonable to have a cove to fit every car for your guests that come to your home. Betty Emirhanian: We need to examine why people are feeding wildlife and remove those resources. Erin Fleming: We need to expand educational outreach and our web site and SPAC needs to examine the complete Rancho Palos Verdes and La Canada Flintridge ordinances so we can identify alternative solutions to trapping.

Betty Emirhanian moved to obtain materials needed to research the issue and solutions in depth and reagenda to next meeting. Jason Rosner seconded the motion. Commissioners unanimously voted to pass the motion.

Tom Jacobs stated that there is a staff report on peafowl and the cost for our much smaller population than Rancho Palos Verdes was in excess of \$30,000 at the time of the report. Presently, there is a quarantine on moving any/all birds in Los Angeles County. It may not even be possible at this time. Agrees with expanding educational outreach and updating our SPAC web site with peafowl information.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Tom Jacobs will 1.) distribute the complete La Canada Flintridge ordinance to commissioners and 2.) update the SPAC web site.

- b) Spay/Neuter Ordinance ::** Betty Emirhanian and Erin Fleming discussed that, while this is an important ordinance to take a stand on over-population of pets, they felt it was best to table the issue due to Council's present overload.

Erin Fleming moved that SPAC's work on the Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance for Dogs and Cats be tabled for 6 months or until City Council would have the time to hear the issue. Betty Emirhanian seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor of tabling further work on the ordinance.

Jason Rosner wanted to acknowledge SPAC for the 2 years of work done on the expansion ordinance.

- c) Next Door/Social Media/Info To Public ::** In reviewing what a Commissioner can post on Next Door or other social media regarding issues related to their commission, the information is limited to posting as an open invitation. Evie Porter commented that replying on Next Door is a lot like "feeding the internet animal" and felt that it's best to avoid as a general rule anyway.

**ACTION ITEM:** Betty Emirhanian will email John Pope, the city's Public Information

**South Pasadena Bites Back and Urban Wildlife Program**  
We had great attendance at both events.

**6) PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS for SPAC meeting on November 3, 2019**

- Peafowl
- BKTA
- Debrief of Police & Fire Open House

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment was moved by Erin Fleming and seconded by Jason Rosner at 8:51 PM

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3/2/20  
03/02/2020