

Commission on Animal Care & Control
Minutes of September 28, 2023, Commission Meeting
Approved at the November 16, 2023 meeting

Commissioners Attending (7 of 9)

Cynthia Bathurst, Chair, private citizen
Ramona Griffin, private citizen
Tonette Dugar, Department of Streets & Sanitation (virtual)
Dr. Janna Kerins, Chicago Health Department Member
Paula Fasseas, Humane Society Member (virtual)
Thomas Beazley, Lieutenant, Chicago Police Department Member
Charleen Propsom, private citizen

Commissioners Absent (1 of 9)

Heather Owen, private citizen

Commissioners Vacant (1 of 9)

VACANT - Veterinarian Member

Also Attending

Susan Cappello, Acting Executive Director, CACC
Armando Tejada, Executive Administrative Assistant II, CACC
Angela Rayburn, Operations Manager, CACC
Arthur Hamilton, Shelter Manager, 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 8:45 a.m.

Agenda Item #2: Public Comment

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

- Ms. K. Fanning reported that in July her dog was attacked and killed by a neighbor's dog and had to go through the Dangerous Dog investigation. Spoke with two staff members who told her that Dangerous Dogs are not removed or euthanized with one staff member telling her that she would need to 'change City law for that to happen' and a supervisor told her that management 'doesn't like to do that' and therefore it is no longer done in spite of City law. Question is: what training does CACC staff get regarding dangerous dog laws seeming that they don't know what the City empowers them to do and what instruction are they receiving from management about enforcing these laws?
- M. Diakhate throws his support behind Chicago Animal Care and Control and Sue Cappello. Rely on your great network of volunteers, rescues and Commissioners and work together. Sit down and talk for the benefit of pets and come up with some ideas. If we don't work together, the only ones who will suffer are the pets.

Agenda Item #3: Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes from the July 20, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Report of Chairperson

C. Bathurst reported that we have special guests today to speak under New Business. C. Bathurst congratulated Chicago Police Department Superintendent Snelling on his appointment and congratulated R. Griffin for her award from the CARE Conference as the first Changemaker of the Year. C. Bathurst reported that every Police District has at least one microchip scanner and working on additional scanners for Fire Stations; training for Police, Prosecutors and Judges regarding animal related issues; a draft Commission Annual Report should be ready at the November 16th meeting reporting on the initiatives by the Commissioners. C. Bathurst began looking at intake statistics for CACC and created a heat map.

Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Director

S. Cappello reported on construction at CACC, shelter population, doggie day outs, promotion at a recent parade, more dogs at CACC being altered due to help from PAWS Chicago, Dogs Playing for Life back at CACC, budget hearing in October and hiring at CACC. A. Tejada reported on events at CACC: August had 7 cats and 5 dogs adopted and September had 15 cats and 15 dogs; clinics are set to wrap up in October but serviced 1829 pets at clinics; participation in Mexican Independence Day Parade; 3 media interviews regarding population, social media misinformation and intakes at the shelter as intakes are coming in at over 35 per day (alert regarding social media misinformation is attached). A. Rayburn reported on field stats (available on the website) and field vehicles; hoarding location with cats and thanks to PAWS Chicago for clearing out one cat room so we had space for the incoming cats. C. Bathurst thanked A. Rayburn for staying on top of the court cases. A. Hamilton reported on July/August stats.

Agenda Item #6: City Agency Reports

- J. Kerins (Health) – nothing to report.
- T. Duggar (Streets & Sanitation) – reported that they are working with 3 scanners for DOA animals.
- T. Beazley (Police) – reported on animal bite report issues, use of the chip readers and a reminder about construction at CACC.

Agenda Item #7: Commissioner Reports

- R. Griffin – Reported on reaching out to the rescue partners who are not pulling as much and what support they need to get them back in to CACC.
- H. Owen – No Report.
- C. Propsom – Reported on Friends of Chicago Animal Care and Control continuing with the After Hours Program with an average of 75 animals to MedVet annually at about \$175,000 annually, reported on Big Night on October 19th.
- P. Fasseas – PAWS Chicago is doing more with CACC including looking into numbers, PAWS not taking any transports from out of Chicago to focus on helping CACC; PAWS is helping with more spay/neuter for CACC; looking to partner in the Austin community, especially with spay/neuter.
- C. Bathurst – deferred to leave time for the guest presentation

Agenda Item #8: Other Business

Chicagoland Humane Coalition (Lydia Krupinski & Raissa Allaire) presented the group's mission, vision and key values from the website; announced the current members of the coalition; reported on key initiatives. R. Griffin asked for 5 minutes for questions:

Q. Where do funds go from the sales of merchandise?

A. The funds are collected through a Coalition member and then held in a restricted fund for the Coalition projects through Tree House. Tree House acts as the fiscal sponsor for the Coalition.

Q. Do any of the funds or resources go back to CACC?

A. All resources are available to any coalition member. CACC has access to any and all resources provided by the Coalition, as do all members. The Coalition communicates the availability of these resources at meetings

and via email, allowing all groups access to various items. Groups may indicate an interest in a resource when it is made available.

- Q. Who brought the concept behind the letter that went to the Mayor regarding the Executive Director position?
- A. The letter is to provide a focus to the Mayor on the issues that are going on in the Animal Welfare field in Chicago and nationwide. There were members who recused themselves from the vote and did not want their organizations on the letter.

In response to R. Griffin's wondering if someone from the Commission signed on the letter, C. Bathurst stated for the record that, as a member of the Commission, she and S. Cappello recused themselves from the letter and conversation.

Agenda Item #9: New Business

None.

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m. The next meeting is November 16, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in person with the location to be determined.