

**Commission on Animal Care & Control**  
**Minutes of April 11, 2024 Commission Meeting**  
**Approved at the May 23, 2024, meeting**

**Commissioners Attending (7 of 9)**

Cynthia Bathurst, Chair, private citizen  
Ramona Griffin, private citizen  
Vincente Sanchez, Department of Streets & Sanitation  
Charleen Propsom, private citizen  
Heather Owen, private citizen  
Dr. Janna Kerins, Chicago Health Department Member  
Thomas Beazley, Lieutenant, Chicago Police Department Member

**Commissioners Absent (1 of 9)**

Paula Fasseas, Humane Society Member

**Commissioners Vacant (1 of 9)**

VACANT - Veterinarian Member

**Also Attending**

Susan Cappello, Acting Executive Director, CACC  
Angela Rayburn, Operations Manager, CACC  
Armando Tejada, Executive Administrative Assistant, 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 8:32 a.m.

**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.

- Darlene Pereda – As lifesaving is a priority in Chicago, asked to have a report on the PAWS program at CACC.

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

The minutes from the January 18, 2024, minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

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

C. Bathurst reported on the annual report and is looking forward to the re-opening of the lobby and auditorium. It is essential to provide training for Law Enforcement, judges and Cook County State Attorneys for animal cases in the court system. C. Bathurst commented that it is outrageous to leave animal cruelty cases sitting in the shelter. C. Bathurst thanked A. Tejada for sending out communications out to the Commission. C. Bathurst reported that she would like to bring in speakers from organizations who impact animal control. S. Cappello asked about recording training sessions for States Attorneys which turn over regularly. C. Bathurst responded that CACC is working on flow charts for them to refer to.

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

S. Cappello reported on construction at CACC which is scheduled to end soon. CACC is hoping for a re-opening the weekend of April 27<sup>th</sup> with the help from Friends for refreshments. CACC is continuing a partnership with Chicago Public Schools with school fairs and an event with Kenwood Academy on April 26<sup>th</sup>. CACC is continuing a partnership with PAWS Chicago for spay/neuter of large dogs and the PAWS360 program for diversion. CACC is preparing to open Doggie Day Outs to the public in May 2024. CACC is working with Heather from OTAT regarding a revised CRISP program to help return to owner projects. CACC has six Mayoral Initiatives: Increasing Diversity in the CACC Volunteer Program, Keeping Pets in their Homes with Return to Owner, Revise Departmental Policies, Develop a Process to Gather Feedback from Clients (flier in the minutes), Community Involvement on Pet Care and Wildlife Co-Existence, Working with Communities on Dog Parks and Other Pet Services. Hiring is moving forward with the current vacancies.

A. Tejada reported on events. 17 vaccine clinics scheduled for 2024 so far, adoption events going strong, Kenwood Academy is hosting a Pet Fair on April 26<sup>th</sup> with Alderman Robinson, engaging posts/townhalls/successful adoption stories will be on social media, CACC will be on the digital network, newsletters going out, and CACC had several TV news appearances.

A. Rayburn reported on field service calls. CACC is also looking at efficiencies, scheduling, safety and call volume. Reported on a large scale animal case taking in 50 animals from the location. C. Bathurst asked for a brief overview of how to make a call. A. Rayburn responded that CACC will be doing a townhall on this, residents call 311 to enter the report. Many of these reports come in as anonymous and we ask to please give contact information, personal information is not given to anyone. S. Cappello added that all of the service request codes are listed under field services with a brief description of each code. C. Propsom asked if CACC has enough equipment for field services. A. Rayburn responded that our calls are on a bell curve, most calls come in from 11a-6p so CACC changed the staffing to have more officers on the streets during the times we get most calls.

A. Hamilton reported on volunteer numbers, Doggie Day Out numbers, Homeward Bound Partner numbers, and shelter stats for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2024 (available on the website). C. Bathurst asked if we will see an impact from the PAWS360 program. A. Hamilton responded that it may take some time to see an impact. Return to owner in the field helps keep animals out of the shelter. A. Hamilton sent a special thanks to the volunteers who are helping the cruelty case dogs enriched during the time at the shelter. C. Bathurst joined in that thanks. C. Bathurst also reported on the project of calling the Homeward Bound Groups to see what else they need from CACC.

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

- J. Kerins (Health) – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has outbreaks in wild birds and poultry farms in addition to cases in livestock in cattle and goats and possibly in cats (nothing in shelters but will continue to monitor). USDA website will have best information.
- V. Sanchez (Streets & Sanitation) – Streets and Sanitation now has a column to mark if a scanned animal has a microchip. Chipped DOA animals are reported to CACC for notification or reunification.
- T. Beazley (Police) – CPD is preparing for the Democratic National Convention by hosting many K9 units from across the country in Chicago. DNC is August 12-22. C. Bathurst asked if there is any movement for CPD to go toward getting an Animal Crimes Team.

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

- R. Griffin – Special Thank you to all the volunteers for stepping up to get to the shelter, looking for more consistent communication with the volunteers, great news for Doggie Day Out, and need to talk about Doggie Over Nights. Asked what is the official page? A. Tejada responded that the only official page is Chicago Animal Care and Control. R. Griffin would like to get Microchip Hunters on the schedule to speak at the Commission meeting.
- H. Owen – One Tail at a Time is continuing to take in animals from the shelter, appreciate the work of the Facebook page from the Transfer Team with great photos. Recommend that a regular email go out

to all Homeward Bound Rescues regarding updates and notices of urgent cases. Large dog adoptions are down and slower. Plea to the public to adopt or foster to help with large dogs. CRISP is looking forward to help reunite lost pets with their owner. Large scale vaccine and microchip clinic coming up soon. Thank CACC for all the hard work they are doing. CRISP is still having trouble with the PAWS360 program continuing to get referrals from CACC, volunteers and members of the public who need help. There will be a meeting with PAWS to see where CRISP can help and will invite CACC to this meeting.

- C. Propsom – The After Hours Program has been in effect for about 4 years now and has been slow over the last few months. Friends will be doing more adoption events with the warm weather.
- C. Bathurst – Happy to see how many of us are working together.

**Agenda Item #8: Other Business**

None

**Agenda Item #9: New Business**

None

**Agenda Item #10: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m. The next meeting is May 16, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in person with the location to be determined.