

Commission on Animal Care & Control
Minutes of November 16, 2023, Commission Meeting
Approved at the January 18, 2024, meeting

Commissioners Attending (8 of 9)

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

Commissioners Absent (0 of 9)

None

Commissioners Vacant (1 of 9)

VACANT - Veterinarian Member

Also Attending

Susan Cappello, Acting Executive Director, 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.

- None.

Agenda Item #3: Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes from the September 28, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Report of Chairperson

C. Bathurst thanked the 9th Police District for allowing us to use their Community Room. C. Bathurst thanked everyone for coming to the meetings. The recordings from the Commission Meetings are on the City's website and the visitors at the September meeting from the Chicagoland Humane Coalition will be submitting a written report regarding the conversation soon. Reported on the Annual Report for the Commission and asked all Commissioners for a brief paragraph on what the Commissioners did in 2023. The Commission is looking for a Veterinarian. C. Bathurst and R. Griffin have been working on a project contacting all the Rescue Groups (approx. 120) asking them what can be done to help them transfer more animals. C. Bathurst received additional microchip scanners for the Chicago Fire Department locations. J. Kerins offered to send out a paragraph to the CVMA to look for a Veterinarian for the Commission.

Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Director

S. Cappello reported on construction at CACC, vacancies, continuing spay/neuter partnership with PAWS Chicago, statistics (C. Bathurst asked about the difference between Live Release Rate and Save Rate), City Departments signing up to be group volunteers, vaccine clinics serviced over 2289 pets with core vaccines and microchips, adoption events and media coverage. C. Bathurst reported that Safe Humane will be bringing a small group to CACC to give Busy Bones and Blankets to the animals on Christmas Eve. A. Rayburn reported that service calls are up from 2022, vehicles now have GPS trackers per Fleet Management and LEASH UP CHICAGO campaign with ads on the bus tails focusing on the importance of leashing your dog CACC distributed free leashes and collars (thanks to Rescue Chicago for the donation) to Chicago residents in areas where we get most of service calls (Austin, Roseland & West Lawn). A. Hamilton reported on departmental statistics (available on the website), doggie day out, number of volunteers and number of active transfer partners.

Agenda Item #6: City Agency Reports

- J. Kerins (Health) – CDPH is working on a public facing website with mapping regarding rabies, had a discussion about rabies.
- T. Duggar (Streets & Sanitation) – S&S is working with 3 scanners for DOA animals for the 3 trucks on the street, S&S is also picking up bats and submitting them for rabies testing.
- T. Beazley (Police) – reported that he will send out a reminder that CACC is still under construction, goal is to be a liaison with the CACC and the Police Department. A. Rayburn asked if the notice went out to districts reminding them of the green cards to report a bite and that they can do bite reports at the districts in addition to call back. T. Beazley said the letter went out.

Agenda Item #7: Commissioner Reports

- R. Griffin – reported on the pavilion out/agility/nosework with volunteers.
- H. Owen – reported on CRISP Program with One Tail at a Time, Alive Rescue, Second City and Mutts of the Midway. CRISP is at the shelter one day a week but referrals are coming through from staff, most help through CRISP is with veterinary care, helped over 200 pet owners in 2023 and only accept CACC referrals. Intake at CACC is difficult with long wait times for stray intake and inconsistency on services available, working on a new proposal with CACC so that CRISP would be available at the shelter 7 days per week, thanks to CACC for allowing OTAT to bring in foster families to CACC to pick a pet. Asking CACC to look at intake vaccine policies and to asking CACC and the Commission to look at owner requested euthanasia requests and procedures.
- C. Propsom – Reported on Friends of Chicago Animal Care and Control Big Night fundraiser, after hours care program, working with pet stores for cat adoptions and the storage unit at CACC.
- C. Bathurst – Reported on initiatives to work on programs at CACC and stay connected with the Court Advocates.

Agenda Item #8: Other Business

None

Agenda Item #9: New Business

Establish the 2024 meeting dates:

- January 18, 2024 / March 21, 2024 / May16, 2024 / July 18, 2024 / September 19, 2024 / November 21, 2024

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting is January 18, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in person with the location to be determined.