

Commission on Animal Care & Control
Minutes of January 18, 2024 Commission Meeting
Approved at the April 11, 2024, meeting

Commissioners Attending (8 of 9)

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

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
Armando Tejada, Executive Administrative Assistant, CACC
Arthur Hamilton, Shelter Manager, CACC
Kristina Rosinia, COO, PAWS Chicago
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 8:30 a.m.

Agenda Item #2: Public Comment

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

- None.

There were 4 questions by a member of the public (Elizabeth Cooper) sent in late to the Commission. C. Bathurst reviewed the questions:

- CACC's live release rate and trends
- How to increase the number of HB partners
- When will Doogie Day Outs be open to the public
- Foster program at CACC

Agenda Item #3: Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes from the November 16, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Report of Chairperson

C. Bathurst reported on the role and function of the Commission & welcomed a guest from PAWS Chicago regarding the new relationship between CACC and PAWS Chicago. The Commission role can be found in the Chicago Municipal Code 2-120-010/020. The Annual Report will be sent out to all Commissioners for review. Today's focus are the new partnerships, high intake at CACC, pet adoptions, volunteering and return to owner.

One initiative is based on the Homeward Bound Program to increase the participating organizations. The Chicago Fire Department is unable to implement the use of the microchip scanners so the 111 donated through the Chicagoland Humane Coalition will be divided among other agencies to be determined with Coalition input.

Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Director

S. Cappello reported on construction at CACC, 2023 community outreach, vacancies, continuing spay/neuter partnership with PAWS Chicago & the new program with PAWS Chicago. A. Tejada reported on past events and upcoming events, adoption event numbers, media attention, digital network and newsletters. H. Owen offered the OTAT Marketing Department to help. A. Rayburn reported on field stats, calls are up from 2022 to just over 43,000 calls, return to owner in the field numbers are increasing. C. Bathurst commented on the court case system and thanked the department for everything that CACC does for the court cases. A. Hamilton reported on shelter statistics, full year 2022 and 2023, finished with increased adoption and redemption numbers in 2023 from 2022, intake is up from 2022 to 2023. C. Bathurst talked about the intake of dogs at CACC. A. Hamilton reported that CACC is trying to provide service to the animals before getting to the shelter. A. Hamilton then reviewed the Nov/Dec stats for 2023 in addition to the volunteer, Doggie Day Out and Homeward Bound Partner numbers.

P.Fassaes reported that the board of PAWS Chicago approved a continued partnership with CACC on diversion and introduced Kristina Rosinia to discuss the partnership. K. Rosinia reported on the PAWS 360 at CACC program. The program was put in place to help those who are coming to CACC to relinquish their animals to see if the animals can be kept in the home. K. Rosina reported on all aspects of the partnership.

Agenda Item #6: City Agency Reports

- J. Kerins (Health) – working with CACC to offer pre-exposure rabies vaccines for CACC staff.
- T. Duggar (Streets & Sanitation) – S&S is working with scanners for DOA animals.
- T. Beazley (Police) – no new report.

Agenda Item #7: Commissioner Reports

- R. Griffin – reported on continuing Doggie Day Outs and Doggie Overnight and sent a big THANK YOU to the Volunteers, Homeward Bound groups and CACC staff.
- H. Owen – reported that One Tail at a Time is working to save as many animals as possible, CRISP Program is in contact with CACC to help with return to owners as a next step.
- C. Propsom – Reported on Friends of Chicago Animal Care and Control after hours care program, pet food pantry at the 11th Police District which shares pet food with CACC for diversion, FCACC foster care program mostly for cats and looking for dog fosters, large item purchases for the department and fundraiser at il Vicinato Ristorante.
- C. Bathurst – Reported on dog playgroup trainings through Dogs Playing for Life and Animal Farm Foundation, microchip scanners, partnerships like the one with My Block My Hood My City who visited CACC for 2 days in January with 17 youth and 4 adults, and the continuation of skills/manners classes.

Agenda Item #8: Other Business

None

Agenda Item #9: New Business

None

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m. The next meeting is March 21, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in person with the location to be determined.