

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING**

South Pasadena Animal Commission
1424 Mission Street
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Monday, July 18, 2013

Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall

Beverly Biber, Corresponding Secretary
Olivia Galvin, Resources Secretary
Cornelia Balogh, Commissioner
Michelle Lindsay, Commissioner
Elizabeth Cavanaugh, Commissioner

Councilmember Philip Putnam, City Council Liaison (Unavailable)
Staff: DeannWheeless, Police Captain (Unavailable)

1. Meeting called to order 6:40 PM
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of Meeting of May 6, 2013
3. LIAISON REPORTS / COMMENTS
 - a. No Council Liaison report
 - b. No Staff Liaison report
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS
No public comments from audience
5. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - a. New Commissioner Orientation

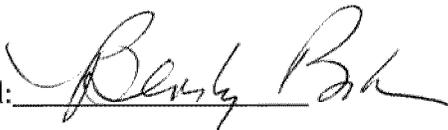
Guest speaker, Edward Simpson, gave a firsthand account of how the SPAC was created. Simpson was a member of the "Coyote Committee" appointed in 1982 by Mayor Shaw in response to resident concerns about coyote. The Committee studied the issue and recommended that education of the public and adoption of a philosophy of coexistence with the coyote should be the action taken. The City Council concurred with the recommendations and decided to create a Commission in 1983 to deal with coyote and other animal issues. Simpson was a founding member of the SPAC.
See attached statement prepared, in part, by Ed and Bee Simpson in 2008
 - b. SPAC Position Duties and Nomination and Election process

Commissioners Biber and Galvin briefly discussed positions and answered questions about various duties and responsibilities of Commissioners. Biber pointed out that all information (Agenda, Minutes, press releases, etc) are on Word documents. Cavanaugh and Balogh expressed interest in publicity. Members will review position description and give further consideration to positions and be prepared to hold elections at September meeting.

- c. Report on Emergency Network of Los Angeles (ENLA)/Response Team Training (for disaster planning) Workshop held June 1, 2013. Commissioners Biber, Balogh, and Cavanaugh attended. Literature received at meeting was distributed to all Commissioners. Cavanaugh suggested the report be scanned for inclusion on SPAC website. Commission will look into how a link might be included on SPAC web pages.
- d. Update on Barking Dog on Fremont Avenue. Staff Liaison Wheelles provided a written statement noting that complainant Crane had asked police department to remove the barking dog and reported that the PD is unable legally remove the dog. Additionally, SPAC has learned that the dog was fitted with electric collar and barking has subsided. Biber will contact residents Sharyn Crane and Shannon Roddy later in summer to ascertain status.
- e. SPAC was invited by Parks and Recreation Department to provide an Information Booth at the City's "Concerts in the Park," The Commissioners agreed that because SPAC provides only generic information and has no particular issue or "agenda" to promote, there would be no reason to have a booth at a recreational-social type function.

6. ADJOURNMENT 8:00 PM

Date: 9-9-13

Signed: 

HISTORY AND OVERVIEW OF SPAC

SPAC was established in 1983. Approximately one year earlier, a number of residents began to complain about coyote in the city. Due to concerns about coyote, in October 1982 Mayor Ted Shaw appointed a six person Committee to study this issue.

Members included residents who had complained about coyote. The Committee met twelve times over six months. During this time, they researched data, consulted with coyote experts, and listened to spokespersons from a number of agencies, including an LA County Health Department official, an Agriculture Commission representative responsible for trapping coyotes, a Pomona College biologist who had studied urban coyotes and the Animal Control Officer then employed by the City of South Pasadena.

Each guest provided valuable information to the Committee. Among the vast amount of information they acquired, the Committee learned that removal of a coyote would not necessarily solve the problem; that a coyote, other than the target animal, could be removed while others would move in to fill the void; and that coyote that are trapped are euthanized, none are released.

Committee members visited the area of coyote sightings and noted trashcans without lids and dog and cat food left in yards. All members of the Committee agreed that education of the public and the adoption of a philosophy of coexistence with the coyote should be the action taken. The March 1983 report by the Committee was praised by the City Council. The Council adopted all recommendations and decided to create a permanent Commission to deal with animal and related issues. The then Animal Control officer supported all of the recommendations of the report. The Committee report is still available. A more recent presentation on "The Urban Coyote" presented at PHS in 2004 reaffirmed the findings and recommendations presented in the earlier Coyote report.

Coyote issues continue to surface from time to time along with other wildlife encounters. The Commission responds to a wide range of wildlife and domestic animal matters.

Some issues referred to the commission have included mosquito abatement and the use of malathion, contaminated feed at the stables, use of live animals at community events, barking dogs, dogs deemed vicious, feral cat population, dog defecation off of owners property, backyard breeders, impact of tree removal and trimming during development projects, preservation of open space and wildlife habitat, and disaster planning for domestic animals in the city. Many of these issues resulted in SPAC researching and recommending ordinances that have been adopted. SPAC was also represented on the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) and contributed to the "Open Space" element of the General Plan adopted in 1998. An annual Be Kind to Animals Art Contest for children was initiated by SPAC and is now co-sponsored by the Commission and Library. Public information and outreach material is included in the water bills several times a year as well as via articles and letters to the local newspaper. Members also participate in numerous community events throughout the year.