

GRVNC Ad Hoc Animal Welfare Committee

Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2006

Opening:

The regular meeting of the GRVNC Ad Hoc Animal Welfare Committee began at 10:00am on May 20, 2006 at the Brickhouse Cafe in Venice.

Present:

Sara Mannes, Daryl Barnett, Melya Kaplan, and Evris Tsakirides

A. Approval of Agenda

No Agenda was distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

No previous Minutes were reviewed.

C. Open Issues

No Open Issues were discussed.

D. New Business

1.0 Daryl Barnett brought up the need to put together a Venice directory for pet concerns: vets, groomers, walkers, rescuers, resources (low-cost vaccines and s/n, vouchers, etc)—both a website and book to sell. Directory based on references within the animal community of preferred services.

2.0 Discussed the desire to have a privately-owned and run shelter in Venice. Low probability due to the need for commercial zoning and potential noise complaints. Attempted in past and was a no-go.

3.0 Started the initial planning of a low/no-cost clinic for homeless people with pets and people of low-income to bring their dogs/cats to get s/n and vaccinations. Provide free samples of dog/cat food, treats, toys, etc. and the need to get Petco or Centinela Pet Feed to sign on with donations. Possibly work in conjunction with CHPHP, St. Joseph Center, Chrysalis, Sojourns, and other organizations focused on helping the homeless. Also the possibility of getting local rescues involved (Lange Foundation, Much Love, Amanda Foundation, etc.) to help provide support and volunteer services. Discussed approaching local vets and vet techs to see if they would volunteer their services, and also

the potential of getting the 2 city s/n vans involved. Need to contact Jim Bickhart and Ed Boks.

4.0 Melya Kaplan suggested getting volunteers to hand out literature at various events, Farmers Markets, and the boardwalk to educate people about a variety of issues concerning animals, including the importance of spay/neuter, where pet stores buy their animals from and why not to support stores that sell animals, feral cat issues, etc. Also suggested the need for volunteers to be on the boardwalk and act as a liaison with the police patrolling the boardwalk, especially in regards to people selling puppies and the summer hours of dogs on the boardwalk. A concern is there are different police patrolling from other parts of L.A. that may need to be informed on a shift-by-shift basis as to what the rules of the boardwalk are.

5.0 Discussed the importance of humane education in the elementary schools in Venice. 5 puppet shows already in place by Melya and Evris to teach children s/n, not being cruel to animals, etc. Another program for middle school children already in place by Bob Ferber of the City Attorney's office. In this program, disabled animals are brought to the schools to teach kids on a case-by-case basis about the discrimination of certain breeds (rottweilers, pitbulls). Also teaches kids why animal cruelty is not okay. Debated the different approaches of a general assembly vs. separate classes, live performance vs. tapings, and how best to reach each individual child. Discussed the need to involve GRVNC, Councilman Bill Rosendahl, and local principals. The summer focus is to assess how many schools are in the Venice area, which schools already have a program/club dealing with animal welfare already in place, etc.

6.0 Discussed the need to publish the hours that dogs are not allowed on the boardwalk during the summer months—11am thru 8pm weekends and holidays from Memorial Day through Halloween. Papers to contact include The Argonaut, L.A. Times, Venice Magazine, and other local reads. Also the need to get bigger signs placed at various locations on the boardwalk with the hours so people are aware and enforcement can improve. District Manager for Recs & Parks Debbie Rowland may be the person to approach for this.

7.0 The need to get leashes, collars, bowls, and food to the Sub-Station for animals held there while waiting for Animal Control to arrive (which can sometimes be an extensive period of time).

8.0 The need to stop the last of the illegal dog breeders and fighters in Venice—a known one doing business near Venice Blvd.

9.0 The need for a hotline to report animal abuse in Venice and to get the information available to the public in high traffic areas (dog parks, liquor stores, police department, etc.). Animal Cruelty Task Force could be the number to call: 213-485-4101.

E. Action Items

No action items assigned.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. The next general meeting will be at 10:00am on June 17 at the Brickhouse Cafe.

Minutes submitted by:

Sara Mannes