



# State of Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission

*Office of the Governor*

P. O. Box 60630, New Orleans, LA 70160

(504) 568-8315

## ***LAWC MEETING MINUTES*** ***June 13, 2012***

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Gary Balsamo called to order the regular meeting of the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission at 1:00 P.M. on June 13, 2012, in the Galvez State Office Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Gary introduced and welcomed a pending new member, Ms. Meghan Speakes of the DHH and Ms. Monica Harris of the LAWCA AUXILIARY.

### **ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Dr. Gary Balsamo, Ms. Margaret George, Mr. Hilton Cole, Dr. Brian Melius, Dr. Amy Grayson, Dr. A. Phillip Dupont, Ms. Joelle Rupert and Ms. Mary Lee Oliphant-Wood.

Absent were: Mr. Pinckney Wood, Mr. J. T. Lane, Ms. Amy Burris, Ms. Susan Schneider and Lt. Paul Edmundson.

The following guests were present: Ms. Meghan Speakes DHH and Ms. Monica Harris LAWCA.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the last meeting were read by Mary Lee Oliphant-Wood. The minutes were approved unanimously by vote of the Commission as read. Motion for approval was made by Hilton Cole and seconded by Margaret George.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer's report was presented by Mary Lee Oliphant-Wood and was accepted by unanimous vote of the commission after a motion by Brian Melius and seconded by Joelle Rupert.

### **OPEN ISSUES**

**WEBSITE:** Gary Balsamo announced that the website could be viewed at [LAWC.LA.GOV](http://LAWC.LA.GOV). Gary stated that nothing had been added yet and he would like to have the inspections on the website. Gary asked the members for suggestions for website content. Margaret George suggested LAWCA meeting announcements be included. Margaret would also like to see updates on those inspections to encourage the shelters that took our advice and made improvements. Hilton Cole asked for the State Animal Welfare Laws and a "donate" button. Meghan Speakes thinks a "feedback" button and some adoptable pets or links to adoptable pets would be helpful. Hilton added a more ideas – info on new laws passed, such as, the Statewide shutting down of the euthanasia gas chambers. Mary Lee Oliphant-Wood felt the Income Tax donation information and the Spay/Neuter grants should be on the first page of the site. Gary thanked everyone for their input and asked the members to give any other ideas to the website Committee. Gary appointed Meghan to the Website Committee.

### **OPEN ISSUES CONTINUED**

*SPAY/NEUTER GRANT:* The spay/neuter grant program was discussed. Gary Balsamo announced that we did get one application so far. Gary handed out info on this application to the members and asked everyone to get back to him on their approval or disapproval within two weeks. Hilton Cole spoke in their favor. Extending the deadline of October 1st for all applications to be received and December 30th to announce awards was proposed In a motion by Margaret George and seconded by Hilton Cole. Brian Melius asked if the forms for the grants could be put on the website so we could refer applicants to the website for info. Gary said forms can be obtained from the website. Discussion on qualifications of applicants followed. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of the commission.

*SEMINAR FOR LAW ENFORCERS:* The law enforcement seminar has not been scheduled yet. Hilton Cole reported that Continuing Education Credit Hours should be approved for the seminar. Hilton also suggested we support LACA on a seminar.

*LAWC AUXILIARY:* Gary Balsamo gave the members a handout pertaining to the usefulness of the LAWCA Auxiliary to take home to read and send any suggestions or comments to him before the next meeting. Discussion on the possibility of paying LAWCA members for support work was considered. Gary said he would ask Pinckney to investigate the price of insuring any LAWCA members we send on a mission for LAWCA.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Gary Balsamo asked the members for any new business discussions. No one had any new business.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Joelle Rupert moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Margaret George. After a vote by the commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Lee Oliphant-Wood*

Mary Lee Oliphant-Wood  
Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes must be approved at the ensuing Commission meeting.