



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. 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.

