

Animal Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting held – Wednesday 22 July 2020

Present:

Councillors: Cr Mary-Lou Jarvis (Chair)
Community: Animal Professionals – Michael Linton
Residents: Paul Mitchell, Nicola Grieve, Rebekah Lam, Bridgette Regener
Staff: Colin De Costa (Coordinator - Regulatory Services), Sophie Katrakis-Mol (Ranger - Animal Control), Paul Saffery (Ranger – Animal Control), Andrew Charles (Team Leader - Regulatory Services), Timothy Tuxford (Manager –Compliance), Megan Holdsworth (Parks & Recreation Planner), Elizabeth Irwin (Secretary)

Apologies:

Councillors: Cr Nick Maxwell, Cr Matthew Robertson
Community: Lea Dazley, Adam Courtenay
Staff: Suzy Rich, Paul Fraser

Meeting opened: 5.10pm

Item No.	Subject	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome from Chair		
2.	Confirmation of previous minutes		
	Minutes circulated by email, confirmed as true and accurate.		
3.	Business arising from previous minutes		
3.1	Update COVID-19 regulatory services	Staff have returned to pre COVID-19 enforcement and have ceased social distancing patrols. Return to full duties as of 1 July 2020. Increased number of dogs off-leash and enforcement will occur for this where previous warnings have been issued. Parking meters remain switched off but time restrictions applying in the metered areas are being enforced.	Noted

3.2	Confirmation that poisoning incitements have stopped – share on social media.	<p>No Further social media posts or reports on alleged poisoning incidents.</p> <p>Cr. Mary-Lou Jarvis advised she had received a number of complaints about rats and it is possible the rat baiting was as a consequence of the rats in the area and not targeting dogs.</p> <p>Sophie and Michael Linton confirmed dogs were not getting sick from rat poison. Vets did testing and confirmed it is not rat poison that is making the dogs sick. One dog did pass away, all the testing on the deceased dog found no traces of rat poison, they did find a toxin but it could not be identified</p>	Noted
3.3	Vaucluse Beach Paddock	Still awaiting response from SLM who Colin emailed 8 July 2020	Noted
3.4	Open Space Strategy	<p>The Strategy, known as ‘Recreational Needs Study’ has been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is hoped the draft Study will be placed on public exhibition later in 2020 following initial consideration of a draft by Council.</p> <p>Meagan explained she is currently working on the new plans of management for Crown Land. 20 parks in the WMC area are Crown Land. There is a community survey available on Council’s website called “Your Say”. The community feedback to this survey include a lot of dog related issues and are requesting clearer and more consistent dog signage in parks. Lots of comments also received on dog droppings, dog regulations not clear and no dog bags at the bins.</p> <p>Cr Mary-Lou Jarvis will email the “Your Say” link to everyone and asked the committee to add their comments</p> <p>The survey will end in the first week of August.</p> <p>Need to arrange a meeting of the AAC to discuss the relevant information from the survey relating to dogs once all the</p>	Noted

		comments have been compiled by Open Space & Trees Department.	Follow-up with Open Space & Trees to
			ensure AAC consulted

3.5	Responsible dog ownership material	<p>Brochure circulated to AAC members with agenda.</p> <p>Sophie – Created the brochure to cover main dog issues and to provide a readily accessible map showing parks with offleash areas and time.</p> <p>Rangers hand-out brochures especially when giving warnings.</p> <p>Community are finding the brochure very useful.</p> <p>Getting a lot of good feedback regarding the brochure.</p> <p>Rushcutters Park is spelt incorrectly and needs to be corrected.</p> <p>Cr Mary-Lou Jarvis said the brochure was very clear, better than the signage in parks. Good to see it on the website.</p> <p>Nicola requested off-leash time changes for Cooper Park. Colin advised he would raise a customer request for this issue that would be referred to the Open Space & Trees Department.</p> <p>Cr Mary-Lou Jarvis and Nicole will discuss offline regarding times available in Cooper Park.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Correct spelling</p> <p>CRM to be raised</p>
4.	New Business		
4.1	Quarterly Statistics (April – June 2020)	<p>Sophie presented the April–June quarter statistics on dog attack investigations that are summarised as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of 5 incidents; • 2 in Woollahra and 1 each in Bellevue Hill, Point Piper and Vacluse; • In 2 cases, dog has not been identified; • 1 dog euthanised by owner, 1 dog declared dangerous and 1 warning issued. 	Noted
4.2	Animal Statistics (July – June 2020)	<p>Could not compile at this time as the NSW Animal Registry website has been down for 4-5 weeks.</p>	Noted

4.3	Investigation of New Pound	<p>Colin, Sophie, Andrew and representatives of Waverley and Randwick Councils attended the Sutherland Council pound and was very impressed and said it is a great facility.</p> <p>Colin has provided Sutherland with Council's animal impounding data and is waiting for Sutherland to put an offer to Council to allow Council to use the pound.</p> <p>Pound located at Taren Point, facility top notch and pricing appears reasonable. Awaiting final figures.</p> <p>Charges to use the facility – a monthly retainer and a daily fee for when animals are put in the pound.</p> <p>WMC is looking at Sutherland because Sydney Dogs & Cats home have significantly increased their monthly retainer fee and have a medium term plan to move to Kurnell.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Matter to be updated as it progresses</p>
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4.4	New animal permits – Non-desexed cats – Restricted & dangerous dogs	<p>From 1 July 2020 owners of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats not desexed by four months of age will be required to pay an \$80 annual permit in addition to their oneoff lifetime pet registration fee; • Dogs of a restricted breed or formally declared to be dangerous will be required to pay a \$195 annual permit in addition to their one-off lifetime pet registration fee. <p>Council only has two (2) dogs declared dangerous and no restricted dogs. It has not been possible to identify the number of cats that are not desexed because the NSW Animal Registry website has been down for 4-5 weeks.</p> <p>There is an obligation for councils to annually inspect the properties where dangerous/restricted dogs are housed and the \$195 may have been imposed to partly cover these inspections. It may also have been imposed to deter owners to retain dangerous and restricted dogs.</p> <p>5 breeds are listed in the State legislation as “restricted breeds”.</p> <p>Cr Mary-Lou Jarvis will write to Minister for Local Government regarding the</p>	Noted
		Animal Registry website being down for so long.	Cr. Jarvis to write to Minister for LG
5.	General business		
	Nil		

The meeting closed at 6:10pm

NEXT MEETING:

5pm Wednesday 30 September 2020