

Animal Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

Meeting held – Wednesday 30 September 2020

Present: **Councillors:** Cr Mary-Lou Jarvis (Chair)
Animal Professionals – Lea Dazley
Residents: Paul Mitchell, Rebekah Lam, Adam Courtenay, Nicola Grieve (joined at 17.15), Bridgette Regener (joined at 17.33)
Staff: Colin De Costa (Coordinator - Regulatory Services), Paul Saffery (Ranger – Animal Control), Timothy Tuxford (Manager –Compliance), Martina Patience (Secretary)

Apologies: **Councillors:** Cr Nick Maxwell, Cr Matthew Robertson
Community: Michael Linton
Staff: Suzy Rich (Team Leader – Regulatory Services), Paul Fraser (Manager – Open Space & Trees) Andrew Charles (Team Leader – Regulatory Services), Sophie Katrakis-Mol (Ranger - Animal Control)

Meeting opened: 5.00pm

Item No.	Subject	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome from Chair		
2.	Confirmation of previous minutes		
	Minutes circulated by email, moved by Paul Mitchell, seconded by Rebekah Lam and confirmed as true and accurate.		
3.	Business arising from previous minutes		
3.1	Vaucluse Beach Paddock	No response has been received to Council’s email of 8 July 2020 from Sydney Living Museums (SLM) in regards to shared and consistent signage. Colin to follow up	Noted CD to follow-up
3.2	Open Space Strategy	Cr Jarvis advised she has no update on the timing of the strategy. With the resignation of Tessa Pentony, Paul Fraser, Manager – Open Space & Trees is the best contact for the strategy at this time.	Noted
3.3	Responsible dog ownership material	Bridgette submitted a number of suggested changes to the brochure including below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include information about \$\$ penalties for dog owners 	All members to review.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> include Vaocluse Beach Paddock into Off leash area before 8.30am and after 4.30pm – this needs to be checked <p>Cr Jarvis suggests everyone checks the signage in their area and provide further comment on the brochure before it is referred to Council’s Communication Department to finalise.</p> <p>Discussion about lost access to harbour via stairs between Tea Garden and Pilot Station after stairs were repaired - Nicola suggests to allow the access via Pilot Station Beach. Status of area to be clarified</p>	CD to check status of area near Pilot Station Beach
3.4	Update on Nicola ‘s request for off-leash time changes for Cooper Park.	<p>Colin advised that he had spoken with Paul Fraser, Manager – Open Space & Trees regarding this matter. Paul believes it is more appropriate to review the dog control requirements across the LGA, rather than undertaking an ad-hoc review of individual parks.</p> <p>AAC will be updated on timing of LGA review and consulted throughout the process</p>	Noted
4.	New Business		
4.1	Quarterly Statistics (July – September 2020)	<p>Colin presented the July - September quarterly statistics on dog attack investigations via PowerPoint.</p> <p>Presentation summarised as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total of 11 incidents – 2 on humans 6 incidents more than in previous quarter 28% of attacks in Paddington followed by Woollahra and Darling Point with 18% each Total of 26 incidents this year Colin raised concern about record year of incidents 3 x warning given 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Images of attacks to be shared in next meeting</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Penalty Infringement issued • 2 x menacing Dog Notice of Intention issued • 1 Dangerous dog Notice of Intention issued <p>Some incidents are not reported to Council therefore the statistics might not be accurate and number of attacks is most likely even higher than reported.</p> <p>Discussion about owner's responsibility to control dogs when off leash.</p> <p>Nicola suggests to use data acquired by pet registry to organise training session/meetings for dog owners</p> <p>It was noted dog training sessions are available in Centennial Park.</p>	
4.2	Update on Investigation of New Pound	<p>Sutherland Council (SSC) advised they cannot guarantee the capacity required by Woollahra, Waverley & Randwick Councils. SSC will need to undertake a review of their current pound which is only designed to meet its current capacity. Review would ascertain what additional resources could be implemented to meet the service increase that would be required.</p> <p>Brief discussion about other options assessed including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randwick Council building a shelter in their LGA; and • Utilising Handrob's facilities near the Airport. <p>Other options may be identified in the future, but only option at this time is Sydney Dogs & Cats Home (SDCH) SDCH. Accordingly, SDCH agreement signed despite increased monthly retainer fees.</p>	Noted

4.3	Update on Animal register	Cr Jarvis presented response from Minister's Office in regards to Pet Registry web site upgrade. Register now fully operational and available to all users	Noted
5.	General business		
5.1	General discussion	Lea enquired about monitoring and fines for bike users on the paths in Christenson Park. Colin advised there have been no complaints about the issue and therefore no fines issued. Paul M draw the Committee's attention to an article about Pittwater area having 58 reported dog incidents and suggested WMC may wish to have a similar article included in the Wentworth Courier.	Noted Cr Jarvis to liaise with Communications Department

The meeting closed at 6:00pm

NEXT MEETING:

5pm Wednesday 02 December 2020