



City of Doral Animal Welfare Committee Minutes

Monday, August 23, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Doral Government Center
1st Floor Multipurpose Room
8401 N.W. 53rd Terrace
Doral, FL 33166

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Board Members

Christopher Yankana, Chair	Present
Sarah Jimenez, Vice Chair	Present
Maria Garces, Secretary	Present
Jennifer Triana, Board Member	Absent
Maria Carolina Venegas, Board Member	Present

Also present were:

Edgard Estrada, Code Compliance Director

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comments

There were no comments made during public comments.

5. Approval of Minutes

• **June 28, 2021**

Motion to approve the June 28, 2021 meeting minutes made by board member Christopher Yankana and seconded by board member Maria Carolina Venegas. By consensus, motion passes unanimously.

6. Discussion Items

a. **Discussion: Report to City Council/Howl-O-Ween Event**

- The board reviewed the memo to give to Mayor and Council at the September 8th, 2021 Council Meeting. The board determined who could attend the meeting; the members that could attend are Maria Garces and Sarah Jimenez. Board member Christopher will email the Clerk's Office asking if he could attend via zoom.
- Board member Christopher mentioned that the residents need to be aware of the committee and their involvement in the Howl-O-Ween event.
- To recap, the flyers will be produced 2-3 times a year and will be designed by board member Maria Garces. The flyers first have to be approved by the Public Affairs Department.

b. Discussion: Template Letter

- Board member Christopher mentioned to have an intro in the template letter with who the Animal Welfare Committee is and what the objective of the board is. The template should also include how the board is here to build a community and if any pet-related business can offer the board a discount, coupon, or benefit, so they can offer that in any upcoming events the board plans. The board is trying to make a relation of mutual benefit with the related businesses in Doral.
- Board member Sarah will edit the template letter with the suggestions of the board.

c. Open Discussion:

- Board member Maria Carolina mentioned that rules aren't being followed by the community and discussed how the board can set new rules to make the process of following rules more effective. An example she gave the board of a potential new rule is by sending a picture of a dog that is unleashed with the owner to the city, so that the owner gets a fine and that way they'll follow the rules next time.
- Board member Maria Carolina mentioned potentially taking a picture or video of someone that is violating the rules, but Director Estrada said that the City has to follow the Florida Statue, where they can't film or photograph.
- The board discussed on finding ways that the regulations in the Ordinance will be enforced. Director Estrada explained the process of when an issue arises. First, it goes to the enforcement process with a warning and then it turns into a violation and lastly, it goes to court depending on the violation.
- Director Estrada informed the board that according to the ordinance, four dogs are permitted in a household and a household can't have more than ten pets.
- Board member Sarah reviewed the ordinance and noticed that most cities in Florida talk about puppy mills and that it should be an amendment to the ordinance. Also, there should be an amendment regarding the retail sale and display of exotic animals (traveling circus, etc.).
- Board member Maria Carolina mentioned that if the board could ask Council to change or add new rules to make them more effective and Director Estrada told the board that the board has to write down the recommendations they make and then present it to Mayor and Council at a Council Meeting.
- The board discussed that maybe they shouldn't impose new rules, but instead follow a different approach, such as awareness or change in behaviors. Board member Christopher mentioned that veterinaries could

help the board out by giving them cards with awareness tips and hand those to residents that aren't following what is on the ordinance.

- The board decided that the ordinance has to be reviewed in more detail to be able to make modifications or additions and so the board unanimously agreed to have a special meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021 to discuss what they want to change or add and present it to Mayor and Council at the next Council Meeting.
- Board member Christopher asked if the board is allowed to send postcards to the residents of Doral and if the city would financially support that. Board member Maria Carolina said that it might be better to deliver them to the HOA's so they can pass them out to the residents in their community and that maybe the city could assist distributing the cards.
- Board member Maria Carolina asked if there is registry of pets in Doral. Director Estrada mentioned that the County might have one and might have a data base with the tags of cats and dogs.
- The board mentioned that there are some issues with picking up dog poo with plastic bags. The plastic bags harm the environment, but the residents can't leave the poo there because it is stated in the ordinance that they have to pick it up. A solution to that could be that the residents use compostable bags to protect the environment. This is an item where the Animal Welfare Committee and Environmental Advisory Board could work together to propose a compost program for the city.

7. Future Meeting Date:

- Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. for the special meeting.
- Monday, September 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. for their regular scheduled meeting.

8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourns at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MARIA V GARCES

Maria Garces, Secretary

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2021 Animal Welfare Committee made by Board Member Christopher Yankana and seconded by Board Member Maria Garces

Christopher Yankana, Chair
Sarah Jimenez, Vice Chair
Maria Garces, Secretary
Jennifer Triana, Board Member
Maria Carolina Venegas, Board Member

✓
ABSENT
✓
JT
ABSENT

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 13 day of September 2021.

[Signature]
Christopher Yankana, Chair