

**San Francisco Animal Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
August 14, 2025**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Present: Chair Michael Angelo Torres; Vice Chair Irina Ozernoy; Commissioners: Mikaila Garfinkel; Michael Reed; Dayna Sherwood; Department Representative: Deputy Director Amy Corso, SF Animal Care and Control

Absent: Commissioner Nick Chapman; Department Representatives: Natural Resources Manager Christopher Campbell, SF Recreation and Parks; Officer Greg Sutherland, SF Police Department; Dr. George Han, SF Department of Public Health

**2. General Public Comment**

A resident paid tribute to Vicky Guldbeck and spoke about the charges against Chaparral Ranch.

**3. Approval of the draft meeting minutes from July 2025.**

Commissioners approved draft meeting minutes.

**4. Chairperson and Commissioner reports**

Commissioner Garfinkel shared an update on the criminal animal cruelty charges being brought against Jennifer Bryant of Chaparral Corporation in Santa Clara County.

**5. Old Business**

**A. The Hidden Costs of Artificial Turf in Our Parks [Discussion/Action Item] [Commissioner Garfinkel]**

Bob Hall, Co-Founder of Keep Crocker Real, presented on the artificial turf and its impact on the environment and wildlife. Hall walked through the materials of artificial turf and research that shows how microplastics from artificial turf harm wildlife, waterways and human health. The context of this presentation, as Hall explained, was the Department of Recreation and Park's Crocker Amazon Renovation Plan, which includes expanding artificial turf to the baseball and softball fields in the park.

In addition to the concerns around forever chemicals and wildlife habitats, the renovation would require the removal of many species of trees and impact or evict a variety of animal species, ranging from coyotes to herons to beetles. The presentation concluded with why natural grass is a more sustainable and wildlife-friendly alternative.

Public Comment

One resident shared that they liked the draft letter of recommendations and suggested partnering with the SF Environment Department.

One resident complimented the presentation and shared support for the recommendation against artificial turf.

#### Voting

Commissioner Torres introduced the letter of recommendations and shared that a small typo was being corrected. Torres recommended copying in the Environment Department and Department of Rec and Park when sending the letter.

The Commission unanimously voted in support of the letter of recommendations.

### **6. Old Business**

**A. Reporting from Animal Care & Control [Discussion Item] [Commissioner Torres and Deputy Director Amy Corso]** Deputy Director Amy Corso reported on the shelter updates, intake and adoption statistics, hiring updates, and on-going department operations present in the April-June 2025 Quarterly Report.

Commissioner Torres inquired on any negative response to the SF Animal Care and Control being closed to the public on Mondays. Deputy Director Corso shared there had been no pushback so far.

Commissioner Ozernoy asked to clarify if there was at least one veterinarian onsite, which Deputy Director Corso confirmed.

Commissioner Garfinkel asked if there was any update on Bird Flu outbreaks, and Deputy Director Corso said there had not been a recorded outbreak.

### **7. Items to be included on the Agenda for Future Commission Meetings. The next meeting is Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Commissioner Torres shared tentative agenda items were a discussion on a glue trap ban and the plans for pandas at the San Francisco Zoo.

#### Public Comment

One resident suggested a discussion on the feral cat situation in San Francisco.

### **8. Adjournment - 6:22 PM PT**