

**Animal Control Advisory Council**  
**Wednesday January 17, 2024**  
**Saginaw County Animal Care & Control Resource Center – Training Room**  
**5615 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48604**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Council Chair - Tracey Slodowski, Laureen Lutenski, Tom McIntyre, Kelli Scorsone, Cynthia Winiecke, Randy Howard, Tammy Brown, Michele Fleming, Jonna Scharf  
Absent: Emilie Lyday  
Others: Jim Campau, Patty Longoria, Lori Brown, Chris Boyd, Abbe Balderstone, Desi Sage, Christine Sawyer, Deby Madrigal, Dr. Mielke DVM, Stacey Bauer, Mike McKellar, Diane Booth, Sue Persinger, Carol Pickleman, Rachel Horton, Bonnie Kanicki, Jaime Ceja

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chair Slodowski called the meeting to order at 4:35PM.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Board of Commissioner Chairman Chris Boyd welcomed Rachel Horton, who will be taking the role of Director at Bonnie Kanicki's departure on January 31, 2024.
2. Stacey Bauer – SCACCRC Volunteer: Voiced concern over the surgical center funding and asked what can volunteers do to help. Could the shelter put out an agenda of events?
3. Dawn Spooner – SCACCRC Volunteer: Volunteers do not have enough time to take all the dogs out, do laundry, do dishes, and kennel cleaning. There is not enough staff for the building, which is 3 times the size of the old shelter. Voiced concern that the hours are not conducive to adoptions and would like extended hours, Saturday's or 1 day a week.
4. Patty Longoria – SCACCRC Volunteer: Frustrated by lack of movement by the Council regarding the surgical center and the cruelty investigator being let go. Will ACO's continue to be deputized? Does anyone on the Council volunteer? Can the Council initiate a backyard breeding ban? Hours are concerning for those who cannot get there during business hours.
5. Rachel Horton – SCACCRC Director: Bonnie has done an excellent job. Work background is at animal control in Lapeer and was hired knowing that public relations was a large part of the job. This is also the case here. Started 2 nonprofits in Lapeer and brought the volunteers to over 60. Looking to grow this facility.
6. Lori Brown – SCACCRC Volunteer: The hours are not conducive to adoptions, why can't the shelter be open late 1 day a week or Saturday? There are dogs who have been there for 2 years, and they will be euthanized. The County is closed on "rinky dink" holiday's so people cannot come on their days off. Chairman Slodowski asked if these were always the hours of the shelter. Director Kanicki responded that they did try extended hours, but the turnout did not justify it.
7. Christine Sawyer – SCACCRC Volunteer: Manages the cat portion of Facebook and what most people do not realize, is that volunteering is largely cleaning kennels, feeding, and trash. It takes 3-4 people 4-6 hours to clean the cat adoption area and 2 stray rooms. Staff cleans the isolation room. Staff would not have time if not for the volunteers. Husband works at Saginaw ISD and every building has cleaning staff, why doesn't the shelter? Staffing is a huge issue.

8. Deby Madrigal – Does not live in Saginaw County but volunteers at her local shelter. Admiration for Bonnie, staff volunteers. The shelter she volunteers at has maintenance staff. They need help, is there any way to help?
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2023:** Meeting minutes were amended in Section VI. 5 to correct a grammatical error. Member Winiecke made a motion to approve the December 20, 2023 amended meeting minutes. Member McIntyre supported. Motion passed (9-0).
- IV. OPEN ISSUES:**
1. **Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary:** According to Article V. Section 5.1 “The officers of the Council shall be elected by a simple majority of the Council members and shall be Chair, Vice Chair, and a Secretary. The Council may also elect one Assistant Secretary”.
    - I. **Chairman** – Member Brown made a motion to nominate Tracey Slodowski to the seat of Chairman. Member Winiecke supported. Motion passed (9-0).
    - II. **Vice-Chair** – Member Slodowski made a motion to nominate Kelly Scorsone to the seat of Vice-Chair. Member McIntyre supported. Motion passed (9-0).
    - III. **Secretary** – Member Slodowski made a motion to nominate Tammy Brown to the seat of Secretary. Member Winiecke supported. Motion passed (9-0).
  2. **Bylaw Changes Approved:** Bylaws 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 4.7, were presented to the Courts and Public Safety Committee and approved by the Full Board. Article VI. section 6.1 was recommended to go to civil counsel for review. This has been completed and bylaw 6.1 will go back to the board in February for approval.
  3. **Council Online Prescence:** All notes and minutes from 2022, 2023, to current and monthly meeting schedule is now online at [www.Saginawcounty.com](http://www.Saginawcounty.com)
- V. Director’s Report: Bonnie Kanicki**
1. **Staffing Challenges:** This building is three times the size, I can staff 5 Kennel Aides, but the need is 7 or 8. Saturday we had 3 people working. They clean and do meet and greets non-stop. They cannot volunteer to work in a position we have to pay them for, meaning they cannot volunteer to work extended hours or adoption events.
  2. **Extended Hours:** This was tried before but there was not enough traffic to warrant it.
  3. **Veterinarian** – Introduction to Dr. Mielke. Budget cannot afford a vet more than 4 hours a week. Dr. Mielke has been helping by doing rabies vaccinations and is interested in appointment to the Council.
  4. **Lara License:** License expires January 31, 2024. We cannot have controlled substance after January 31, as of now the plan is to remove them offsite to Dr. Kline’s clinic. Federal DEA license is good until June 2024. Working to expedite the LARA licensing now since Rachel has been hired.
  5. **ACO’s:** When Bonnie was hired, she asked that ACO’s be deputized so cruelty cases could be worked. The ACO’s have served 200s search warrants. Sheriff revoked deputization across the county and on January 12, 2024 ACOs were disarmed. Some PD will not exit car on dog calls. ACO’s are outfitted with batons, mace, and knives. There are currently 53 calls for service and the police chiefs admitted they could not up with that call volume. When ACO’s do not respond, all hell breaks loose in the County. What we can afford is not what the county demands.
  6. **King’s Communication:** Started using them as an answering service, effective now.
  7. **Utilities:** Concerned about rising costs, Sep-Oct power and gas went up \$2500 a month. Dec-Jan will more than likely be about 10K. In this room there is no heat now, thermostat went out. Jaime has been keeping a list of concerns.

8. **Surgical Center:** This needs to be what the community was promised. Bonnie wrote grants for this project and there is now \$121K of equipment that is collecting dust. County residents believe this will be a low cost spay and neuter clinic.
  9. **MDOC:** Contract renewed 6 dogs will go to Freeland prison on a foster to adopt status. 1 dog to 2 prisoners.
  10. **Volunteers:** We take every single one that can help.
  11. **PA System:** We need a system; we are shouting down the hallway. In a true emergency, the police are called for backup and staff know that we use the verbal alarm code "1312 Gratiot". A new system is \$17K...possible fundraising?
  12. **Reception -** Bought desks for staff. Asked for \$75K for furniture. \$7K left, had to be used somewhere else. Received a donation of \$25K and used it to buy desks. Asked for reception to be behind security glass, the lock mechanism was not safe, had to have it changed out. Had to purchase task chairs to accommodate the desk height.
  13. **Chairman Slodowski:** Thank you to Bonnie, on behalf of Saginaw County, we know that you and your staff are overwhelmed at the amount of work you do.
  14. **Member Fleming:** We all know what animal control was like before, resources are thin, but we need to keep ACO's safe.
- VI. **NEW ISSUES: None**
- VII. **OTHER ISSUES/CONCERNS: None**
- VIII. **NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 4:30PM
- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Member Winiecke made a motion to adjourn. Member Fleming supported. Meeting adjourned at 5:31PM.