

Animal Control Advisory Council
Wednesday February 21, 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, Emilie Lyday
Absent: Dr. Mielke
Others: Rachel Horton, Mary Catherine Hannah, Jaime Ceja, Diane Niederstadt, Mike McKellar, Pam Goddeyne, Dolores Kellett, Patty Longoria

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Slodowski called the meeting to order at 4:31PM.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
 1. Mike McKellar: Believes that extended hours are needed, specifically with a Saturday included. People adopt more dogs from Midland in 1 Saturday then Saginaw does in a week. We are close to I-75, a city center, nice new building, we should accommodate the public.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2023:** Member McIntyre made a motion to approve meeting minutes from January 17, 2024. Member Winiecke supported. Motion passed (10-0).
- IV. **OPEN ISSUES:**
 1. **Bylaw Changes 6.1** – Changes have been approved by the Board of Commissioners at the Board Session on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Final draft will come from the board office once the Board Director updates the bylaws with approval date.
 2. **Training/Conference Room Rental** – Rachel stated we do not have a projector or screen. She has been contacted by 3 organizations to rent the room. Member Winiecke stated that she has used TV's that could be streamed to, what we should look at is a podium. Member Lutenski stated that she has also used TVs with good results. Member Fleming asked about rates and is there a group we wouldn't charge, such as the Police Chiefs as they get space for free now. Member Lutenski stated that perhaps we look at different rates for different groups such as nonprofits. Member Lyday asked about the time blocks, one is 4 hours, and one is 5 hours. Member McIntyre stated that we should put in the contract "at Director's discretion". Member Scorsone stated that if they stay until 5:00 we would need staff which is a cost. Member Scharf asked about using the room for dog training. Rachel stated that due to the specialized floor and cleaning process that is not an option. Chairperson Slodowski stated that we would need a contract and asked if we should have a security deposit. Member Winiecke asked what software would we use, what about a deposit? Tracey asked if anyone would like to form a sub-committee to discuss all the logistics. Sub-Committee will be Members Lutenski, Winiecke, Slodowski, Scorsone, and Rachel. Rachel stated that she would like to meet with Mary Catherine first, then report back to sub-committee.
- V. **Director's Report: Rachel Horton**
 1. **Kennel Animal Report** – Currently at 194 animals, over capacity with 132 dogs and 62 cats. This weekend was hard, we got out 12 dogs and 10 dogs came in. Cruelty and

dumping cases are prevalent. Rachel reached out to Best Friends looking for resources to network with and possibly a full-time transfer partner.

2. **Spay/Neuter** – 110 dogs are currently sitting un-neutered/spayed. The issues are low staff levels, no vet available. Bissel Pet Foundation has awarded a grant for 4-5 days of fast sterilization spay/neuter surgeries. Dr. Mielke will assist with X-ray, blood draw and vaccine training. Rachel and Dr. Mielke are working on writing training protocol now. Bissel uses fast sterilization, a process which works as an assembly line to get animals in and out on a limited amount of time while still maintaining a high level of care. Member Scharf asked what is needed in the surgical suite. Rachel stated supplies, drapes, drugs, vaccines, instruments. Member Howard asked how many hours a week is there a vet on site. Rachel stated Dr. Kline is there 4 hours which includes court. Dr. Mielke is pro-bono. Member Scorsone asked if the prosecutor asks for restitution. Rachel stated yes, but collecting is difficult. Member Lyday stated that sometimes deals are made to waive restitution for surrender of the animals. Rachel stated that there are 6 dogs currently waiting for court, they cannot be fostered due to safety concerns, they cannot be adopted until surrendered or awarded in a case.
3. **Surgical Center** – Met with Amy Lusk, Civil Counsel and Kelly Suppes Purchasing and Risk management and meeting with Dr. Kline this Friday. Working on a fee schedule. MSU wants to work with us next fall.
4. **Oxygen Generator** – Looking for approval to sell, it is beyond its scope for this shelter and more suited for a hospital. We cannot use it properly due to fire code.

Member Winiecke made a motion to approve the Animal Control Director to work with Kelly Suppes, Purchasing and Risk Manager to receive bids for the sale of the oxygen generator. Member Fleming supported. Motion passed (10-0).

5. **V-Day fundraisers** – Poop promo raised \$107.00 and neuter promo raised \$165.00. There was a nice article on MLive.
6. **Adoption Training** – Mid-March with Best Friends, volunteers, and kennel aids.
7. **Open House** – Looking to do a spring open house for volunteer recruitment. People come, stay for a day, and never come back.
8. **Law Enforcement** – working on relationships, meeting with Police Chiefs. Looking at limited deputization of ACO's to execute search warrants. Also looking at training in specific areas: tactical, de-escalation, protocols.
9. **Budget** – Current limit on director credit card is 5K, need to go to the BOC to ask to increase to 10K. This month found us short on food. We asked the community for help/donations, and they delivered.

VI. **NEW ISSUES:**

1. **Fundraising** – Tammy is working on some ideas: photographer to donate time to take pics with pets and local restaurants to donate a percent of meal cost. Member Howard asked if there are any limitations. Rachel stated that we are not a 501c3. Look at Group Raise and ABC Fundraising online for some ideas. Member Scorsone asked if we could partner with Spirit Hockey. Rachel stated that the kennel manager looked into this, and the cost was quite high. Member Lutenski recommend a sub-committee. Sub Committee was formed with Members Brown, Michele, Tracey, Cynthia, and Scorsone. Member Howard said someone should reach out to Carol Cottrell.
2. **Hours of Operation** – Chairperson Slodowski stated that the Board of Commissioners does not set the hours of operation. Rachel stated that the issue is that there must be a supervisor on site, office staff to process applications and money as kennel aids are not trained to do this. In Lapeer the kennel manager did adoptions on Sunday by appointment and then took some time off on Monday. Member Howard asked if we could eliminate 1

weekday and be open Tuesday to Sunday or 1 weekday 10A-7P? Mary Catherine pointed out that hours of operation are also included in union contracts, and she would need to check that document to see if there are any provisions regarding hours. Member Fleming asked if we could do more Saturday events like Tractor Supply, Magoos, car dealerships. Member Howard stated that we need more volunteers to help and that he liked the appointment idea.

3. **Event Agenda Publishing** – Member Fleming stated that Christine does an amazing job at keeping Facebook updated and adoptable pets in the forefront.
4. **Back Yard Breeding Ban** – Chairperson Slodowski asked if this would be enforceable. Member Howard stated that we need to look at education. Rachel stated that she would like to focus on kennel permits. Member Winiecke stated that some townships do have them already. Mary Catherine stated that a major focus would be low cost spay and neuter programs.
5. **Cleaning Service/Vendor** – Chair Slodowski stated that this would most likely be a large budget hit. Rachel stated that there may be a service we could look at, but the risks would be disease, animal bites, safety in general. Member Lyday stated that she has tried to get some of her clients in to do work release but was never able to connect with the past director. Rachel stated that we need to staff fully and then look at what can and cannot be done and what we would need from a janitorial service.
6. **Animal Control Truck Door** – BOC Vice Chair purchased an old animal control truck door, donated it, and wanted it displayed with a plaque stating it was donated by him. Does anyone know where that is? Rachel stated she will look for it. Jaime stated that there may be a display case at the Courthouse that could be used for plaques and other awards.

VII. OTHER ISSUES/CONCERNS:

1. Member McIntyre thanked Rachel and Mary Catherine for being here at the meeting and being so invested.
2. **Microchips** – Member Brown asked if you could make chipping a dog mandatory. Mary Catherine stated we cannot. Rachel stated that SCACCRC does offer \$25.00 microchips. Member Fleming stated that if you cannot afford food, you are likely not going to be able to afford a chip. Rachel would like to look at dog licensing in general, the software, the frequency, the whole process. In Lapeer they went to a QR code system so anyone could scan and see the owner's information. Member Scharf asked when a stray comes in do, we cite the owner for not having a license and make them get one. Rachel stated that it's a process and they do cite for no license. Dog Licenses are something that involve a lot of parts and departments, IT, BOC, Treasurer, Staff.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 4:30PM

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Member Fleming made a motion to adjourn. Member McIntyre supported. Meeting adjourned at 6:07PM.