

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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| Date and Time: | Wednesday, October 16, 2024 *4:30PM |
| Location: | Saginaw County Animal Care & Control Resource Center 5615 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48604 |
| Council Members Present: | Tom McIntyre (Left at 4:44PM), Kelli Scorsone, Jonna Scharf, Dr. Mielke, Tracey Slodowski, Cynthia Winiecke, Emilie Lyday, Lauren Lutenski |
| Council Members Absent: | Randy Howard, Alycia Norton |
| Others in Attendance: | Mary Catherine Hannah, Rachel Horton, Jaime Ceja, Jenifer Speckhard, Diane Niederstadt, Mark Piotrowski, Mike Slodowski, Sharon Maher, Lindsey Sammons, Carol Picklemann, Trae Harris (WNEM TV-5), Fred Perez (WNEM TV-5) |

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Slodowski called the meeting to order at 4:31PM
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Winiecke made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 18, 2024. Member McIntyre supported. Motion passed (8-0).
- III. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 1. **Euthanasia** – There are two types of euthanasia in a shelter; owner requested and shelter. Even though an owner has requested the euthanasia and it's a service the shelter provides those animals still get counted as euthanasia's that happen in the shelter, therefore they skew the numbers just a bit.
 2. **Hours of Operation** – There has been conversation regarding staying open later and weekend hours. The challenge is we need a receptionist to cover that time, be in office to process the adoptions, receive monies. The 2025 budget does account for an additional receptionist and when that person is hired, we can stagger hours. Additionally, once we hire a veterinarian, we will need to shift hours to accommodate for surgery pick up which would more than likely happen after 5:00.
 3. **Best Friends** – On September 23rd and 24th, Best Friends came to the shelter and left with recommendations. They went over the Return to Home program and microchipping. They recommended that we leave the current temperament test model and move to a playgroup assessment. The current test is very structured, and the playgroup model looks at body language, allows us to gather more information about an animal and assist with behavior concerns. Looking at sending more people to training in the spring.
 4. **Conference and Leadership Training** – Attended the Michigan Pet Alliance Conference with other shelters across Michigan and attended focus sessions on fearless leadership, enhancing the lives of shelter animals, engaging staff and volunteers, foster care, identifying burnout. ACO Abbe Balderstone was awarded ACO of the year. Also toured Kent County Animal Control and looking for a grant to cover a microchip station.

5. **Surgical Center** – The 2025 budget is now in effect and there are funds allocated to the oxygen room, we have picked a contractor and are waiting on contract signatures. We have moved everything out of the garage in preparation. We have also received all the supplies/equipment needed for the center so when the oxygen room is done, we will be ready to start surgeries immediately.
6. **Shelter Software** – Working on moving from Chameleon to Shelter Luv
7. **Petco Love Lost** – This is active on the website, uses photo recognition to identify animals.
8. **Intake Diversion** – We need more resources. We are looking at identifying more funding, the need is greater than the resources we can get by donation.
9. **Pathway Planning** – Every animal that comes into the shelter has a pathway and its is constantly reevaluated and changed.
10. **Events** – October 19: Halloween pet adoptions, October 26: Birch Run Speedway, November 1: Volunteer training in dog behavior, there will be a fear free behaviorist coming. November 20: New volunteer orientation.
11. **Licensing** – Chair Slodowski asked where we were with it. Director Horton stated that the new software was approved by the treasurer and will give residents the opportunity to go online and get a 1 year or a 3-year license. We do however need to present to the Board of Commissioners a change in the ordinance language to account for the new timelines. Currently working with Civil Counsel.

IV. REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

1. **Fundraising** – Chair Slodowski asked how much do we currently have? Director Horton stated that we have reallocated monies to the oxygen room (\$25,000) and operations (\$50,000). There is not a lot in reserves, but we will build it back up.

V. OPEN ISSUES - N/A

VI. NEW ISSUES- N/A

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jenifer Speckhard stated that with 1 receptionist gone would volunteers be allowed to help the remaining receptionist. Also stated that she is unsure what happened at the meeting last night (Board Session), but there is so much he said, she said going on right now it will eventually boil over. Someone must put an end to it.
2. Sharon Maher – Stated that regarding the dog behaviorist training, would this be something that is open to fosters as well? People who foster would benefit greatly in knowing what to look for.
3. Carol Picklemann – Stated that regarding the fear free training, she would be very interested in the training. If you could allow 4 weeks' notice so that she could arrange her schedule that would be appreciated.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

1. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

1. Member Lyday made a motion to adjourn. Member Winiecke supported. The meeting ended at 4:49PM.