

# ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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Date and Time:	Wednesday, January 15, 2025 *4:30PM
Location:	Saginaw County Animal Care & Control Resource Center 5615 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48604
Council Members Present:	Dr. Mielke, Tracey Slodowski, Cynthia Winiecke, Emilie Lyday, Kelli Scorsone, Carol Pickelmann, Jonna Godley, Lauren Lutenski, Tom McIntyre (Left at 4:52)
Council Members Absent:	Demetrios Scott
Others in Attendance:	Rachel Horton, Jaime Ceja, Mary Catherine Hannah, Pam Goddeyne, Mark Piotrowski, Becky Boensch, Diane Niederstadt, Jen Speckhard, Christine Madrigal-Sawyer

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- 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 December 18, 2024. Member Lutenski supported. Motion passed (8-0).
- III. **PROCEDURE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, SECRETARY**
  - a. **SECTION 5.1 Number and Election.** The officers of the Council shall be elected by a simple majority of the Council members and shall be a Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary. The Council may also elect one Assistant Secretary.

Member Winiecke made a motion to nominate Tracey Slodowski as Chair. Member McIntyre supported. Motion passed (8-0)

Chair Slodowski made a motion to nominate Kelli Scorsone as Vice Chair. Member McIntyre supported. Motion passed (8-0)
  - b. **Secretary** – There was no nomination for Secretary and Chair Slodowski asked each member to think about it and it would be placed on the next meeting's agenda.
- IV. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT, RACHEL HORTON, DIRECTOR**
  1. **Saginaw ISD** – SCACCRC will be starting a workplace program with Saginaw ISD. This is an adult work program Monday-Friday. They will be doing laundry, organizing donations, glass cleaning and dishes.
  2. **Best Friends** – The Bring Excellence program home evaluation is complete. The Lifesaving Leadership in Shelter Medicine starts in February for Director Horton and Dr. Mielke. This will allow them to speak to others who have opened a low-cost high volume surgical center and get valuable information. Alycia, Kennel Manager has been accepted into the Leadership for Managers program.
  3. **Surgical Center** – The fireproof door is in and the sprinkler heads are to be installed on Friday. Running a vent through the roof will be completed when the weather warms a bit. A hole will need to be made in the roof. Once that is complete Airnetics will be onsite for staff training. Job descriptions for the Vet and Techs are with Personnel for approval and once approved they will be posted. Dr. Mielke will attend training in North Carolina in regard to shelter medicine. This was at her own cost. Operating procedures still need to be worked on for the surgical center staff

before onboarding can begin. Thinking of the Grand Opening would the Council be interested in assisting in planning and executing. Thinking of doing ribbon cutting, tours, signage, catering. Chair Slodowski stated that the Council would be happy to help, she would offer the snacks and catering specifically. Vice Chair Scorsone stated that the Council would be happy to host, and if there were a council member who would like to chair committee it would be great. Chair Slodowski asked Laureen if she would be interested in chairing the committee. Member Lutenski accepted. Director Horton suggested she would like to hire in February, train in March and Open in April.

4. **ShelterLuv** – Working on a contract that will protect the existing data and allow us to retrieve it.
5. **Programming** – Currently giving out a lot of straw, microchips, and food. The pet pantry is doing so well, that we are researching grants to help fund it.
6. **Fosters/Volunteers** – There is new volunteer training coming up and we are looking for a communication avenue for fosters, ordering supplies.
7. **Other:**
  - a. Member McIntyre congratulated Rachel on her 1-year anniversary with SCACCRC.
  - b. Vice-Chair Scorsone asked if there were volunteers from Saginaw Career Complex. Rachel stated, no, they came and did volunteer for 1 day but there were no return volunteers. Vice-Chair Scorsone also asked if there was someone who managed media. Rachel stated that pets are highlighted on Wet Nose Wednesday, WNEM and animals are also sent to news stations to be highlighted but so do surrounding counties and they are picked by the news station.
  - c. Chair Slodowski stated that the new Commissioner John Kaczynski works at SVSU and may be someone to reach out to. Chair Slodowski was asked by Chairman Jack Tany what the relationship with the City of Saginaw was like. Director Horton stated it was good but there is a lack of opportunity to work with or collaborate with them, she suggested that the next Chamber breakfast would be a good time to speak to Chief Ruth. Chair Slodowski asked if there is anything planned for Valentine's Day as last year some people had an issue with the fundraiser. Director Horton stated that she has a meeting with Christine to talk about it.
  - d. Member Pickelmann stated that SVSV classes may require volunteer hours. Rachel stated that there is a high school that has an animal group, they come out and volunteer sporadically, but it's again a one-time opportunity.
  - e. Member Lyday asked if SCACCRC accepted service hours through the Court. Director Horton stated they do but they need to know the charges as there are some they will not allow, domestic violence, animal cruelty, drugs.

## V. OPEN ISSUES

1. Other: N/A

## VI. NEW ISSUES- N/A

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. **Jenn Speckhard** – Asked if there is anything that can be done regarding court case animals, specifically dog fighting victims. They cannot be walked, socialized and adopted and need to be euthanized. Their quality of life is horrendous. Member Lyday stated that you really can't, animals are treated as property in MI and it has to go through the court process. This would go through the prosecutor's office as a civil forfeiture. Director Horton stated that the case being specifically spoken about is

actually a federal case now and all we can do is wait. There has been talk with the prosecutor about bond forfeiture. These defendants are charged boarding fees. Chair Slodowski asked if we are still dealing with backlog or if the cases are moving. Mary Catherine stated that the backlog is cleared but each case still has a process to follow.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING**

1. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

1. Member Winiecke made a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chair Scorsone supported. The meeting ended at 5:07PM.