

## **Animal Control Commission**

**March 9, 2026, at 5:30pm**

**Bloomington Animal Shelter – Hybrid Zoom and In Person Meeting  
3410 South Walnut Street, Bloomington, IN 47401**

### **MEMBERS**

Sue Allmon – present in person  
Sita Cohen – present in person  
Chris Hazel – present in person  
Brandt Ludlow – present via zoom  
Valerie Pena – not present  
Laura Soto – present via zoom

### **GUESTS**

Nelida Carrasco

### **STAFF**

Audrey Brittingham – present in person  
Kat Ennis – present in person  
Lisa Ritchel – present in person  
Virgil Sauder – present in person

#### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Sita moved to approve the **February 9, 2026**, minutes as written.

Laura seconded.

Roll call vote: Sue, “yes,” Sita, “yes,” Chris, “yes,” Brandt, “yes,” Laura, “yes.”

Motion passes, 5-0-0.

#### **I. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **a. Potentially Dangerous – “Brit” Carrasco**

Officer Ennis explained that she was called on January 1, 2026, because an individual walking a six-month-old Bernese mountain dog puppy named Tonka saw a loose dog who charged across the street at Tonka. She stated that Tonka immediately flipped on his back and started screaming. The loose dog was on top of and biting her dog. When she went to get the dog off of her dog, she was bitten. At the scene she could not remember where she was bitten due to her frantic state. She thought it was on her wrist, but it turned out to be on her upper arm. Officer later received a photo of the injury and bruise. Brit, the biting dog, completed the quarantine at the shelter and after he went home, Officer Ennis did a house check. She spoke to the owner at the door and was shown the baby gate which was within their home. Brit was behind the gate and it was working well. Officer Ennis explained that Brit was brand new to the owners as they only had him for a week or two and he was able to get out of the front door. When Officer Ennis later delivered the ACC letter, she noted a very nice baby gate in front of the front door which would prevent Brit from getting loose if he got out of the door. Officer Ennis continued and explained that the bites to the puppy were superficial scrapings on the abdomen and minor. She attempted to get pictures of the injured dog in the field but it was in the black fur and difficult to see. The case was brought to the ACC due to the additional bite to the human. This bite occurred while the owner was separating the two dogs. Sue asked if the human bite happened because she was trying to

break up the fight or if Brit turned on her. Officer replied that in the moment she said it was while she was separating them. Her later statement said the dogs were separated and he turned and bit her. Laura noted that this can typically happen. Brandt asked if the baby gate was adequate. Officer advised that when she spoke with the owner, Brit was loose in the house behind the gate and was not attempting to get out. It seemed to be working perfectly. Chris asked about fencing and Officer advised that she believes there is a fenced in yard.

Ms. Carrasco explained that she is the owner of Brit and at the time this happened she only had him for a few hours. Ms. Carrasco had informed the shelter that she has two cats so Brit would need to be good with them. She took Brit home from a foster where he had been living with a dog and two cats. Her cat was upset but Brit was okay with her cats. At one point she opened the back door just a little bit to let the cat back inside and Brit escaped. Ms. Carrasco was behind Brit for hours. He acted like he did not know her and was scared and crossed Sare Road multiple times. Ms. Carrasco started putting up signs and a lady in the street was able to get him into her car. The lady called them and Ms. Carrasco's husband arrived first and put Brit in his car. He did not close the front door and Brit jumped out and disappeared. When Ms. Carrasco arrived home she received a call that Brit had bitten a dog. Ms. Carrasco shared that she is a veterinarian from Cuba and has been working with dogs and cats for many years. She referred to the photo and stated that it looks like a scratch and not a bite. Brit is a Pitbull and a bite from him would be very bad. Ms. Carrasco accepted responsibility though because he escaped from her house and she is very sorry for what happened. She visited Brit almost daily during the ten day quarantine and he never showed aggression. Ms. Carrasco shared that he is a sweet dog who she loves and now calls Bingo. They are working on training him how to walk on a leash using two leashes and gloves due to his strength. He is improving and has never shown aggression with any dog he has meet on the street. He does like to play and gets excited and jumps when he sees a dog. Sita asked if she has a fenced in back yard and Ms. Carrasco answered in the negative. She explained that he never goes in the back yard. She walks him many times a day starting at 6am. Laura asked how he reacts when passing other dogs and Ms. Carrasco answered that he gets very excited but not aggressive. Laura also asked if he was fully adopted or a foster to adopt at the time of the incident. Ms. Carrasco advised that she was fostering to adopt and had not had him for 24 hours. Virgil confirmed this. Ms. Carrasco shared that she received a letter from a lawyer asking for her insurance information. She was very scared and stressed by this. She stated that if there were medical costs she would pay.

The Commission discussed. Chris agreed that the injury was not really a bite but more of a scratch and that one can bruise with a scratch. Chris added that Brit was just adopted and she herself had adopted a dog before and it took off before she left the premises. Chris recommended keeping an eye on it. Sue noted that they have already put up baby gates and wonders if Brit aka Bingo was attempting to play as he is hyper and likes to play with dogs. Sita agreed noting that when the puppy flipped on its back Bingo's prey drive may have activated. Sita feels the incident was situational and Bingo does not deserve to be declared a potentially dangerous dog especially because the owner has taken steps to not let this happen again.

Sita moved to dismiss.

Laura seconded.

Roll call vote: Sue, "yes," Sita, "yes," Chris, "yes", Brandt, "yes," Laura, "yes."

Motion passes, 5-0-0.

### **b. Potentially Dangerous, Dangerous, or Vicious – “Rowdy” Todd**

Sue explained that the Commission did hear this case last month but they have been asked to determine whether or not the dog in the incident was Rowdy. Virgil added that owner Brooke Todd was invited to the meeting, but was not present. Virgil explained that Rowdy was deemed Potentially Dangerous at the meeting, but because there was so much discussion and confusion about whether or not it was him, clarification was needed.

Audrey explained that part of the concern was that the information provided in the packet clearly fell under the ordinance definition of Dangerous. Looking at the definitions, Potentially Dangerous gives the Commission leeway to determine the animal to be Dangerous if the circumstances or injuries are egregious enough. The reverse is not true. There is nothing under Dangerous that gives the Commission leeway to determine the animal to be Potentially Dangerous. Audrey therefore felt uncomfortable with the determination of Potentially Dangerous given the evidence indicating the animal was Dangerous.

The Commission discussed. Chris reminded the Commission that she had voted that it was Rowdy. Laura shared that she was confused and it was a very long conversation. Sue remembered that the witness who helped the victim indicated that the dog had gone to the porch of an apartment where he was believed to live. Also the victim went to the shelter and identified Rowdy. Sue explained that the confusing element was the conversation with Brook’s mother who claimed the dog had been with her. Sue asked Officer Ennis for some clarification. Officer Ennis explained that when Officer Steury arrived, the Bloomington Police Department pointed to the dog sitting in front of Brook Todd’s apartment and advised that this was the dog that matched the description. The victim did take a video of the person helping her and it was Brittany Lake. Officer Ennis explained that they were told that Ms. Lake was the only one on scene with the victim, she was the one who called the ambulance and she pointed BPD in the direction of the dog. Virgil corrected the name of the witness to Brandi Fields. Virgil referred to the police reports and advised that there was no confirmation that Ms. Fields saw the incident, only that she showed up right afterwards. Virgil added that Ms. Fields is a friend of the family of Brooke Todd. She also never mentioned whether the mom was there or was not there. Virgil explained that the victim and the owner of the dog live in an apartment complex that is two buildings apart. The victim was familiar with where the dog lived and she came to the shelter and identified the dog. Sita noted that no one actually witnessed the attack. Virgil confirmed that only the victim was present and she didn’t really see the dog. She was walking home and the dog came up. Chris shared that she felt the story from Brook Todd and family was sketchy and the damage done to the girl was horrific. Officer Ennis added that the mother was never brought up previously and Officers never heard her side of the story until the last meeting. Laura inquired as to the requirements of a Dangerous declaration as opposed to a Potentially Dangerous declaration. Virgil advised that the main difference is clear warning signs and a muzzle.

Chris moved to declare that the dog in question was indeed Rowdy and that after reviewing this further the Commission has decided to declare Rowdy Dangerous.

Laura seconded.

Roll call vote: Sue, “yes,” Sita, “yes,” Chris, “yes,” Brandt, “yes,” Laura, “yes.”

Motion passes, 5-0-0.

## **III. Reports**

### **a. Animal Care and Control Report**

Virgil explained that he sent out a new format for shelter stats and requested feedback. Sue stated that she loved the report! Virgil shared that numbers of animals coming into the shelter and getting adopted are pretty much the same. He is planning on adding some stats to track such as “Length of Stay.” There is currently a fee-waived dog adoption event through St. Patrick’s Day to help with space due to fosters returning dogs for Spring Break. Two puppies were adopted via the Pet Expo. The City is also working on digital accessibility so some of the formats of agendas and minutes will be adjusted.

**b. MCHA Update**

Sue reported that an EF2 tornado came through the facility, but they are open! The kennels are destroyed, the building shifted, the fencing is gone, and the storage trailer rolled to the back of the property. All of the large items have been picked up, but now they are using metal detectors to find the small items, nails, screws, glass, etc. They are asking people to not walk their dogs on the grass at this time. The Pet Expo was a great success and they raised \$170. They got to see past adoptions and patients and it was a fun day. The next vaccine clinic is this Sunday at the shelter from 1-3pm. Fundraising is going very well. They are holding off on product donations because they have no storage for it. A warehouse has been donated for use for three months which is holding the food that was able to be salvaged. The executive committee is meeting every Monday. There were ten animals in crisis housing at the time of the tornado. No one escaped! Sue thanked the Bloomington Animal Shelter, The Dog House, Scout’s Honor, and The Ranch Cat Rescue for helping house the animals. The outpouring of support has been wonderful! Brandt added that the MCHA email update was wonderfully well done. Sue advised that was Andrew.

**c. AMC Update**

Virgil explained that AMC had a short meeting with one case with a dog to dog attack which did not meet the ordinance definition because it was not a severe injury.

**IV. Animal Control Commission Discussion**

No discussion.

**V. Public Comment Period**

No public comment.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chris moved to adjourn.

Laura seconded.

Roll call vote: Sue, “yes,” Sita, “yes,” Chris, “yes,” Brandt, “yes,” Laura, “yes.”

Motion passes, 5-0-0.

The meeting adjourned 6:15pm