

Animal Control Commission

November 14, 2022 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
Valerie Pena – present in person
Nancy Riggert - present in person
Laura Soto – present in person

GUESTS

STAFF

Lisa Ritchel – present in person
Virgil Sauder – present in person
Chris Wheeler – present in person

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sita thanked Lisa again for the fantastic October minutes and pointed out two small corrections. Under New Business, in the first paragraph of the Request to Declare Junior, the phrase, “he saw *he* cat was dead,” should read “he saw *the* cat was dead.” Under New Business, in the third paragraph of the Request to Declare Luna, the phrase, “*concluding* by expressing,” should read, “*concluded* by expressing.”

Sita moved to approve the **October 10, 2022**, minutes with the two above corrections.

Sue seconded.

Motion passes. 4-0-2 with Nancy and Valerie abstaining.

II. NEW BUSINESS

i. Meeting dates for 2023 – if we keep the second Monday then April and September will have conflicts.

The Commission discussed the schedule for next year’s meetings, including the conflicts in April and September.

Valerie moved that all Animal Control Commission meetings will be the second Monday of the month except for April and September which will be on the third Monday of the month.

Motion passes. 6-0-0.

ii. Officer Elections for 2023

After some discussion on who would like to be an officer next year, the following slate of officers was determined.

Valerie moved to accept the following slate of officers: Sita Cohen– Chair, Sue Allmon – Vice Chair, Virgil Sauder – Secretary.

Motion passes 6-0-0.

iii. Ordinance updates

Valerie explained that she, Sue and Virgil have met several times to discuss ordinances. They took the work done by the larger group and focused in on certain areas. The main topics of discussion were the Potentially Dangerous, Dangerous and Vicious declarations and the hope is to simplify the four levels down to three. Valerie explained that Virgil provided some research including the industry standard on bites which is based on the Ian Dunbar Scale. Another main area of concern is the Habitual Offender declaration. There are grey areas in the enforcement of the H.O. declaration and in the follow-up consequences if there are additional issues. Sita advocated for a combination of both flexibility and specific consequences. Nancy agreed that leaving it grey gives the Commission more flexibility depending on the situation. She did say that she would like to review the H.O. language first before making any decisions. Chris inquired about what happens when a H.O. has another incident. Virgil reviewed the current language for the Commission. Chris from Legal shared that he prefers that the language not be grey so that it is easier to interpret, however if that is what works best for the ACC to implement and enforce, then keeping it grey is appropriate. He explained that this can be achieved by utilizing *shall* or *may* in the language. Valerie added that another aspect to discuss is whether the three offenses in the 24 month period need to be the same offense. She concluded by stating that they hope to have the updates ready to present to the Commission in January.

III. REPORTS

i. Animal Care and Control Report

Virgil explained that the shelter is fourteen days into an adoption promotion in which a donor, Premium and Exotic Wholesale, sponsored all adoption fees. Virgil shared that sometimes there is negative feedback during fee-waived promotions. Virgil explained that even though the fees are waived, the adoption process is the same. The hope is that the adopters will donate and pay it forward so the promotions can continue. Virgil next went over the statistics. He explained that he did some comparisons to last year and to 2019, which was the last “normal” year. So far this year, January through October, the shelter took in 673 less animals, but only adopted out 336 less. The adoption rates are much higher. This year’s adoption rate is 86% versus a 76% adoption rate in 2019. Compared to last year, the shelter took in only 97 more, but adopted out 134 more. The live release rate in 2019 was 83% and this year is 90%. Virgil indicated that he was very pleased with the statistics. Valerie gave huge kudos to Virgil and the shelter staff. Virgil shared that this is the result of years and years of work. Virgil concluded by sharing that in 2023 the shelter will be doing some internal work on its mission and vision statements. The last time this was done was ten years ago. They will be doing some rebranding, for example, changing language from *owner surrender* to *rehoming assistance*. Virgil stated that he would love input from this group.

ii. MCHA Update

Valerie reported that the Director of the MCHA, Rebecca Warren, resigned. The MCHA will begin a search for a new Director very soon. Dr. Nickel will be Interim Director for the Clinic at this time. The hope is to get someone new in the next two to three months. Valerie shared that five Board members met with staff today and they are very dedicated to put in the extra time to keep things moving. Sue added that they are raising funds with a Giving Tuesday promotion and Mercedes has created some cute dollar bills with Precious, the resident clinic cat, to send out as a thank you. Additionally, throughout that day, they will be posting stories and pictures of staff and their animals on social media. One of the Board members donated \$500 to challenge the rest of the members to match, exceed or to do some type of donation for Giving Tuesday.

iii. AMC Update

Valerie explained that the County had a good meeting with some good discussion. There was only one case and the meeting ended within an hour.

IV. ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Nothing to discuss.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Sita moved to adjourn.

Nancy seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08pm