

Animal Control Commission

June 12, 2023 at 5:30pm

MEMORANDUM

**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 via zoom

GUESTS

Isabelle Piedmont-Smith
Gregory Baker
Jim Koch
Mary Alice Cox

STAFF

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Valerie moved to approve the **April 17, 2023**, as written. Sita thanked Lisa for her excellent minutes. Sue seconded.
Motion passes, 5-0-0.

II. NEW BUSINESS

i. Appeal of Neuter Requirement – Baker

Officer Ennis reviewed the history of Chop and Pluto, dogs that have a history of being at large, owned by Gregory Baker. Officer Ennis confirmed that Pluto was previously neutered due to second offense, but Chop was not required to be neutered. She confirmed that Mr. Baker did comply with the fence requirement.

Gregory Baker explained that he was at work and his son did not latch the gate. He now has a female and wants to breed Chop one more time, then will get him neutered.

The Commission discussed.

Valerie moved that upon official notification that the gate of the enclosure has been secured, Chop can be released with the understanding that he can have one litter and then get neutered afterwards. If he gets out prior to the litter being created, he would be neutered. All litter permit requirements must be followed, all fines stand and written proof of neutered must be provided to Animal Control.

Chris seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Sue – “Yes,” Sita – “Yes,” Chris – “Yes,” Valerie – “Yes,” Nancy – “Yes,” Laura – “Yes.”

Motion passes, 6-0-0.

ii. Request to Declare Habitual Offenders – Williams and Flynn

Officer Ennis explained a long history of at large dogs owned by Jawan Williams and Julie Flynn, who were not present at the meeting, including Roxie, Regina and puppies. They have indicated to Officer that nothing will change and they have no plans to fix the broken fence. Virgil explained that the tools that Animal Control regularly use are not working.

The Commission discussed.

Valerie moved to declare Jawan Williams and Julie Flynn Habitual Offenders and require the removal of all animals under their ownership and guardianship. The animals are to be seized, brought to the animal shelter and relinquished. They are not allowed to have any additional dogs for the next three years.

Sue seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Sue – “Yes,” Sita – “Yes,” Chris – “Yes,” Valerie – “Yes,” Nancy – “Yes,” Laura – “Yes.”

Motion passes, 6-0-0.

iii. Title 7 Ordinance potential update approval

Virgil outlined the proposed ordinance updated in the following areas:

7.01.010

7.26.

7.40.030

7.54.010

7.54.080

7.56.060

Sita recommended updated the wording in the Reconsideration section 7.26.100 to reflect the change from Potentially Dangerous I, II, III and Vicious to Potentially Dangerous, Dangerous and Vicious.

Nancy moved to approve the ordinance updates with the above change to go to the Mayor and Council for approval.

Roll Call Vote: Sue – “Yes,” Sita – “Yes,” Chris – “Yes,” Valerie – “Yes,” Nancy – “Yes,” Laura – “Yes.”

Motion passes, 6-0-0.

iv. July Meeting date change

Virgil requested a change in the July meeting date due to the room being double-booked. The Commission chose July 17 if needed.

Nancy moved to move the July meeting date from July 10 to July 17.

Sue seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Sue – “Yes,” Sita – “Yes,” Chris – “Yes,” Valerie – “Yes,” Nancy – “Yes,” Laura – “Yes.”

Motion passes, 6-0-0.

III. REPORTS

i. Animal Care and Control Report

Virgil explained that they had a successful Memorial Day adoption special with reduced fees and with 55 animals adopted! June is Adopt a Cat month and fees are waived for adult cats. There are still six Carolina Dogs in foster and nine in the shelter. It has been challenging working with these dogs. The dogs in foster homes are doing extremely well. Unfortunately, as they are flight risks, two are currently missing in Bloomington. Statistics from January through May 2023, show basically the same amount of animals as 2022, although more dogs have come in than last year. The veterinarian shortage is a big challenge for the shelter currently. Pets Alive is now short a veterinarian and spay/neuter is getting backed up. The shelter is working on a foster to adopt program to get animals out before spay/neuter is scheduled.

ii. MCHA Update

Sue reported that they do have an Executive Director! Andrew Krebbs who is currently the Communication Director for the City, will be starting July 5! The Development Director will be chosen soon and a new bookkeeper position has been created. The MCHA is also looking for a potential 3rd veterinarian.

iii. AMC Update

Virgil reported that the last meeting went fine. As usual the County is still seeing lots of declarations and Habitual Offenders.

IV. ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Sita reported that she looked into egregious offender clauses. She found a lot of disparate information, but learned that it usually becomes a legal matter that is turned into the State.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Sita moved to adjourn the meeting.

Chris seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Sue – “Yes,” Sita – “Yes,” Chris – “Yes,” Valerie – “Yes,” Nancy – “Yes,” Laura – “Yes.”

Motion passes, 6-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:39pm.