

## **Animal Control Commission**

**April 17, 2023 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 via zoom  
Nancy Riggert - not present  
Laura Soto – not present

### **GUESTS**

Kaitlyn Cain

### **STAFF**

Michael Clarke – present in person  
Aleksandrina Pratt – present via zoom  
Lisa Ritchel – present in person  
Virgil Sauder – present in person  
Nick Steury – present in person

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

Sita thanked Lisa for her minutes and noted one correction in the second paragraph of **New Business**. The phrase, “*is* was Dozer,” should read, “*it* was Dozer.”

Valerie moved to approve the **February 13, 2023**, minutes with the above correction.

Nancy seconded. Roll Call Vote: Sue – “Yes,” Sita – “Yes,” Chris – “Abstain,” Valerie – “Yes.” Motion passes, 3-0-1.

#### **II. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **i. Appeal of Neuter Requirement – Drogo**

Officer Steury reviewed the two instances of Drogo, a dog owned by Kaitlyn Cain, being at large within a twelve month time period. On March 14, 2022, the Bloomington Police Department was called to 1610 North Kinser to an aggressive German shepherd, without a human, attacking other animals. Officer Steury explained that when they arrived no animals were harmed and there was no aggression. This dog smiles, which is often mistaken for aggression. Officer Steury explained that the dog was dragging a leash and had perhaps been tied to a bumper of a vehicle. Then on March 8, 2023, BPD called Animal Control to 3100 South Walnut Street Pike. When the Animal Control Officers arrived, Drogo was already leashed by a BPD Officer. When ACOs approached, Drogo gave a loud bark and seemed standoffish, but with a couple of treats, ACOs were able to take Drogo to the shelter and impound him. He had been out in the grass in front of the apartment complex with no owner present. Officer Steury later spoke with Ms. Cain who believes that Drogo jumped from a second story window after she was removed from the apartment by ambulance. Officer stated that Ms. Cain recently provided a witness, who came to the shelter and gave a statement. Austin Bristoe stated that he yelled up at her window because the complex requires visitors to be buzzed in and this is how they communicate. The window was open and the dog jumped out. Mr. Bristoe did not restrain the dog, but instead left. Officer Steury added that Ms. Cain does not want her dog neutered, but it is City Ordinance to be neutered after the

second offense. Virgil shared that Ms. Cain did indicate to him that she is interested in breeding Drogo so that she has the potential of getting one of his offspring before he passes.

Ms. Cain began by explaining that Drogo was not tied to the bumper, but was inside the vehicle and tethered to the seatbelt. She stated that there is no way he could have gotten out unless someone let him out. Ms. Cain stated that she was homeless at the time and was there showering. She claimed that she was being harassed by the building manager, who had her vehicle towed four times. Ms. Cain continued and explained that the second instance was an emergency because she had pneumonia. She was in a great deal of pain and could not get up, so she called an ambulance. She would not have normally left the windows open. She continued and shared that she hopes to have one of Drogo's offspring and has multiple people who love Drogo who also want his puppies. Valerie notified Ms. Cain about the required breeder's permit. Ms. Cain indicated that she has not found a female, but wants to have the possibility to breed him when the time is right. She shared that she has had Drogo since he was a puppy and he is now eight. He is her emotional support dog, the best dog she has ever had, and her best friend.

The Commission discussed. Sita shared her opinion. She feels that it is in Drogo's best interest to be neutered and that the ordinance is in place for a reason. It protects the dog, prevents unwanted litters, and is beneficial for health. Valerie agreed and stated that her opinion is to deny the appeal. Sue voiced agreement as well and referred to the ordinance requirement.

Valerie moved to deny the appeal and uphold the ticket and ordinance.  
Chris seconded.

Ms. Cain became emotional and stated that it was not her fault. She expressed that she thought she was present to appeal the at large tickets. Virgil reviewed the tickets and stated that the statute to appeal the first violation has passed, but the Commission could hear an appeal for the second violation.

Valerie rescinded her motion and restated.

Valerie moved to deny the appeal and to place the March 8, 2023, at large ticket in abeyance for sixty days and if there are no other at large violations, the fees associated would be dropped.

Sue seconded. Roll Call Vote: Sue – “Yes,” Sita – “Yes,” Chris – “Yes,” Valerie – “Yes.”  
Motion passes, 4-0-0.

## **ii. Title 7 Ordinance potential changes**

### **1. Habitual Offender – egregious offender clause**

Virgil referred to the recent hoarding case and asked the members if they were interested in developing an egregious offender clause. The members were in agreement in the affirmative.

### **2. Registration ordinance**

Virgil explained that with advancement in technology, pet registration is now a feasible idea to keep a database of animals in the community. The members agreed that it would be appropriate to look into this.

## **III. REPORTS**

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

Virgil introduced Michael Clarke as the newest Animal Control Officer. Virgil informed the members that there will be thirty-two cute puppies up for adoption in the next few weeks from the hoarding case. The shelter just hired their first foster intern. The goal is for the intern to support and continue to grow the foster program. Virgil publicly thanked everyone involved in helping with the hoarding case and for all the amazing donations and support from the community. There continues to be a steady need for rehoming services and for stray animals, especially with dogs. Kitten season is starting.

**ii. MCHA Update**

Sue reported that the Tails on the Town fundraiser was this past Saturday. Sue shared that the search for an Executive Director continues and the hope is to have someone in place by June 1.

**iii. AMC Update**

Valerie reported that there will no longer be a public comment section at the end of the County meetings. Instead members of the public wanting to comment on cases will be asked to communicate with County Legal.

**IV. ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION DISCUSSION**

Nothing to discuss.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Sue moved to adjourn the meeting.

Chris seconded.

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

Motion passes, 4-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.