

Animal Control Commission

February 8, 2021 at 5:30pm

**Bloomington Animal Shelter – Zoom Meeting
3410 South Walnut Street, Bloomington, IN 47401**

MEMBERS

Sue Allmon - present
Sita Cohen – present
Chris Hazel – not present
Valerie Pena – present
Nancy Riggert - present
Laura Soto - present

STAFF

Jacquelyn Moore
Lisa Ritchel
Virgil Sauder

PUBLIC

Jim Koch

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jacquelyn noted that *Mayor* was spelled incorrectly as *Major* in both the MCHA Update and the ACC Discussion. Sita moved to approve the November 9, 2021 minutes with the two spelling corrections.

Laura seconded. Motion passes 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

i. Meeting Dates for 2021

Nancy moved to accept the following meeting dates for 2021: March 8, April 5, May 10, June 14, July 19, August 9, September 20, October 18, November 8, December 13.

Sita seconded. Motion passes 5-0-0.

Virgil explained that he would be sending the meeting zoom link each time along with the agenda and other documents.

ii. Election of Officers for 2021

The members discussed possible officers for 2021. Nancy first nominated Valerie for President, who then asked if Nancy would be Vice President. Nancy then nominated Sita for Vice President, who at first passed, but then said she would try. Sue declined nomination stating that this was her first meeting.

Nancy moved to accept the following slate of Officers: Valerie Pena as President and Sita Cohen as Vice President.

Sue seconded. Motion passes 5-0-0.

REPORTS

i. Animal Care and Control Report

Virgil explained that in December the shelter partnered with B97 for the 12 Strays of Christmas adoption promotion. These adoption fees were sponsored by Pizza X. At this time, Virgil is in process of hiring a new ACO since Officer Pritchard left the position. Virgil was very pleased with the year-end statistics. The shelter live release rate was 92% and 87% of animals available were adopted. Of those animals, 972 or 35% went through the foster program! Virgil then asked the members to start thinking about new metrics to gauge shelter success, since the euthanasia

rate is now very low at 4%. He gave the example that East Coast shelters that do animal control are having a difficult time getting 90% release rate for dogs, due to behavior issues.

Valerie first asked if this means the shelter won't ever go out of business. She then queried if animals are getting returned to the shelter now that people are going back to work. She suggested the shelter partner with MCHA to do outreach on separation anxiety to help owners as they transition back to work. Nancy guessed that the National HSUS may already be working on this. Virgil stated that he will look into this, but he is mostly concerned with potential intake due to the impending housing and mortgage crisis.

ii. MCHA Update

Sue explained that she doesn't have an update today but will check with Rebecca and Kimberly and send out information to the members.

Valerie added that the MCHA is working on a plan to try to meet the spay/neuter needs of Monroe County residents. Currently people are having a difficult time getting into Pets Alive in a timely manner. Virgil explained that the shelter is not having any issues getting animals into Pets Alive at this time. He added that their mission is directed towards shelter pets.

iii. AMC Update

Valerie explained that at the last county meeting it was discovered that some ordinance definitions need to be clarified and that a clearer definition of *sanctuary* is needed. This resulted after an AMO asked for guidance with a particular case. Otherwise there were the typical issues of neglect, barking and habitual offenders not improving.

ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Nancy asked how the Commissions deal with habitual offenders. Valerie explained that the ordinance provides some leeway on choosing penalties and requirements to improve the situations. Valerie first gave the example of the chronic at large dog whose owner got permission from all his neighbors for the dog to be on their properties. But, since the dog was crossing streets to get to those properties he was declared and was required to rectify the problem. Another case involved two dogs with multiple bites, who stayed at the shelter for months. They were returned to their owner, but then got out again and bit again. Valerie explained that the Commission had exhausted all options and ruled to remove ownership of one of these dogs. The judge upheld the Commission's decision.

Sita asked if there is an update on Anthony's Pets. Virgil answered that he has nothing new to report, but there is a group in town pushing for a ban on pet stores.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:11pm.