



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2024



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Matthew Hall.

Members Present:

Pamela Schamber, Raylene Griffith, Cathy Foerster, Matthew Hall, Sandy Potter, and Timothy Ebben.

Members Absent:

Jessie Janowski

Staff Present:

Tamiah Liebersbach, Debbie Burks – AHD
Melissa Summerfield, Eric Jonsen, Bernard Chastain—ALPS.

2. **New Business**

The agenda was adjusted to move New Business ahead of the review of prior meeting minutes to accommodate individuals who might need to leave early

- The board discussing the scheduling of the November-December meetings. Attendees were asked to reference their calendars to determine availability. Everyone agreed to the next meeting to be December 5th

- 3.

Minutes from September 26, 2024:

Minutes reviewed, approved.

4. **Requested Presentations:**

None.

5. **Persons to be Heard:**

None.

6. **Standing Reports:**

Anchorage Animal Care Control (AACC) Monthly Report and Public Outreach

Melissa Summerfield Reported:

- **Animal Intake and Winter Preparation**
 - Animal intake is expected to decline as winter approaches, allowing the shelter to recover from the busier summer months.
 - Increased calls related to animals and vehicles are anticipated with colder weather.
 - Officers are being updated on new check sheets and processes implemented over the past year.
- **Horse Case Update**
 - The next trial hearing is scheduled for October 30th.
 - A civil suit for the cost of care has been filed, but the current status is unclear.
- **Dog Case Update**
 - Two dogs remain in custody; trial hearings have been repeatedly delayed.
 - The next hearing is set for November 20th.
 - Current costs of care have been sent to the owner's attorneys, but no response has been received.
- **Staffing and Training**
 - Two officers are currently in training.
 - One officer position remains open, creating short-staffing challenges.
 - The team is managing to address cases despite the staffing shortage.
- **Community Outreach**
 - **Vaccine Clinic:**
 - A successful clinic with Friends of Pets in early October had a large turnout, exceeding vaccine supply.
 - Plans are underway for additional clinics targeting dogs and cats in homeless camps.
 - **Weekly Outreach Visits:**
 - Visits to Serendipity and Horizon House include kitten social hours and canine meet-and-greets, receiving positive community feedback.
 - **Event Participation:**
 - Participated in Habitat for Humanity's Halloween Block Party, showcasing increased public interest in collaboration with the shelter.
 - Outreach events are improving public awareness of animal control efforts and educating the community.
- **Future Outreach Plans**
 - Despite challenges posed by winter, the team aims to maintain a strong outreach presence.
- **General Shelter Updates**
 - Shelter operations remain stable with room for improvement based on upcoming suggestions.

7. Committee Reports:

Title 17: Sgt. Matthew Hall Reported:

- The most recent committee meeting was postponed to November.

- **Boarding and Commercial Facility Licenses**
 - Contact was made with BCAs (Boarding Commercial Facilities) in town to discuss updates to licenses.
 - Initial feedback was positive, with some facilities indicating the updates align with common practices.
 - Stacey from Alpine, a new contact, plans to consult her staff and expressed interest in seeing the proposed language for the updates.
- **Title 17 Meeting**
 - BCAs were invited to attend the next Title 17 meeting or submit feedback via email for discussion at that meeting.
 - Awaiting further communication or attendance confirmation from BCAs.

8. **AHD Staff Reports:**

Tamiah Liebersbach - Reported:

Board Vacancies

- Two board seats remain open.
- One application is pending review, and another individual has expressed interest in applying.
- Potential to fill these vacancies soon is promising.

Horse Case Civil Suit

- Legal department filed a civil suit for reimbursement of costs incurred and a bond for future costs.
- This case serves as a test for the state law on cost of care bonds, which has seen limited use.
- Fairbanks has successfully implemented a similar cost of care bond in their municipal code.
- The outcome will provide insights into handling lengthy and costly cruelty cases in the future.

Grant Application

- Applied for a nationwide ASPCA grant for \$80,000.
 - Funds would support spay-neuter surgeries and community vaccine clinic supplies.
- Previous grants were under the Northern Tier Shelter Initiative.
- Awaiting response with no set timeline, but optimistic about approval due to the grant's high maximum award (\$95,000) and available funds.

City Budget Process

- Assembly will soon propose amendments to the city budget.
- Current animal control budget includes a contractual increase but no additional funds.
- Advocacy is ongoing for funds to develop building blueprints as a first step for a capital improvement bond.
- Hopeful the administration may include this in an updated "S version" of the budget.
- Final budget meeting is on November 19th.

9. **Old Business:**

None.

10. **Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:**

Peggy Brockman – Community member visiting

11. **Informational Items:**

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, November 14th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.
- b. The next Animal Control Advisory Board meeting will be held Thursday, December 5, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.

12. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn. Adjourned at 6:17 p.m.