

Animal Control Commission

February 10, 2025, 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 via zoom
Brandt Ludlow – partial presence via zoom
Valerie Pena – present in person
Laura Soto – present in person

GUESTS

Aggie Ramey – present in person

STAFF

Taylor Brown, Assistant City Attorney – present in person
Kat Ennis – present in person
Margie Rice, Corporation Council – present via zoom
Lisa Ritchel – present in person
Virgil Sauder – present in person

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sue moved to approve the **December 9, 2024**, minutes as written.

Laura seconded.

Roll call vote: Sue – “yes,” Sita – “yes,” Chris – “yes,” Valerie – “abstain,” Laura – “yes,”

Motion passes, 4-0-1.

II. NEW BUSINESS

ii. Request to remove Potentially Dangerous – “Jim”

Virgil described the dog Jim who was previously owned by Lonny Vanover and had been declared Potentially Dangerous on September 18, 2023, for attacking another dog. On October 23, 2024, Animal Control Officers were called out to Crawford Apartments to dogs fighting in the hallway. There was a female dog and two intact male dogs one being Jim. There were no clear bites or injuries. There was an old injury to Jim’s foot, but no injury on the other dog. Jim came to the shelter and Mr. Vanover did not reclaim. Jim was evaluated at the shelter, he did okay with other dogs, got neutered, and was adopted via the Sit, Stay, Adopt program into a new home. Jim is doing great in his new home and Animal Control is interested in removing the declaration for the adopters’ behalf.

The Commission discussed the request. Sita stated that based on this information she is okay removing his declaration. Valerie agreed.

Sue moved to remove the Potentially Dangerous declaration from Jim.

Valerie seconded.

Roll call vote: Sue – “yes,” Sita – “yes,” Chris - “yes,” Brandt – “yes,” Valerie – “yes,” Laura – “yes,”
Motion passes 6-0-0.

ii. Request to declare Habitual Offender - Ramey

Officer Ennis presented detailed information on Aggie Ramey and the condition of 15 cats in her home, most living in crates.

Ms. Ramey explained her side of the story and stated that there is not a problem with her cats.

The Commission moved to discussion. Sita read the Habitual Offender information from the Ordinance. Chris noted the multiple fines and offenses and asked how many cats one can have in the City. Sue answered that six is the limit. Laura noted her concern stating that any rescue with this setup would be in trouble. Sita shared that she wants to declare, to let her keep the three, and in a year or two check back. Sita stated that crates are not a healthy or happy life. Chris stated that was generous and wondered how many cats are at the other rental properties. Brandt shared that it was clear to him that this is a failed system and the cats are paying the price. VS hoped for no additional pets, and would consider removing all, but not yet. Valerie suggested declaring Ms. Ramey a Habitual Offender and that the cats that were removed to stay at the shelter but she can keep the three free roaming cats.

Sue moved to declare Ms. Ramey a Habitual Offender. She is allowed to keep the four cats in her home that are known to the Commission, the ones removed to remain in the shelter’s custody, there will be periodic checks of her home, and she may not obtain any new cats for at least 12 months.

Valerie seconded.

Roll call vote: Sue – “yes,” Sita – “yes,” Chris - “yes,” Brandt – “yes,” Valerie – “yes,” Laura – “yes,”
Motion passes 6-0-0.

iii. Chair, Vice Chair election

Sita shared that Sue offered to be Chair and she could move to Vice Chair.

Valerie present a slate of officers: Sue Allmon as Chair and Sita Cohen as Vice Chair.

Chris seconded.

Roll call vote: Sue – “yes,” Sita – “yes,” Chris - “yes,” Brandt – “yes,” Valerie – “yes,” Laura – “yes,”
Motion passes 6-0-0.

III. REPORTS

i. Animal Care and Control Report

Virgil reported that the Shelter Sweethearts adoption event started. Adoptions have been busy and many new fosters are on board. Several owners on the waiting list have been scheduled. Virgil next shared his stats via a graph. Intake returned to 2020 levels and will hopefully start tapering off. Euthanasia is done and adoptions are increasing.

ii. MCHA Update

Sue reported that they are gearing up for Tails on the Town, May 2, 2025, with a Carnival theme again with two added games! There have been fantastic donations from members of the community. They are working on and hope to present a complete strategic plan to share in the future. They have a new vet! Dr. Peiper.

iii. AMC Update

Valerie shared that Ken Buzzard is the new Chair. Joint meetings are happening to discuss mandatory spay/neuter or possible registration.

IV. ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Meeting upcoming to discuss ordinance updates.

V. Public Comment

Ramey stated that she visited on Sunday and found her cats on the adoption floor. She stated that this is wrong.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Val moved to adjourn.

Sue seconded.

Roll call vote: Sue – “yes,” Sita – “yes,” Chris - “yes,” Brandt – “yes,” Valerie – “yes,” Laura – “yes,”

Motion passes, 6-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47pm