



Municipality of Anchorage  
**Animal Control Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 24, 2022**



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Allegra Hamer, Chair; Cathy Foerster, Debbie Sis, Rachelle Alger, Pamela Schamber, Sandy Potter.

**Members Absent:** Tim Ebben, Jessie Janowski

**Staff Present:** Kimberly Rash, AHD; Tamiah Liebersbach, AHD; Nicholas Ullery, AHD; Melissa Winn, ALPS.

2. **Minutes from January 27, 2022, and February 24, 2022, Meeting:**

January Minutes

Ms. Foerster motioned to approve January's minutes. Minutes approved unanimously

February Minutes

Ms. Foerster moves to approve February's minutes. Minutes approved unanimously.

3. **Requested Presentations:**

None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

Mike Mitchell

Lives in South Anchorage walks his Shih-Tzu 10 to 20 miles a day.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, he was walking down Abbot RD. just past Granite PL. A dog he identified as a pure-bred large German Shepherd Dog ambushed his dog from behind, tore up his rear end, and crushed his humerus. The dog needed to have an amputation that cost \$7,000.

Mr. Mitchell called animal control and was told that he could not be helped because he did not follow the dog home. Mr. Mitchell stated he thought his dog would die, so he did not follow the dog home.

He went back the next day and estimated the distance the dog would have had to travel and believed that it had to come from one of the two homes on Abbott Road

and Granite Place. Mr. Mitchell believes the dog at one of those houses has been escaping via a snow berm next to a four-foot fence.

He called Animal Control who sent an officer out there and asked the resident to show him his animal, the resident refused, and Animal Control stated that he could not move forward because he does not have the power to complete a search warrant.

Four days later, the officer went back and was able to get a photo of multiple dogs, but the photos were of poor quality, preventing identification of the offending dog.

Mr. Mitchell requested that Title 17 be changed to give AACC officers power to move forward with a search warrant. He also believes the other citizen obstructed justice by not allowing the AACC officer to see their dog when requested.

Mr. Mitchell believes that the ball was dropped because the investigation was dropped.

## **5. Standing Reports:**

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

Director Winn summarized the highlights of the January 2022 and February 2022 Anchorage Animal Care and Control Monthly Reports.

Director Winn summarized about the highlights of February's Public Outreach report.

## **6. Committee Reports:**

### **a. Off-Leash Dog Area Committee – (Cathy Foerster)**

Ms. Foerster reported that Scoop the Poop is officially starting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at University Park and Connor's Bog.

Waterways Council decided they will do a fall Scoop the Poop.

Ms. Foerster also reported that this committee has outlived its purpose since Parks & Recreation now includes dog parks in almost all their park master plans as part of community requests. Those plans are ultimately presented to ACAB for review if they do include off-leash dog parks. Ms. Foerster moved to inactivate the Off-Leash Dog Area Committee. Seconded by Ms. Alger. The motion was approved unanimously.

Off-Leash Dog Area Committee is inactive.

### **b. Title 17 Review Committee – (Pam Schamber)**

Ms. Schamber reported

Title 17 Committee is continuing to work on the bonding issues for animals that are in protective custody.

Continuing to look at options to create a financial maximum or limit the financial responsibility in cases where people cannot pay.

Title 17 is also looking into a 3<sup>rd</sup> party custodian.

**c. Spay Neuter Working Group (Allegra Hamer)**

Ms. Hamer reported,

She has not had a chance to collect stats to verify if this committee needs to continue.

Ms. Liebersbach commented

Dr. Hedges has a lot of capacity, but her capacity is limited by the maximum number of spay/ neuters AACC can reimburse in the contract.

Ms. Alger offered to assist Ms. Liebersbach with getting funding requests to increase reimbursement for this service in front of the assembly.

**7. AHD Staff Reports:**

Ms. Liebersbach reported

She plans to work with APD every year so that School resource officers will get trained so that during the summer they can be on trails and help with community education, including on-leash trail use by dog owners.

Parks and Rec once had a trail watch program which is now largely inactive. Former committee members from this program are interested in reactivating and, if this happens, providing additional community education. She will keep in communication with this effort.

**8. Old Business: None.**

**9. New Business:**

Nomination and elections for Chair and Vice-Chair of ACAB.

Nomination received for Ms. Hamer for the position of Chair. Ms. Foerster moved to elect Ms. Hamer Chair. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Nomination received for Ms. Schamber for Vice-Chair.

Ms. Foerster moved to elect Ms. Schamber Vice Chair. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Chair and Vice-Chair have been elected for the term expiring March 2023.

10. **Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:** None

11. **Informational Items:**

- a. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Title 17 Review Committee will be April 14, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams
- b. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Animal Control Advisory Board is April 28, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.
- c. There was an informal discussion about the possibility for ACAB to returning to meet in person. There was no motion and further discussion was postponed until COVID protocols further relax.

12. **Adjournment:** Ms. Foerster motioned to adjourn. Adjourned at 6:30 PM.