



Municipality of Anchorage  
**Animal Control Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 28, 2016**



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was not yet present.

**Members Present:** Kari Campbell; Kayla Epstein; Allegra Hamer, Chair; Jay Jackson; Christine Roalofs, DMD, Vice Chair; Jennifer Spencer; Sandy Traini

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** DeeAnn Fetko, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); Dr. Myra Wilson, DVM, Animal Licensing and Placement Services (ALPS), Laura Atwood, ALPS

2. **Minutes from the March 24, 2016 Meeting:** Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Jackson and seconded by Dr. Roalofs. The minutes were approved as written.

3. **Requested Presentations:** None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:** None.

5. **Standing Reports:**

**Anchorage Animal Care and Control (AACC) Monthly Report and Public Outreach** – Dr. Wilson reported on March 2016 activities. The number of animals received year-to-date was 910 this year and 920 last year. AACC received 67 other animals in March. The cat claim rate was 30% for the month. Total licenses sold year to date is 500. The number of animal bites reported was consistent at 33 this year compared to 34 last year. Officers wrote more citations totaling 86 compared to 73 last year. There was only 1 classified animal in March. This is the first time in several months where requests for services were down. There were fewer calls for animals in custody, loose animals and animal welfare checks. ALPS hired 4 new officers this year and lost 1. Enforcement is currently fully staffed. However, 3 officers are still in training. Within 3 weeks, everyone should be on the road. Portals were purchased for the cat kennels in the cattery. Eight of the kennels can now be used by cats on both sides giving them one side for fun and the other for litter. This is in line with cat space recommendations from the Association of Shelter Managers.

Ms. Atwood noted officers rescued a dog off a cliff on the Seward Highway. KTUU requested an interview with Officer Leece and he did a wonderful job. Others at the scene called him a hero. There was another behind the scenes segment with KTUU where AACC covered Polar Pug's Phoenix Fund which breaks down barriers to adoption such as age, medical care, etc. by covering these expenses that create

barriers. The story covered a dog that needed dental work and grooming. AACC had a couple of shelter tours and the school age program at JBER brought numerous tour groups throughout the week including 73 students.

## **6. Committee Reports:**

**a. Off-Leash Dog Area Committee (Ms. Epstein, Chair)** – Ms. Epstein did not have a report this month. Ms. Fetko reported the following information on Anchorage Parks and Recreation activities:

i. University Lake – The master plan went to the community council. There was not community consensus about keeping or eliminating the off leash area so the council supported the plan which includes small realignments of the trail and erosion control.

ii. South Anchorage Sports Park – Work on the off-leash area including a  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre fenced section and an open area will go out to bid next month.

iii. Valley of the Moon – There may be site amenities added this summer such as trash cans, mutt mitts, etc. The bond that passed with assist with additional items such as double gates and parking expansion. A public process will begin in the fall with improvements slated for 2017.

iv. Whisper Faith Kovach Park (off Lore in between Lake Otis and the Seward Hwy) – Once funds are identified, concentrated design efforts will begin which will likely include playground safety upgrades.

v. Muldoon Square Park – The master plan including a  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre fenced off-leash dog area was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Board members can view a copy of the plan on the APR website at: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/MuldoonCommunityParkMasterPlan.aspx>. The board may want to consider a resolution in supporting establishment of an off-leash area in the park.

**b. Title 17 Review Committee (Ms. Campbell, Chair)** – Ms. Campbell reported the committee met and chose to focus on the noise issue at this time. The next meeting will be held May 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. The committee is inviting representatives from rescue and mushing organizations to gather information on how changing the chronic animal noise limit to five minutes for licensed facilities would affect rescue, foster, mushing and other groups.

## **7. DHHS Staff Reports:**

**a. DHHS Staffing Changes** – Ms. Fetko reported she has accepted the position of Deputy Director at DHHS. The Department is working on filling her position. She will be active in the transition and will support the new Administration Manager in managing AACC activities.

**b. Title 17 Strict Liability Ordinance** – Ms. Fetko reported the Assembly Ordinance that would clarify offenses under Title 17 are strict liability offenses was pulled by Assemblyman Steele. The ordinance would allow AACC to proceed with enforcing the code as officers have historically done without having to prove the animal owner's state of mind. Ms. Fetko noted the administration has resubmitted the ordinance for Assembly consideration and is set to be introduced on May 10<sup>th</sup> with a public hearing to follow at the next Assembly May 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **8. New Business:**

**a. Board Elections** – Ms. Epstein, Nominating Committee Chair, noted there were two members willing to be nominated. She made a motion for the board keep the current Chair, Ms. Hamer and Vice Chair, Dr. Roalofs. The motion was seconded by Ms. Traini and approved unanimously.

**b. Dog Attack in Neighborhood** – Ms. Spencer explained that she was contacted by a friend that encountered an aggressive dog in her neighborhood. The dog has apparently attacked other dogs in prior incidents. She said an animal control officer came 1.5 hours after she called and said there was nothing he could do and that she should carry dog to keep it safe. Dr. Wilson noted that officers can issue citations, classify and/or impound animals with sufficient evidence. Ms. Fetko mentioned there may be something hindering the officer from taking action related to the strict liability issues that would be addressed with the proposed ordinance change. Dr. Wilson noted she would get with the enforcement supervisor to follow up on the case (#A16-026181) to determine what enforcement actions occurred.

**c. Coshok's Canine Castle** – Board members received an email regarding conditions at the Coshok's Canine Castle facility. Dr. Wilson noted AACC took a call this week and there is an open activity under investigation. Ms. Campbell responded to the concerned citizen's email that she was in receipt of the email, understood her concern and would bring it forward to the board. She also invited the complainant to the board meeting. Ms. Campbell explained to her that the T17 committee is working on facility standards but that can take some time. Ms. Jackson has also shared with the complainant that responded that she was in receipt of the email and there was a board meeting tonight. Ms. Campbell said the board takes public comment and makes recommendations to change the code as needed. Ms. Hamer will respond in coordination with Dr. Wilson and Ms. Fetko that the complaint is being investigated.

## **9. Informational Items:**

**a. Next Regular Meeting** – The next regular board meeting will be held Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center located at 4711 Elmore Road.

**b. Next Title 17 Committee Meeting** – The next committee meeting will be held Thursday May 12, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center.

**10. Adjournment:** Ms. Epstein made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ms. Traini. With no objections the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.