



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022



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

Members Present: Mitzi Anderson, Chair; Michelle Sinnott, Vice-Chair; Allegra Hamer; Sandy Potter; Pamela Schamber, Debbie Sis, Jessie Janowski, Timothy Ebben

Members Absent: Cathy Foerster

Staff Present: Tamiah Liebersbach, AHD; Nicholas Ullery, AHD; Laura Holman, ALPS.

2. **Minutes from December 9, 2021, Meeting:**

Several board members discussed the minutes and the inclusion of the Title 17 Review Committee Chair's report which indicated that there was agreement and consensus among the members of the Committee on a recommendation regarding an internal AACC/AHD policy against adopting a cat to someone planning to declaw the cat.

After much discussion it was confirmed there was no actual vote taken at the Committee, which is required to operate under Roberts Rules. Therefore, the committee report could not state there was a consensus or agreement.

Additional discussion centered around the weight of a Title 17 Review Committee recommendation to the rest of ACAB. This was not resolved, however the ACAB Sub-Committees by definition are advisory to the entire ACAB, which is itself an advisory board to the Mayor and the Assembly. It is the entire ACAB which decides what is put forth.

Ms. Potter moved that the December minutes not be approved until they reflect her comment made both at the Title 17 Review Committee December meeting and at the December 2021 ACAB meeting. This comment was that she did not agree with the report of the Title 17 Chair made at the ACAB meeting that there was consensus to adopt an internal policy putting declawing forward as a right to deny adoption at AACC and that she warned of a "slippery slope" if such policy were approved. Motion seconded by Ms. Schamber.

Ms. Anderson called for a roll call vote because this modified a Committee report made at a prior ACAB meeting. There were 7 ayes and 1 abstention.

3. **Requested Presentations:**

None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

None

5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Ms. Holman reported for Ms. Winn summarizing the highlights of the November 2021 Anchorage Animal Care and Control Monthly report.

7. **Committee Reports:**

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

There was no report.

b. Title 17 Review Committee – (Michelle Sinnott)

Ms. Sinnott reported that the Committee has recommended changes to 17.25.060.A2 which permits AACC to deny adoption to someone who has been convicted under Title 8 crime. The recommendation is to expand it so that animal cruelty not falling under MOA Title 8 be included, such as State or other local laws. It would also be expanded to include pending cruelty charges as well as anyone living in the same household with someone convicted or charged with animal cruelty. It would apply to rescues pulling animals from AACC. The applicant for the adoption must disclose any pending charges and in the case of rescues, the definition of applicant is expanded to include their operating officers and/or non-profit board members.

Ms. Sinnott moved that ACAB approve the proposed changes to 17.25.060, seconded. Approved.

Ms. Sinnott reported that the discussion about internal adoption policies at AACC will now be handled by the Health Department and any changes will be done at that level, not at Title 17.

c. Spay Neuter Working Group (Allegra Hamer)

Ms. Hamer reported that there have been no meetings of this working group. However, many animals at AACC are now being spayed/neutered before leaving thanks to Dr. Hedges and her staff.

8. AHD Staff Reports:

Ms. Liebersbach reported that Melissa Winn has been named shelter Director.

A grant of \$10,000 from Best Friends Animals Society will provide 112 spays and neuters for cats.

Ms. Liebersbach expressed thanks to Ms. Anderson and Ms. Sinnott for all their work for ACAB; currently no new members have been proposed by the Mayor's office. As of February 2022, the Chair and Vice Chair positions on ACAB are vacant.

The new Public Health and Administration Division Manager will be starting this month and will be attending ACAB meetings periodically.

Old Business: None.

9. New Business: Allegra Hamer agreed to serve as ACAB Chair on an interim base

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 February 10, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams

b. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Animal Control Advisory Board is February 24, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

13. Adjournment: Ms. Hamer motioned to adjourn, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.