

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time:	Tuesday March 24, 2026 *4:00PM
Location:	Saginaw County Animal Care & Control 5615 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48604
Council Members Present:	Kelli Scorsone, Carol Pickelmann, Tom McIntyre, Tracey Slodowski, Jonna Godley, Dr. Bailey Mielke, Sharon Maher, Lauren Lutenski
Council Members Absent:	Cynthia Winiecke, Demetrios Scott
Others in Attendance:	Gilbert Ramirez, Jaime Ceja, Jen Speckhard

I. CALL TO ORDER

Tracey Slodowski called the meeting to order at 4:07PM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Lutenski made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 24, 2026. Member Maher supported. Motion passed (8-0).

III. DIRECTORS REPORT – RACHEL HORTON, DIRECTOR – SAGINAW COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

- Length of Stay – this relates to resources SCACC allocates to an animal. A shorter length of stay equals a better outcome, less illness, and negates the need for additional vaccines. Member Godley stated that being open on the weekends probably played a large part in this data. Director Horton stated that data shows that being open later during the week saw more adopters.
 - January 2024 – average stay was 220 days
 - June 2025 – average stay for dogs was 92 days and cats were 75 days
 - 2026 to date – average stay for dogs is 28 days and cats were 18 days
- Events – April 12-18 is ACO appreciation week. May 1-15 is the Bissel event offering \$25.00 adoptions.
- EMBED – There are still 2 Best Friends representatives on site working with staff doing intake training, neo-natal kitten training and cat training. They are also doing management training with new hires.
- MSU – Spay/Neuter program starts May 21st. They reached out to see if they could utilize the clinic due to an ADA student accommodation that is needed. Director Horton agreed and there is an MOU on the way.
- Volunteers – Lindsay has started sending out weekly communications, training volunteers with the new leveling system, community events and adoption events. The program Dog Day Out is new and allows people to take a dog for a few hours. The hope is that they become fosters or owners. Member Scorsone stated that she had people who came to sign up to volunteer and they were turned away. Director Horton stated that people who come into the shelter are directed to sign up using the online application as it makes a record and gets to Lindsay. Chair Slodowski asked how many volunteers we have, Director Horton stated about 30.
- ACO's – Working on training and identifying training gaps.
- Adoption – Member Lutenski asked if metrics are shared with volunteers. Director Horton stated that in Lindsay's weekly newsletter there are metrics referenced.
- TNR – Director Horton stated that SCACC rents out traps, but we cannot do the spay/neuter. We do not have a vet of record (VOR) that has a DEA number to obtain the proper drugs. Veterinarians are extremely hesitant to become the VOR with the negative

publicity and lawsuits that have been brought against our previous VOR. We cannot in good faith ask a veterinarian to put their license at risk. Dr. Tina, Midland Human, and All About Animals are good resources.

9. Playgroups – Chair Slodowski stated that she has had negative phone calls about playgroups and is unsure why. She has also had negative comments about Best Friends being on-site. Director Horton stated that there has been a decrease in euthanasia since playgroups were started; if a dog has a bite history, they are not automatically disallowed, we just need to find the right group for that dog. Member Maher stated that she utilizes playgroups all the time and sometimes it takes a while to find the right group for a dog.
10. Social Media – Chair Slodowski stated that we continue to have negative comments on Facebook. Member Pickelmann stated that perhaps we can make a post about spay/neuter, and playgroups, that way people get the correct information. Director Horton stated we do posts and people will still comment negatively if that is what they choose to do. SCACC automatically posts twice a week and very strategically to highlight stray and available pets. The pathways group also meets weekly to go over all shelter animals and how to plan to get them out of the shelter.
11. Staffing – Member Pickelmann asked if we would be hiring a new Outcomes Manager, Director Horton stated yes.
12. Rehoming – Member Lutenski asked if an animal is adopted from somewhere else can they surrender to the shelter. Director Horton stated yes if there is room available. All surrenders go through a priority evaluation. We intake strays first as that is statutorily mandated and then surrenders.

IV. AGENDA

1. REPORT OF WORK GROUPS

- a. Community Picnic – Chair Slodowski stated she contacted 2 food trucks who were interested. Member Maher stated we could offer reduced price adoptions, maybe vaccines. Director Horton stated they are looking to do a microchip day. Gilbert Ramirez stated that someone could do a poster to advertise, the earlier the better. Member Dr. Mielke stated this should start small, reduced adoption rates, microchips, food trucks. Maybe a rabies clinic as a stand-alone event. Community picnic will be on June 6th. Next workgroup meeting will be June April 28th at 3:00PM. Director Horton asked the council to please bring an agenda and a list of things that need to be discussed.
- b. Education – April 20th the girl scouts will be at the shelter, Lindsay has organized it and Member Scorsone has been speaking to her. This will be at 5:00PM with approximately 10 kids, 10 years old. Lauren will reach out to Lindsay to see how they can work together. Member Scorsone is working on the pamphlet.
- c. Fundraising – Member Pickelmann stated that she would like to have the meeting on April 28th at 5:00PM.

V. NEW ITEMS

1. **Plaque** – Commissioner Webster asked for a plaque that commemorates the opening of the new SCACC with the commissioner names. Director Horton stated that there is one in the vestibule.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jen Speckhard – Directed to Director Horton, when will new volunteers start because there aren't hardly any left and they are leaving. Director Horton stated that the current volunteers need to complete the leveling process. What is the status of Shelter Luv vs. Shelter Partners? There are currently no updates. Director Horton stated that the intent was for volunteers to use the software to update each other and leave notes about animals and generally share information.
2. Chair Slodowski stated to all to be careful what you say, someone showed up to her son's school and approached her. It was very inappropriate and scary that she had that information.

VII. NEXT MEETING

1. Next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 4:00PM.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Member Pickelmann made a motion to adjourn. Member Maher supported. The meeting adjourned at 5:32PM.