

# ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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Date and Time:	Tuesday April 28, 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, Cynthia Winiecke, Demetrios Scott
Council Members Absent:	
Others in Attendance:	Rachel Horton, Jaime Ceja, Jen Speckhard, Lindsey Sammons, Karen Angers

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

Tracey Slodowski called the meeting to order at 4:03PM

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member McIntyre made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 24, 2026. Member Pickelmann supported. Motion passed (10-0).

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

- 1. Community Partnerships** – Director Horton addressed the recent Facebook post from the Humane Society of Saginaw County who are upset that ACO's give their information to the community in regard to TNR services. ACO's give out the contact information of a lot of community resources depending on the need. Rescue partnerships are critical and a two way street, when we need help, we reach out, when they need help they reach out. Regarding the recent transfer of cats from out of state, the rescue offered healthy vetted cats who were immediately put into adoption as we had a lot of space available, and they took our medical case cats who needed major medical care.
- 2. Surgical Center Update** – SCACC has approached multiple veterinarians to assume the vet of record position for SCACC, and no veterinarian has accepted the offer. Being the vet of record requires them to use their DEA license to secure controlled substances and because past veterinarians have been targeted and investigated no vet is willing to put their license on the line.
- 3. Events** – Bissel Empty the Shelters May 1<sup>st</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. Hidden Gems Promotion – animals with a 30 day stay available for \$30.00 fee. National ACO appreciation week was April 12-18.
- 4. Best Friends** – Started January 17<sup>th</sup> 2026 with two operations managers, focused on staff training, operational consistency and SOP development. This has resulted in increased staff engagement, operational improvements and reduction in length of stay.
- 5. Volunteer Program** – Lindsey has been very busy getting the program up and running efficiently. The dog day out program has taken off, people can take a dog out of the shelter for a few hours, this program helps get information on the animal which helps when matching adoptions. People fill out applications and paperwork with program regulations and are monitored for the duration of their visit.
- 6. Kitten Foster Program** – Programming educates staff on kitten care, aging, collecting donations, biosecurity and feeding.
- 7. Training** – ACO Joe has been working with ACO's on training, they did CPR last week.
- 8. Transfers** – Transfers in care at 62 this year, which is a normal number. Member Pickelmann stated that it may be helpful to do a post when the advisory council meets because people do not realize what the Council can and cannot do and the meeting is a

resource. The reports that Director Horton hands out should also be online. Chair Slodowski stated that the Council does not make policy for the shelter. Member Scorsone asked if the County should respond online to comments.

#### IV. AGENDA

1. **TEAM BUILDING EVENT – TRACEY SLODOWSKI** – The last event we had with the council members went well, is that something we want to do again? It was decided June 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the next Council team building event. Jaime will send reminder.
2. **REPORT OF WORK GROUPS**
  - a. **Community Picnic – Tracey Slodowski** – June 20<sup>th</sup>, 9AM-1PM. There will be food trucks, pup cups, drive-through microchipping, story time for kids, animal adoptions, and training demos. If you know of any vendors who would like to set up a table, please let us know. A special thank you to Member Maher who is donating the first 100 microchips. If anyone has tables and chairs to donate for the day, it would be appreciated. Date of the next work group is May 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM.
  - b. **Education – Kelli Scorsone** – Thank you to Lindsey for organizing and running the last girl scout educational day and Chair Slodowski who brought cupcakes. Member Scorsone asked Rachel for clarification around submitting materials to her before presenting. Director Horton stated that she wants to ensure that all statements are accurate. Chair Slodowski asked if a craft station could be set up and Member Pickelmann asked if Kelli could make a flyer to spread the word.
  - c. **Fundraising – Carol Pickelmann** – We will be meeting after this meeting to discuss some ideas. Official meeting will be within the month.

#### V. NEW ITEMS

1. **Appreciation Day** – Chair Slodowski stated that Volunteer Jennifer Speckhard voiced her displeasure at volunteers not being included in the staff appreciation day. Director Horton stated that it was presented as a staff appreciation day, not volunteer. Chair Slodowski stated she wasn't aware of that. If there is another event volunteers should be included and flyers could be put in bathrooms and Lindsey could include it in her weekly volunteer newsletter.

#### VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jen Speckhard – Stated that the soft opening was a mistake. Directed to Director Horton she asked for a new volunteer starting date because now the cat volunteers are leaving and they need help. Lindsey stated that there are 2 new volunteer classes this week, one right after this meeting. Jaime reminded the gallery that questions should be directed to the chair. Jen stated that perhaps reaching out to the Humane Society and Undercover Angels about attending council meetings could help. Jen stated that if the Council could change the time of the community event to after 1:00 because that is when the shelter is open it would be helpful. Chair Slodowski stated that there wouldn't be staff available to accommodate a later time.

#### VII. NEXT MEETING

1. Next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 4:00PM.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Member Winiecke made a motion to adjourn. Member Scott supported. The meeting adjourned at 4:46PM.