

## **Anderson County Animal Advisory Committee**

**Anderson County Courthouse, Room 312**

**June 23, 2026, 4:00 PM**

### **MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Commissioner Anthony Allen, Commissioner Sabra Beauchamp, Les Hunt, Steven Phillips

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Mayor Terry Frank, Director Damon McKenna, Law Director Jamie Brooks, County Veterinarian Dr. Mark Garrett

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Tracy Wandell

**Others present:** Harry Varnis, Kim Dixon, Katrina Hall, Luann Keller, Rosemary Darden, Donna Hejtmanek

**Call to Order.** Chairman Allen called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.** Chairman Allen offered Prayer, and L. Hunt led the Pledge.

**Approval of Agenda.** Motion by S. Phillips and second by L. Hunt to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes.** Motion by S. Phillips and second L. Hunt to approve the minutes of the Committee's May meeting. Motion carried.

**Appearance of Citizens.** Donna Hejtmanek

Members discussed the Committee's goals:

- 1) Daily checks of the Animal Care & Control website to determine any issues that need to be addressed with the site.
- 2) Putting shelter statistics in a graph or chart for better tracking
- 3) Director McKenna to send out a weekly email to the members highlighting the department's activities or needs
- 4) Educate the public to help keep animals safe and out of the shelter
- 5) Find the best ways to handle pet hoarding situations
- 6) Plan for moving to the new animal shelter after its completion
- 7) Take photos weekly or monthly of the construction progress on the new shelter to create a progress video
- 8) Engage and recruit more fosters and volunteers; share the applications for fostering and volunteering with the community via local media outlets
- 9) Community input for design of the new shelter property's exterior campus

**Mayor's Report.**

- USDA officials, congressional representatives, and local leaders participated in a brief ceremony last week to recognize the beginning of construction for the new animal shelter
- Play area at current shelter location is working out well. Shade sails will be added to the area soon.
- Shelter Evaluation: Purchase Order is in place. After the completion of legal review and contract execution, work is anticipated to start in mid-July, after the kick-off meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- County Commission confirmed Jessica Hyder as the 501c3 representative on the Animal Advisory Committee. Her first meeting will be in July.

Commissioner Beauchamp moved to add Commissioner Wandell's requests from the last meeting under New Business. Second by S. Phillips. Motion carried.

**New Business.** Director McKenna reviewed the shelter's protocols for animal intake and vetting. Dr. Garrett was recognized for serving as the animal shelter's veterinarian consultant, and his help with getting the best prices for vaccines and medications, as well as making sure related licenses remain current.

Committee members noted they want to recognize the fosters who help the animal shelter, and they want to prioritize the committee's goals.

Director McKenna asked if the county can surplus perishable items that have been donated to the shelter. Law Director Brooks will study the issue and report back.

**Next Meeting.** Tuesday, July 28, at 4 p.m.

**Adjourn.** There being no other business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned without objection, at 5:11 p.m.