



City of South Bend

Animal Welfare Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes – Thursday, March 12, 2026

Location: Public Meeting Room on the 3rd floor of City Hall, 215 Doctor MLK Jr. Blvd., South Bend, IN 46601

This meeting was live-streamed at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/2026AWCHybrid>

Animal Welfare Commission members present in person: Dr. Mariah Covey, Jessica Slisher, Christina Gerken, Rebecca Kaiser, and Karl Hopkins.

City staff present: Brittni Gendron - SBARC Director, Adam Taylor – Attorney for AWC, Tom Panowicz - Attorney for SBARC.


1. A. Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and took roll call; a quorum of Commissioners was present.
2. No Hearings.
3. The February 12, 2026 minutes were approved by Motion and unanimous vote.
4. SBARC Director Gendron provided the monthly shelter reports to the commissioners with submitted reports: February showed 177 intakes, 100 were owner surrenders – this seemed to be very financially driven; 15 adoptions; 91 transfers out to rescue; 19 return to owners; 49 euthanasia, 18 being owner requests; 228 cases, 144 being able to close. It was discussed that SBARC received a grant to install sound-dampening panels in dog areas, so those are slowly being added in to help alleviate some stress, and are also working on a grant for visual barriers to help with visual stress also.
5. Council Report: at the next meeting, Commissioners will need to have nominations for a new Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, to vote on and appoint. It was mentioned the Commissioner Training to occur after this meeting, with the intent to try to be as efficient as possible.
6. Privilege of the Floor was held: there was a question regarding after-hours SBARC calls, it was discussed as much as appropriate and legal, without giving specific details of specific Police Cases, but with confidence that SBARC officers have been acting appropriately. This discussion will be further reviewed and brought back into conversation at a later date.

Dr. Mariah Covey Christina Gerken Rebecca Kaiser Karl Hopkins Jessica Slisher



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7. This meeting was adjourned by motion.

Approved by Secretary: 
Chair

Date: 4-9-26