



City of South Bend

Animal Welfare Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes – Thursday, July 10, 2025

Location: 4th Floor Council Chambers, County-City Building, 227 W. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend, IN 46601

This meeting was live-streamed at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/2025AWCHybrid>

Animal Welfare Commission members present in person: Rebecca Kaiser, Christina Gerken, Alicia Flores, and Karl Hopkins

City staff present: Brittnei Gendron – SBARC Shelter Manager, Tom Panowicz – Attorney for SBARC, Adam Taylor – Attorney for AWC.

1. Chairperson Gerken called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and took a roll call and a quorum of Commissioners was present.
2. SBARC requested to remove from Agenda without prejudice Case 2025-05: B. Cazarez, and the Commissioners approved the removal by motion.
3. The Chairperson proceeded to the agenda item for hearings, and Adam Taylor called Case: 2025:07: B. Brann to determine whether the Respondent Brann shall be labeled a habitual animal offender. SBARC presented evidence and rested, and the Respondent then presented evidence.
 - a. After hearing the evidence presented by SBARC, the Commissioners determined that Respondent is a habitual animal offender and ordered that he be designated a habitual animal offender for the period of five years. Respondent's ownership rights in two animals, and previously seized by SBARC, was forfeited. Any future possession of animals within the five year period is subject to immediate seizure or impoundment by SBARC.
4. A hearing was called by Adam Taylor in Case: 2025-08: T. Johnson to determine whether the Respondent shall be labeled a Habitual Animal Offender. SBARC requested a continuance of the hearing until July 24, 2025, to allow Respondent to be present. The Commissioners voted to approve the continuance by unanimous vote, with a written order to follow.
5. The June 12, 2025 minutes were approved by Motion.
6. SBARC Manager Gendron provided monthly shelter reports to the commissioners.
7. Adam Taylor provided an update concerning ongoing ordinance review in Counsel Report, and indicated that there were no active AWC cases with appeals filed.
8. Privilege of the Floor was held with one public comment received from citizen Angela Doran.
9. This meeting was adjourned by motion.

Dr. Mariah Covey Christina Gerken Rebecca Kaiser Alicia Flores Karl Hopkins



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Approved by Secretary: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date: 8/14/25