



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB)**

The hearing will be held at the Wheatland County Council Chambers: 242006 Range Road 243 (East of Strathmore off Hwy 1) (mail: 242006 Rge Rd 243, Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4) on Thursday, April 20, 2023, commencing at 1 p.m. regarding the following:

File: SDAB DP2023-001

Re: Refusal of Development Permit for a Home-Based business Type 3 (HBB 3) for a Sanctuary for the Care of Rescued, Surrendered, Injured and Abandoned Farm Animals

Legal Description: NW 17-26-25W4; 262049A Rge Rd 255

Permit Refused – March 14, 2023 - Municipal Planning Commission

At the hearing(s) the SDAB will hear from the appellant(s) and/or the agent; from any person who claims to be affected by the proposal; and from any other person who wishes to make representation AND whom the SDAB agrees to hear. Comments may be made verbally at the hearing, OR if you wish to present a written submission, you must have copies of the same to be distributed at the commencement of the hearing. Any submissions you make are collected under the authority of subsection 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purposes set out in sections 678 and 686 of the Municipal Government Act. Submissions will form part of a report available to the public and may be referenced in the Board's public written decision. If you have any questions regarding the collection or retention of this information, contact the Wheatland County FOIP Coordinator at (403) 934-3321.

A time limit may be imposed on verbal submissions, at the discretion of the Chairperson. No comments via telephone will be considered by the SDAB. We would appreciate receiving your written comments by end of day Thursday, April 13, 2023, regarding this matter; emails can be sent to [sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca).

The complete file for this application may be inspected in the County Office during regular office hours – Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information will be posted on the Wheatland County website for public to view prior to the Hearing date.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Van Haarlem at the Wheatland County Administration Office (403) 361-2000 or email [sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca).

# EXHIBIT A

## Notice of Appeal





# NOTICE OF APPEAL

## SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD

In accordance with Sections 678, 685 and 686 of the Municipal Government Act and the Wheatland County Land Use Bylaw an appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board must be filed within the legislated time frame and each Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by payment of a **non-refundable \$300.00 filing fee for subdivision** appeals and a **\$200.00 filing fee for development appeals**. Non payment of the fee will result in no hearing being scheduled before the SDAB. For filing instructions and fee payment options, see the reverse side of this form.

<b>Site Information</b>			Date Received Stamp	
Municipal Address of Site 262049A RGE RD 255			<div>WHEATLAND COUNTY MAR 28 2023 RECEIVED</div> (Office Use Only) 1:28pm	
Legal Description of Site (must be completed for all appeals) NW-17-26-25-4				
Development Permit Number or Subdivision Application Number DP 2023-006				
<b>Appellant Information</b>				
Name of Appellant Janneane Madill				
Street Address (for notification purposes) [REDACTED]				
City [REDACTED]	Province [REDACTED]	Postal Code [REDACTED]	Residential Phone # [REDACTED]	FOIP s.17(1)
Business Phone # [REDACTED]	Fax # [REDACTED]	Email Address [REDACTED]	FOIP s.17(1)	

### APPEAL AGAINST (Check One Only)

Development Permit	Subdivision Application	Notice of Order
<input type="radio"/> Approval <input type="radio"/> Conditions of Approval <input checked="" type="radio"/> Refusal	<input type="radio"/> Approval <input type="radio"/> Conditions of Approval <input type="radio"/> Refusal	<input type="radio"/> Notice of Order

**REASONS FOR APPEAL** Sections 678 and 686 of the Municipal Government Act require that the written Notice of Appeal must contain specific reasons for the appeal.

I do hereby appeal the decision of the Subdivision or Development Authority for the following reasons:

Please see attached letter

(Attach a separate page if required)

This personal information is collected under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 33(c) and the Municipal Government Act, Sections 678 and 686. NOTE: THIS INFORMATION WILL FORM PART OF A FILE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. If you have any questions regarding the collection of this information, contact the FOIP Program Administrator at 934-3321 or Hwy 1, RR1, Strathmore, AB, T1P 1J6.

**Signature of Appellant / Agent**

Date	YYYY	MM	DD
	2023	03	27

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Final Date of Appeal YYYY MM DD	SDAB Appeal Number	Fee Paid	Hearing Date YYYY MM DD	Date Applicant Notified YYYY MM DD	Date Appellant Notified YYYY MM DD

FOIP s.17(1)

**Attn: SDAB Clerk, Wheatland County**  
242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB  
T1P 2C4

#### **A. Introduction**

The Alice Sanctuary is a registered non-profit charity animal sanctuary located at 262049A RR 255 (the "**Property**"), home to over 200 animals. By this letter we are formally appealing the decision of the Municipal Planning Commission (the "**Commission**") to refuse our application for a Home Based Business Type 3 (HBB 3) to permit a 'Sanctuary for the Care of Rescued, Surrendered, Injured and Abandoned Farm Animals' (the "**Application**").

#### **B. The Subject Property**

The Property currently comprises two homes. It is a 118ac rectangular shaped lot with approximately 15 m of frontage along Township road 262a.

The Property is zoned Agricultural General District (AG) in the Wheatland County Land Use By-law 2016-01 (the "**By-law**"). The Property is surrounded by other AG zoned properties which are also used to raise animals.

The Property is owned by Barbara Stefanich, and The Alice Sanctuary operates the Property.

#### **C. The Application**

On January 13, 2023, The Alice Sanctuary applied for a development permit for a Home Based Business Type 3 in response to a request from the County's Development Officer who was following up on a complaint received from the adjacent neighbour. The Alice Sanctuary currently takes care of 200 animals on the Property - from cows to chickens - and relies on volunteers to assist in providing care for these animals and maintaining the Property. In addition, it offers sanctuary visits to members of the community, providing enriching opportunities to connect with and learn about animal care and behaviour. The Sanctuary previously held large events on the Property, but as of November 2019 all large events are held in the City with local businesses. The Alice Sanctuary rents part of the 118 acres to the neighbours to North for a hay field.

The Alice Sanctuary originally considered a rezoning, but was directed to a HBB 3 development permit given that large events are no longer held on the Property.

#### **D. Decision on the Application**



At its March 14, 2023 meeting, the Commission refused the Application by a 3-2 vote (the "Decision"), claiming that:

- a. The operation does not fall into the category of a business;
- b. The Sanctuary has been operating for many years without approval of the Development Authority and was continuing to grow;
- c. The development permit application had been made due to complaints received and it is likely there will be more issues if their permit is approved;
- d. The increase in traffic to the site has a negative impact on adjacent landowners;
- e. Tours and volunteers visiting the site adversely affect the neighbours; and
- f. Tour groups and volunteers are not compatible with adjacent land uses.

#### **E. Reasons for Appeal**

Pursuant to section 686 of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26 the Sanctuary does hereby appeal the decision of the Development Authority. In support of this appeal, please accept the following material:

- This covering letter
- The enclosed SDAB Notice of Appeal Form
- A cheque for \$200 for the development appeal

It is our view that the Decision should be overturned and the Application approved for the following reasons:

1. The Decision was based on incorrect information. The municipal planning committee circular contained errors including:
  - a. The peace officers cited multiple complaints in the planning committee circular; however, when we asked for a copy of the complaints we learned that only 2 complaints were made during our tenure on the land, both related to parking.
    - In response, we would clarify that the parking complaint was made - even though we haven't parked on the road for over 3 years and we were only informed on one parking complaint not 2 as it is stated.
    - An e fence was placed along the county road on the south side by the adjacent neighbour to allow his cows to graze along the roadside. It is assumed the county had made the formal complaint since it wasn't from us or our landowner.
    - The third complaint in 2014 was made 2 years prior to my occupancy here.
  - b. When we identified this concern to the Development Officer, we were told that the circular could not be changed but we could address it during oral submissions before the Committee; however the MPC did not permit us to speak, and the Decision was made without these errors addressed.
  - c. The letter submitted by the Shoren's includes many erroneous statements. In response we would indicate the following:
    - The Sanctuary does not run a dog and cat rescue;
    - We do have quarantine procedures;
    - No animals have been dumped on the Property.

- There are no privacy issues given that no tours are run in the vicinity of the Shoren's yard.
- The Sanctuary has never had any of the diseases listed in the Shoren's letter, confirmed by a letter of support from our vet

## 2. Improper Basis for Decision

- a. The Committee made a biased Decision based on ideology rather than land use planning grounds, the statement that a sanctuary is the "polar opposite" of Wheatland County. This is an improper ground for the Decision and raises a Charter issue; see attached letter from Animal Justice in this regard.
- b. Similarly, some Committee Members raised issues that were clearly addressed in the Application including: biosecurity, deadstock, and land use. Little discussion actually centred around the permit, traffic or parking, which did not form the basis for the Decision.
- c. MPC policy states: *As per Wheatland County Policy 7.13, Municipal Planning Commission does not conduct public hearings and will not hear submissions by or ask questions of the Applicant or any other affected party at the MPC meeting. Written submissions will be accepted and reviewed by the commission prior to the meeting.*
  - The committee voted in Mr. Shoren to speak, only deferred as I was told I would be unable to do so, and was not present. It was voted that both parties would be able to speak at the next meeting.
  - The MPC did not discuss any of the reasons eventually given for refusal at that time. Nor was the discussion based on the application. After feedback from this meeting, they came up with a completely new list of why to deny the permit

## 3. At the March 14th meeting

- a. The committee did not allow either to speak. We were not made aware until they started voting. We sat patiently to be called on.
  - We spent weeks preparing and gathering all necessary documents, letters and financial numbers and lawyer consultations
  - Our speech had many points that would have been pertinent and clear up so much of this misrepresentation.
- b. Mr. Klassen stated that there were issues from the colony. I reached out and was assured that Mr. Klassen did call and that he was not told there was contention or opposition. In fact, we have a land rental contract for hay cultivation.
- c. A Committee member stated that he would vote to refuse because the Sanctuary spends more time on fundraising than animal care. In response, we would state the following:
  - Last year the Sanctuary hosted 14, 5-hour tours (~70h total) compared with working on the farm an average of 12h a day (~4000h total). Animal care is the Sanctuary's number one priority and takes the vast majority of our time. We are an agricultural operation with volunteer support.

4. Specific responses to reasons for refusal:

a. *The operation does not fall into the category of a business*

- The By-law defines "Home-Based Business, Type 3" as the "secondary use of a dwelling and accessory building by an occupant of the residential dwelling to conduct an activity that will generate daily business-related visits".
- The Alice Sanctuary fits this definition: it is a business with a charitable purpose: it has a business number and reports to the CRA. The business is run by the occupant of the dwelling and the business is run out of the accessory buildings, resulting in business-related visits in the form of volunteers.

b. The Sanctuary has been operating for many years without approval of the Development Authority and was continuing to grow.

- Unfortunately we were unaware that a permit was required but look forward to rectifying this. The operation of a business without a permit is not relevant to the determination of the permit.
- As far as growth, we have significantly decreased tours and held no events over the last few years. We have not had any big events since COVID and will continue to hold them offsite.

c. The development permit application had been made due to complaints received and it is likely there will be more issues if the permit is approved.

- While it is true that this Application was made in response to two parking complaints, reported three years after the fact, this is not a reason for refusal. Regardless, following the two complaints, peace officers that visited the site agreed that parking on the shoulder is legal.

d. The increase in traffic to the site has a negative impact on adjacent landowners

- If the Application were approved, the Sanctuary would host a total of 14 tours over the summer months. We would be happy to have this as a condition of approval. Volunteers are necessary to provide care for our animals in our unique agricultural operation. We have significantly scaled back visitors by hosting all fundraisers off-site, and we will have less traffic coming to the Property in the future, mitigating any potential impacts alleged in the past.
- The Sanctuary produces less traffic than the closest neighbour who originally complained about our traffic. The Shoren's run multiple businesses from their 40 acre property including storing trailers, vehicle repair, slaughtering/butchering onsite. These businesses create a flow of traffic. Our traffic-load comprises 5 vehicles once a week 10 months of the year and 5-15 vehicles a week for the summer months. Any alleged impacts on the adjacent property of the Shoren's are not caused by the Sanctuary.

- Despite the above, the Sanctuary intends on going above and beyond its legal requirements and has agreed to pay for 200 m of dust control along Township 262a as well as using our funding to build a well established and constructed privacy fence along our side of the shared fence line that bares the visual of both homesteads.
- e. Tours and volunteers visiting the site adversely affect the neighbours
- Our volunteers are no different than paid farmhands or friends helping with chores as far as traffic or number of people.
  - Residents are allowed to have visitors to their property, we have always been respectful, we have 2 people living on the property, in two separate homes, the traffic is minimal.
  - None of our volunteers or visitors have any interaction with the adjacent neighbour.
  - When we were made aware of the parking complaint we took it very seriously and responded by applying for the appropriate permit.
- f. Tour groups and volunteers are not compatible with adjacent land uses.
- Farm tours are a discretionary use for this land use and are the subject of this permit. As per the above, they have no impact on adjacent land-uses.
  - The Sanctuary's ability to make use of volunteers is not properly the subject of this Application, and is permitted for the Agricultural Operation on the Property as of right.

### **Summary**

The Alice Sanctuary is a small rescue with 200 animals (many of whom are birds) on a 118 acre parcel of land. Our tours are important: Over 95% of our funding comes from donations and larger events held off site. Tours allow us to meet new supporters and volunteers. This is our community connection. We support local agribusiness, spending over \$120,000 in the community last year. We spent an additional \$17,000 on vet care last year alone. We have decent and respectful relationships with many people in agriculture! including our hay broker and hay haulers of 5 years, our straw vendor of 4.5 years, UFA in Strathmore for 7 years and numerous farmers who have brought animals into our care.

Our volunteers also facilitate the clean up of 13 km of local highway annually. We bring visitors to Wheatland County.

We will be asking that the Board allow our appeal, overturn the Decision of the Committee, and grant a HBB 3 permit to allow tours to take place on the Property for a period of two-years, facilitating our volunteer-run and donation-funded charity agricultural operation, in the form of an animal sanctuary.



March 13, 2023

Wheatland County  
Municipal Planning and Development  
242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB  
T1P 2C4

***Via Email:***

[planninganddevelopment@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:planninganddevelopment@wheatlandcounty.ca)  
[sherry.baers@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:sherry.baers@wheatlandcounty.ca)  
[admin@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:admin@wheatlandcounty.ca)

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Constitutional Concerns Surrounding MPC's Consideration of The Alice Sanctuary's Permit Application (DP 2023—006)**

I write to you on behalf of Animal Justice—Canada's leading national organization focused on using the law to protect animals—regarding The Alice Sanctuary's business permit application which was subject to debate and consideration before the Municipal Planning Commission ("MPC") on February 14, 2023.<sup>1</sup>

At the February 14, 2023 meeting, MPC members raised a number of improper considerations regarding the Sanctuary's application, including indicating that the ethical belief system of the Sanctuary and its owners is at odds with the agricultural history of the region. The Sanctuary offers care and compassion to rescued farmed animals in need. Denying the Sanctuary's permit on this basis would violate the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (the "**Charter**"),<sup>2</sup> as is set out in greater detail below.

**Alice Sanctuary Permit Application**

The Alice Sanctuary's application (DP 2023—006) is for a home-based business permit (type 3) for a sanctuary for the care of rescued, surrendered, injured, and abandoned farmed animals. The Alice Sanctuary is a registered charity that was founded in 2014 and is home to over 200 animals.<sup>3</sup> The Sanctuary partners with farmers and organizations such as enforcement agencies

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<sup>1</sup> Footage of the February 14, 2023 meeting is available online:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SZ1TeT7yhl&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=WheatlandCounty](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SZ1TeT7yhl&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=WheatlandCounty)

<sup>2</sup> Available online: <https://www.canlii.org/en/ca/laws/stat/schedule-b-to-the-canada-act-1982-uk-1982-c-11/latest/schedule-b-to-the-canada-act-1982-uk-1982-c-11.html>

and humane societies to offer lifelong care to farmed animals such as horses, cows, sheep, goats, pigs, and chickens.

In order to purchase materials including feed, bedding, and other necessities, the facility engages in fundraising activities, including events open to the public. The larger of these events are now held entirely offsite, with only smaller events occurring onsite. While the housing and care of farmed animals would typically be considered an “Agricultural Operation”, given that the Sanctuary is not focused on profit, and that fundraising events occur on the premises lands, the above-noted business permit is being pursued by the Sanctuary.

At the February 14, 2023 meeting of the MPC, the Sanctuary’s permit application was discussed in detail before being deferred to a future meeting to allow for the Sanctuary to participate in the discussion (the next MPC meeting is set for March 14, 2023). During the Commission’s discussion, Councilors expressed concern with the nature of the Alice Sanctuary’s business operations. Councilor Scott Klassen in particular indicated that the work that the Sanctuary conducts and the beliefs it espouses represent the “polar opposite” of agricultural operations in the region. He further stated that “agriculture in this County is who we are” and that the Sanctuary’s application and business was “a part of animal welfare that... butts heads with agriculture”, noting that it is “hard to mitigate [these] concerns.”<sup>4</sup> MPC Chair, Tom Ikert, further stated that the Sanctuary’s application “is not supporting agriculture” and that it was “different [from] any other farming operation out there.”<sup>5</sup>

### **Freedom of Conscience under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**

Animal Justice has significant concerns with the considerations raised by MPC members ahead of the Commission’s decision with respect to The Alice Sanctuary’s permit application. Indeed, the County has raised improper factors for consideration of the Sanctuary’s application by expressing a clear apprehension to grant this facility its permit on the basis that the work conducted there and the “animal welfare” beliefs espoused by the Sanctuary’s operators stand contrary to the region’s agricultural ties, including the farming and slaughter of animals for food.

The County must comply with the *Charter* in making permitting decisions. Section 2(a) of the *Charter* provides that every Canadian has the fundamental freedom of conscience and religion.<sup>6</sup> This includes the protection of deeply held moral belief systems such as beliefs related to animal welfare or ethical veganism or vegetarianism.<sup>7</sup> In other words, “even if a practice is grounded in

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<sup>3</sup> See: <https://www.thealicesanctuary.ca/about>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SZ1TeT7vhI&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=WheatlandCounty](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SZ1TeT7vhI&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=WheatlandCounty), at 43:50 - 44:15

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, 47:25 - 48:45

<sup>6</sup> See: <https://www.canlii.org/en/ca/laws/stat/schedule-b-to-the-canada-act-1982-uk-1982-c-11/latest/schedule-b-to-the-canada-act-1982-uk-1982-c-11.html>



a belief that does not qualify as religious, it may still be protected by section 2(a) if the belief is a conscientious one.”<sup>8</sup>

Denying The Alice Sanctuary’s permit application due to considerations related to the ethical belief system of its owners and operators would violate the s 2(a) *Charter* rights of the Sanctuary’s owners and operators.

In *Roncarelli v Duplessis*, [1959] SCR 121, the Supreme Court of Canada made it clear that government actors can not interfere in the licensing of businesses to “punish” them for their beliefs or for acting in a way that is wholly irrelevant to the matter at hand.<sup>9</sup> Per Rand J., “in public regulation of this sort there is no such thing as absolute and untrammelled ‘discretion’, that is that action can be taken on any ground or for any reason that can be suggested to the mind of the administrator.”<sup>10</sup>

Animal Justice is in close contact with The Alice Sanctuary regarding the permit application and has an interest in ensuring that the rights of animal protection advocates are respected by all levels of government. In the event that the Sanctuary’s permit is denied on the basis of the nature of the business and the ethical belief systems of its owners and operators, the two groups will explore legal options to challenge that decision in court.

Sincerely,



Scott Tinney  
Staff Lawyer, Animal Justice  
[stinney@animaljustice.ca](mailto:stinney@animaljustice.ca)

CC: Sherry Baers, General Manager of Community and Development Services

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<sup>7</sup> *Maurice v Canada (Attorney General)*, 2002 FCT 69 [“*Maurice*”] at paras 8-9.

<sup>8</sup> Bruce Ryder, “State Neutrality and Freedom of Conscience and Religion”, *Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, The Supreme Court Law Review* vol. 29 (2005), available online:

<https://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1076&context=sclr>

<sup>9</sup> [1959] SCR 121, at paras 42 - 44

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, at para 41

# EXHIBIT B

## Development Authority Documents



## Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB)

April 20, 2023

Report prepared by: Suzanne Hayes, Development Officer

### DP 2023-006 Appeal

<b>File Number:</b>	DP 2023-006	<b>Division:</b>	5
<b>Proposal:</b>	Home Based Business Type 3 – A Sanctuary for the Care of Rescued, Surrendered, Injured and Abandoned Farm Animals		
<b>Location:</b>	4.5 miles north of Hwy #564 and 1.5 miles east of Rocky View County border		
<b>Legal Description:</b>	NW-17-26-25-W4M		
<b>Title Area:</b>	47.97 ha (118.54 acres)		
<b>Existing Land Use:</b>	Agricultural General (AG)		
<b>Proposed Parcels:</b>	n/a		

### Report

#### Background:

On February 14, 2023 the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) was presented with an application for a Home Based Business Type 3 for a Sanctuary for the care of rescued, surrendered, injured and abandoned farm animals. The neighboring landowner of the subject parcel requested to speak at the MPC meeting. The applicant was not physically present, but was attending via the conference line and was not anticipating being allowed to the opportunity to speak. In the interest of fairness MPC chose to table their decision on the application to allow all parties to be present and have an equal opportunity.

At the March 14, 2023 MPC meeting, the application process was resumed. Staff presented a summary of the February 14<sup>th</sup> report. Municipal Planning Commission chose not to allow any of the parties to speak at the meeting. Following staff's presentation and discussion by the MPC members, a motion was made to refuse the application and the motion was carried. The appeal expiry date noted on the Notice of Decision was April 4, 2023.

#### Details of the Application Presented to MPC:

Due to reports received by Wheatland County regarding multiple vehicles visiting the subject parcel, the operators of the facility were made aware that a development permit would be required in order to continue operating their sanctuary. The housing and care of farm animals would typically be considered to be an Agricultural Operation, but the operators have applied for Home Based Business Type 3 so that select fundraising activities may continue to occur on the lands.

The sanctuary partners with farmers and organizations such as enforcement agencies, and humane societies to offer lifelong care to surrendered farm animals such as horses, cows, sheep, goats, pigs, and fowl. In order to purchase feed, bedding, and other necessities the facility holds larger fundraising activities (now moved entirely offsite) with smaller activities occurring onsite.

### **Animal Health**

All animals checked by the sanctuary's own veterinarians, and often by the vet of the farm or organization bringing them in as well such as Calgary Animal Services (the group the facility primarily works with). All animals are given full assessments, vaccinated, dewormed, bloodwork is done, and male animals are neutered (if they aren't already). Existing vet records are also requested and other pertinent information for all animals being surrendered to the care of the sanctuary.

The facility does not house diseased or sickly animals or birds at the sanctuary; historically no animal has been admitted with a disease. If vet records are not available, the animals are quarantined until special assessments can be completed. Currently, birds are not admitted due to the potential threat of Avian Flu.

Any animals who show signs of illness or symptoms of age are separated and put into special medical stalls. There are currently two veterinarians who assist with medical needs as they arise at the facility and make regular visits twice a year to the sanctuary to do full checks of all the animals to ensure they are healthy and free of disease. Calgary Bylaw also comes out once a year to do a tour and see firsthand how the animals they surrender are being cared for.

The applicant also has 3 personal rescued dogs who she has had for over 10 years, but the facility does not rescue dogs. When the applicant moved to the site, there were existing cats onsite from a cat rescue and the facility has on occasion helped AARCS (Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society) and Canada Task Force with a couple barn cats but they have not brought in cats for over 3 years and are not operating a dog or cat rescue. All feral or barn felines are fixed, vaccinated, and clipped.

### **Deceased Animals**

Smaller animals are cremated by the facility veterinarians, or the sanctuary may utilize "Just Passing" which is an organization that picks up deceased animals and assists with burial and cremation before transporting them to a registered waste facility.

A burial site is also situated on the lands far from fence lines and other structures, where some animals are buried 10 feet underground and treated with lime.

### **Animal Shelters**

There are a variety of animal shelters onsite to accommodate the various animals at the Sanctuary, including insulated barn-style shelters, three sided shelters (typical for larger animals, like cows and horses), various closed shelters, and a quonset. There are several high-needs residents with mobility issues (missing limbs) who require their own spaces. The shelters and other spaces are cleaned weekly.

### **Grazing and Feeding of Animals**

Most of the residents at the sanctuary have special needs such as horses with laminitis or cows with mobility issues so they remain off of pasture and are hay fed. Additionally, due to climate changes and smoke from forest fires in recent years, grazing and pasturing have been hampered so the facility has been feeding hay as

a supplement in summer. Land exhaustion is mitigated by rotational grazing and by adding hay to the dietary regime.

### **Facility Capacity**

With 118 acres, the sanctuary currently does not have a cap on the number of animals we can accommodate however, they admit new residents only when they have the capacity. The majority of requests are refused due to limitations on shelter space and grazing pasture. At present the facility is not taking in any more large animals unless there are special, urgent circumstances.

### **Weed Control and Manure Management**

Weeds have historically not been an issue on the lands but any that are found are controlled by using herbicides. The areas that are not for animal grazing are mowed.

A manure compost pile is located in the back field away from any housing or structures. Manure and used bedding is composted into soil that is then utilized around the Sanctuary, primarily in the gardens.

### **Proposed Fundraising Activities**

The Sanctuary is not a business, it is a registered charity, all funds raised go back to support local agri-businesses, from hay, straw, and feed suppliers to lumber materials, or veterinary services.

Initially, larger fundraising activities and events were held onsite but following concerns regarding parking and traffic, supporters of the facility have offered to host events offsite at other featured venues. Larger events include a Jann Arden concert, a pancake breakfast with food writer Julie Van Rosendaal, winter holiday events, yoga and cooking classes.

Events and activities proposed to remain onsite include 12-15 tours of 20 people from July to September (Saturdays and every other Thursday). No tours take place when large events are held offsite. An average of 8 vehicles park onsite during each tour.

A Mothers' Day event which includes brunch and a tour for 25 people.

A pumpkin drop 1 week after Halloween where people can donate their pumpkins for animal feed with 25 visitors in the AM and 25 in the PM.

Two bathrooms are provided for guest use and there are two septic tanks onsite to accommodate the volume. Food included for certain events will be provided through a featured restaurant in Calgary and will be self serve. Bottled water is provided for visitors to the site.

### **Traffic, Parking, and Signage**

The applicants have been decreasing traffic to the Sanctuary and will continue to do so by hosting larger fundraising events offsite at various locations.

The main parking area can hold 8-10 vehicles with additional parking space in front of the machine shop for 5 more vehicles. Overflow parking is available by the pasture.

Currently there is no signage posted lessening the potential for animals to be abandoned at the facility gate. The facility operators are open to discuss the possibility of investing in signage if neighbours feel it would benefit the community.

The sanctuary may be found on Google maps and visitors are also sent clear directions on how to find the site as well as a phone contact if anyone should become lost. All guests are sign-in and reserve booked

only, so there is a records of all guests. The facility is not open 7 days per week to the public due to safety and security concerns and people must register or book before-hand. The number of guests is limited, so traffic to the site is also limited.

## **Policy Analysis**

### **MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MDP):**

#### **3.5.2 Tourism Policies**

3. The County encourages business opportunities that promote agri-tourism and rural tourism that are based on natural capital and sustainable rural landscapes.
4. The County encourages the diversification of agricultural and accessory uses to create potential agri-tourism and culinary tourism attractions, such as farm tours and you-pick areas.
8. The County shall require tourism development applications to demonstrate that they will have no significantly adverse effects or other social impacts on nearby land uses, or that such effects will be mitigated to the County's satisfaction.
9. The County should restrict incompatible land uses from locating in areas that would have significant negative impacts on tourism developments. Likewise, tourism developments should be restricted from locating in areas where there may be negative impacts perceived from existing development.

### **LAND USE BYLAW (LUB):**

#### **9.1 (AG) Agricultural General District**

The subject property has a land use designation of Agricultural General (AG) District; Home Based Business is a discretionary use within that district.

#### **Definitions:**

**Agricultural Operation** means an agricultural operation as defined in the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA). These are agricultural activities conducted on agricultural land for gain or reward or in the hope or expectation of gain or rewards and includes:

- a) The cultivation of land;
- b) The raising of livestock, including game-production animals within the meaning of the "Livestock Industry Diversification Act" and poultry;
- c) The raising of fur-bearing animals, fowl, pheasants or fish;
- d) The production of agricultural field crops;
- e) The production of fruit, vegetables, sod, trees, shrubs and other specialty horticultural crops;
- f) The production of eggs and milk;
- g) The production of honey (apiaries);
- h) The operation of agricultural machinery and equipment, including irrigation pumps on site;
- i) The application of fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, including application by ground and aerial spraying, for agricultural purposes;
- j) The collection, transportation, storage, application, use, transfer and disposal of manure; and
- k) The abandonment and reclamation of confined feeding operations and manure storage facilities. A Cannabis Production Facility and Cannabis Cultivation are excluded from this use.

**Livestock** means animals kept for non-domestic purposes and includes cattle, swine, small fur-bearing animals, poultry, sheep, goats, horses, game and similar animals.

**Home-Based Business, Type 3** means the secondary use of a dwelling and its accessory buildings by an occupant of the residential dwelling to conduct an activity that will generate daily business-related visits. *See Home-Based Business Section for more information.*

#### **Development Permits Not Required**

##### **4.2.7 Agricultural Operation:**

- a) An Agricultural Operation as defined in the Act on a parcel designated Agricultural General (AG) District or Rural Business (RB) District.

##### **4.5.14 Discretionary use applications:**

- a) Upon receipt of a complete application for a Development Permit for a discretionary use, the Development Officer shall refer the application to the MPC for a decision. The MPC shall make the decision and may refuse or approve the Development Permit with or without conditions in accordance with the Development Permit Conditions section of this Bylaw.

##### **4.5.15 Applications referred to the MPC:**

- a) Upon receipt of a complete application for a Development Permit for a discretionary use, the MPC:
- May refuse the application stating the reasons for refusal; or
  - Approve the application subject to conditions to ensure that the application conforms to the requirements of this Bylaw, the Act, the Subdivision and Development Regulation, and statutory plans; or
  - Approve the application, even though it does not comply with the regulations in this Bylaw, if in the opinion of the Development Authority, the proposed development:
    - Would not unduly interfere with the amenities of the neighborhood;
    - Would not materially interfere with or affect the use enjoyment or value of the neighboring sites; and
    - Conforms to the use prescribed for that building or parcel in this Bylaw.

#### **8.15 Home Based Business**

	<b>Home-Based Business Type 1 <i>Example: Home Office</i></b>	<b>Home-Based Business Type 2 <i>Example: Service- Oriented</i></b>	<b>Home-Based Business Type 3 <i>Example: Contractors</i></b>
Development Permit Required	No	Yes	Yes
Site Plan Required	No	No	Yes

Landscaping / Screening Required	No	No	Yes
Non-Resident Employees	None	Up to 2	Up to 4
Commercial Vehicles and/or Trailers	1 Business Related Vehicle Maximum	Up to 2	Up to four (4) Business Related Vehicles
Customer Traffic Generation	Up to two (2) business related visits per day on average.	Up to five (5) business related visits per day on average.	At the discretion of the Development Authority
Outside Storage	None	None	At the discretion of the Development Authority. Minimal outdoor storage may be allowed.
Accessory Building / Structure	None	None	Maximum of 1
Parking Stalls	None	One (1) per employee plus one (1) for customers	One (1) per two employees, one (1) per commercial vehicle, one (1) for customers

#### 8.15.1 General Regulations

- a) A Type 1 Home-Based Business does not need a Development Permit. However, a Type 2 & Type 3 Home-Based Business will need development permits.
- b) No more than one Type 2 or one Type 3 Home-Based Business is allowed on a parcel.
- c) The applicant must occupy the residence for which the permit has been issued.
- d) The term of a temporary development permit issued for a Home-Based Business shall be for two (2) years for a maximum two (2) year term. Subsequent renewals may be issued for a maximum 5 year term at the discretion of the Development Authority.
- e) An approved Permitted or Discretionary use Development Permit may be re-issued by the Development Officer for a Home-Based Business for a subsequent term if the following conditions have been met:
  - i. The Home-Based Business is applying for a renewal of its Development Permit prior to the expiry date;
  - ii. There has been no changes to the Home-Based Business from the previous application;
  - iii. There are no enforcement orders or complaints related to the Home-Based Business.
- f) If a previously approved Permitted or Discretionary Use Development Permit does not fit all of the criteria listed above, the Development Officer may refuse the renewal of the temporary Development Permit or refer it to the Municipal Planning Commission for a decision.

#### 8.15.2 Neighbouring Properties

- a) A Home-Based Business should not negatively affect neighbouring residences with lighting, noise, vibration, smoke, dust, odour, or other nuisances.
- b) A Home-Based Business should not negatively affect the livability or enjoyment of neighbouring properties.



### **8.15.3 Signage**

- a) See the Signage section for more details.

### **8.15.4 Specific Regulations**

#### **a) Home-Based Business - Type 1**

- i. The business activities have to occur inside the residential home.
- ii. The business should not change the external appearance of the residence, buildings or land.
- iii. Examples include, but are not limited to: bookkeeping, online sales, or graphic design.

#### **b) Home-Based Business - Type 2**

- i. The business activities have to occur inside the residential home.
- ii. The business should not change the external appearance of the residence, buildings or land.
- iii. Examples include, but are not limited to: a hairdresser, massage services, legal services or accounting.

#### **c) Home-Based Business – Type 3**

- i. The business can occur in both the residential home and accessory buildings such as a garage.
- ii. The business should not significantly change the external appearance of the residence, buildings or land to the point where the primary residential use is not apparent. A business that becomes the primary use of the site in appearance or use will not be permitted.
- iii. Examples include, but are not limited to: a small-scale landscaping company, trades, or a mechanical/welding services.
- iv. Some outdoor storage is allowed however a site plan would be required. Requirements for outdoor storage include the following:

### **Considerations:**

- A charitable organization is not a typical type of HBB as it is not a business enterprise. However, it is a use that promotes tourism opportunities and support to the Agriculture Industry which is in line with the MDP tourism policies.
- A condition has been added that an increase in intensity may require rezoning or relocation if the business exceeds the HBB3 parameters.
- A requirement for dust control has been added as a condition to mitigate impacts to the nearest landowner.
- The permit will be issued for a 2 year term at which time it can be re-evaluated prior to renewal.

### **Scope of the Development Permit if Approved**

The Land Use Bylaw includes definitions for Agricultural Operation and Livestock. The subject property is designated Agricultural General (AG), and a permit is not required for an Agricultural Operation within the AG district. This permit, if approved, applies to activities related to the home based business operation such as fundraising and volunteering at the sanctuary.

### **Technical Review**

- The parcel is accessed off of Range Road 255.

## **Circulation Comments**

### **Letters of Support Prior to the February 14, 2023 MPC Meeting**

Prior to the February 14, 2023 MPC meeting, the applicant provided 24 letters of support from individuals, volunteers, an entertainer, business owners from Strathmore and Calgary, produce donators, a journalist, an animal rights board member, a rescue society, and a veterinarian.

### **The Circulation Responses Submitted for the February 14, 2023 MPC Meeting**

<b>AGENCY CIRCULATION</b>	
Alberta Health Services	No response at the time of this report.
<b>INTERNAL CIRCULATION</b>	
Peace Officers	There have been many complaints from neighbouring property about parking, road access, and other various items. If approved, there could be an increase in calls for service to Protective Services.
Manager of Operations	Circulation notes 15 tours per summer with 8 cars per tour, totals 120 vehicles or 240 trips in and out of the property, limited to Saturdays and every other Thursday over the summer months. I recommend a dust control condition be applied to protect the neighbour from increased dust resulting from the traffic. Approx. 200m from the driveway south.
Agriculture and Environment	Overgrazing and weed management concerns. (Information has been provided in the body of the report.)
<b>NEIGHBOUR CIRCULATION</b>	
Adjacent landowners within 1 mile	Two responses were received with concerns (see Appendix F) Responses to questions raised have been incorporated into the body of the report.

### **Following the March 14, 2023 MPC Meeting**

Several media sources reported on the refusal of the development permit and Wheatland County subsequently received numerous phone calls, social media communications, and emails from Canada and some from the United States in opposition to the decision. These communications were not included as submissions for the appeal as they were received after the MPC process had concluded and before the appeal had been submitted.

### **Recommendation from Administration**

Staff recommended THAT Municipal Planning Commission approve DP 2023-006 for a Home Based Business Type 3 subject to the following conditions:

1. This Development Permit is issued solely for operating a Sanctuary for the Care of Rescued, Surrendered, Injured and Abandoned Farm Animals – Defined as a Home Based Business Type 3.
2. No variances have been granted.

3. Development shall proceed according to Agricultural General (AG) District requirements and the applicant must comply with all applicable provisions of the Wheatland County Land Use Bylaw.
4. No permanent development shall occur on or over any utility right of way or easement.
5. Development to remain consistent with submitted application, Letter of Intent, and all approved plans and procedures which form the application and have been deemed to be appropriate.
6. Any future modifications or development on or to the lands will require the appropriate development permits in accordance with the Wheatland County Land Use Bylaw.
7. Any expansion or intensification of the business beyond the criteria of a Home Based Business Type 3 may require re-application to an alternate district/use or relocation of the business to an area more appropriate for the use.
8. No disposal of business related trash or any other item or substance at the County Waste transfer site.
9. No parking or stacking of vehicles on Range Road 255.
10. Dust control measures shall be applied annually with initial application applied each year prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> at the cost of the applicant. Dust control shall be applied in the form of Calcium Chloride (or a County approved alternate) in the locations and for the distances specified in Figure 1 attached to and forming part of this permit. The applicant may choose to order dust control from the County prior to the '1<sup>st</sup> round' application deadline annually in the Spring or hire a contractor to complete the application. The applicant is responsible to maintain the effectiveness of the dust control to the satisfaction of the County throughout each year. If the initial application of dust control has not been completed by June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year or the effectiveness of the dust control has not been maintained throughout the year to the satisfaction of the County, the County will complete the required dust control and invoice the applicant for the associated costs, per the most current Wheatland County Master Schedule of Fees.
11. Permit to be issued for a 2 year term expiring on February 14, 2025.

**NOTE:** Development shall meet all provincial and federal legislation including all provisions of Alberta Health Services.

**Figure 1: Required Dust Control (depicted in yellow)**



## **Discussion by Municipal Planning Commission**

A motion was made to refuse the application and the following items were discussed:

- That the operation was not what would typically be considered a business, although there are no issues with the raising of animals on the site.
- The sanctuary operated without approval for several years initially and was continuing to grow. It is before MPC due to neighbor complaints.
- That the volunteers and fundraising activities held onsite will likely lead to future complaints as it has in the past.
- The increase in traffic to the site has a negative impact on adjacent landowners.
- Tours and volunteers visiting the site adversely affect the neighbors.
- Tour groups and volunteers are not compatible with adjacent land uses.
- The neighbor experienced a lot of people attending the adjacent property which was not typical of agricultural operations.
- Concerns with the message it sends that someone can begin an operation without approval, ask for forgiveness later, and be granted an approval.
- Although close proximity of the two parcels of land, all businesses that are approved in the County have the potential to affect neighboring landowners.
- If the application is approved, the facility can be monitored over the 2 year proposed term and complaints would be considered prior to renewal.
- The applicant has moved larger fundraising activities offsite and has limited numbers of people attending the smaller events.
- The County enforces on a complaint basis due to the resources available, this may not be ideal but that is the current situation.
- The intent of the facility is good, we have other Agricultural Tourism in the county and we can put regulations in place to mitigate affects on the neighbors.
- If we want to control it, we have to approve it, but it has been operating for several years and the neighbors are already upset, maybe the best way to address it is through a rezoning process.
- It seems like a square peg in a round hole, the nearby colony has mentioned they also have had issues.

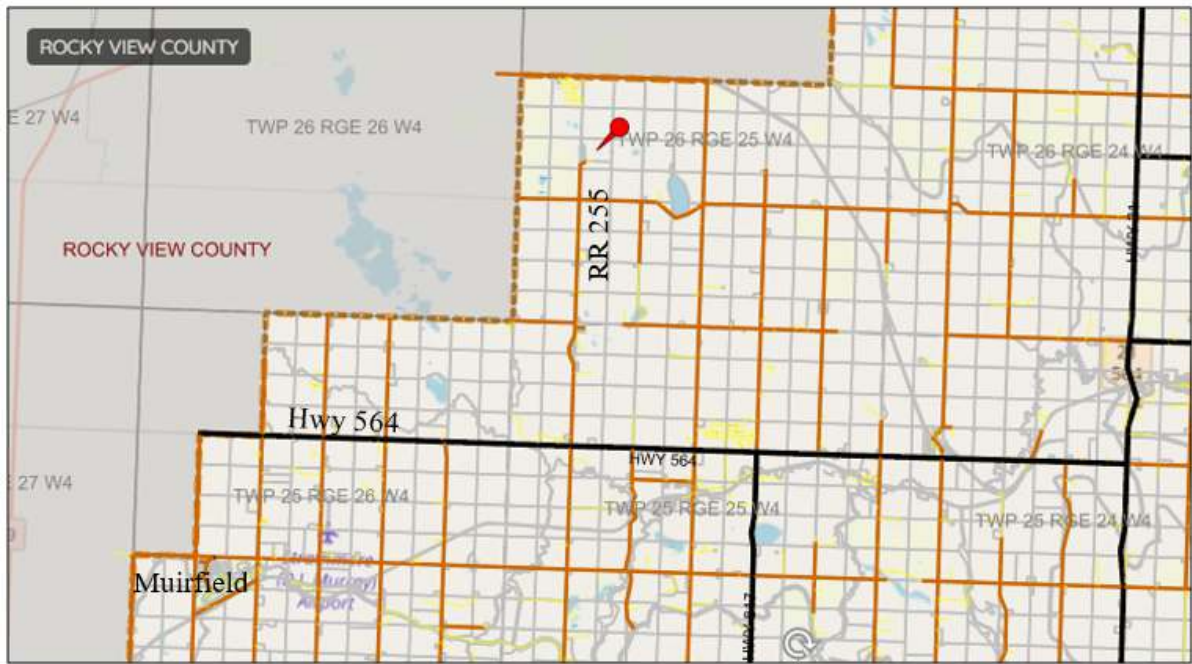
## **The Decision of Municipal Planning Commission**

Municipal Planning Commission exercised their authority provided under Land Use Bylaw regarding discretionary uses and refused the application for the following reasons.

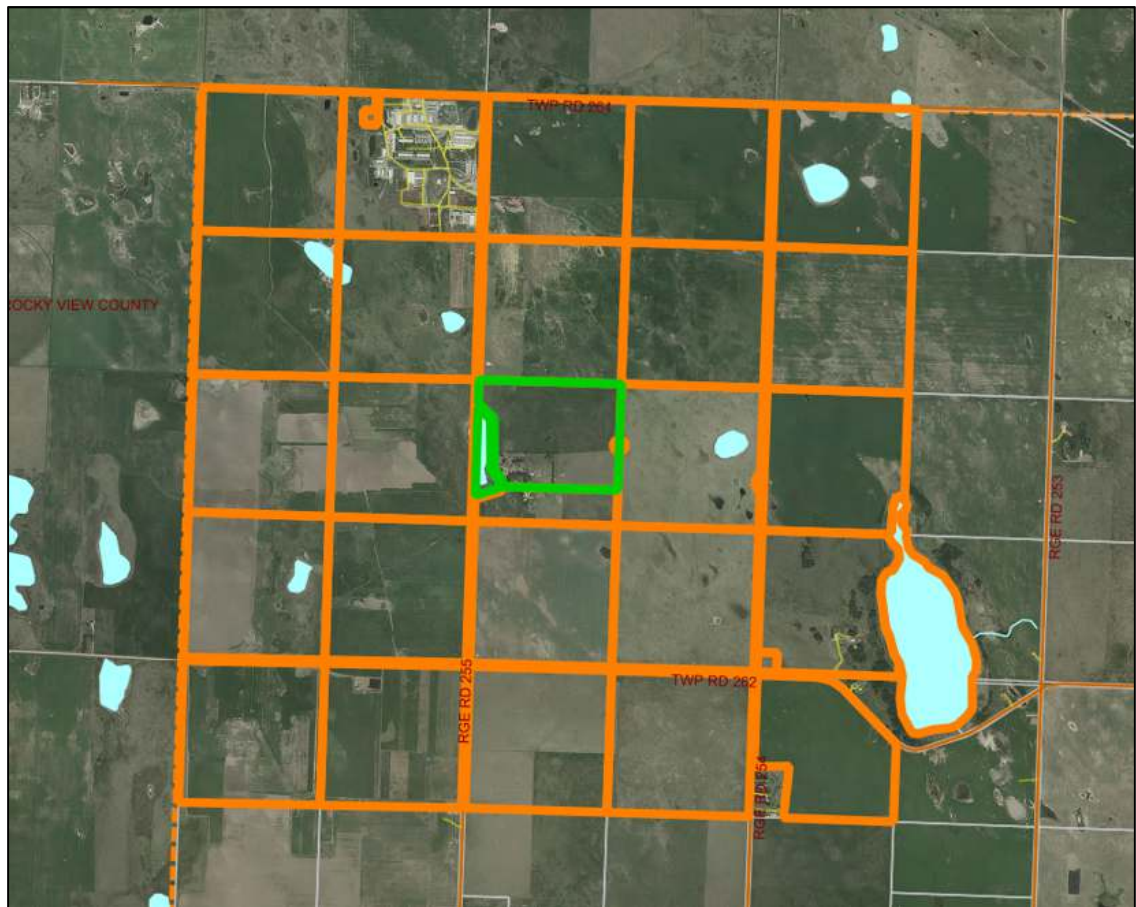
- The operation does not fall into the category of a business.
- The Sanctuary has been operating for many years without approval of the Development Authority and was continuing to grow.
- The development permit application had been made due to complaints received and it is likely there will be more issues if the permit is approved.
- The increase in traffic to the site has a negative impact on adjacent landowners.
- Tours and volunteers visiting the site adversely affect the neighbors.
- Tour groups and volunteers are not compatible with adjacent land uses.



## Appendix A: Location Plan



## Appendix B: Circulation Area

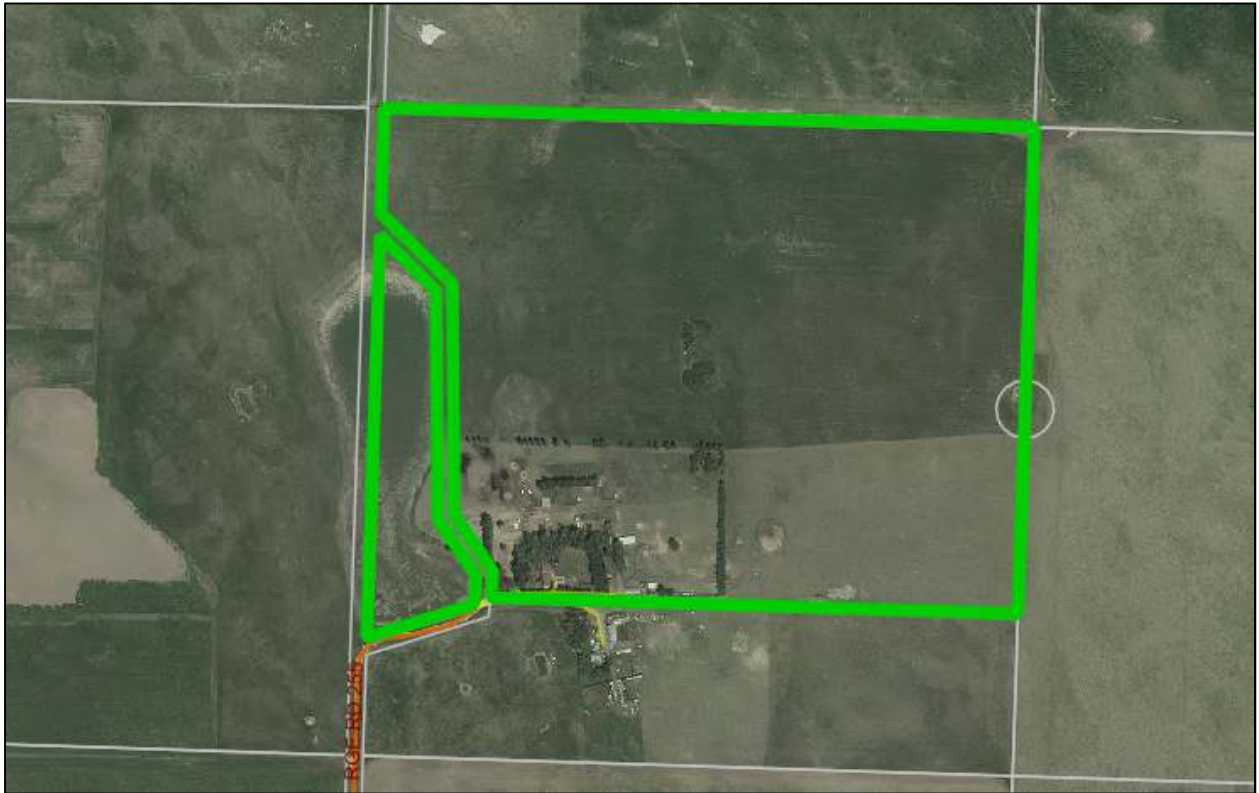


## Appendix C: Site Plan and Aerial Photos







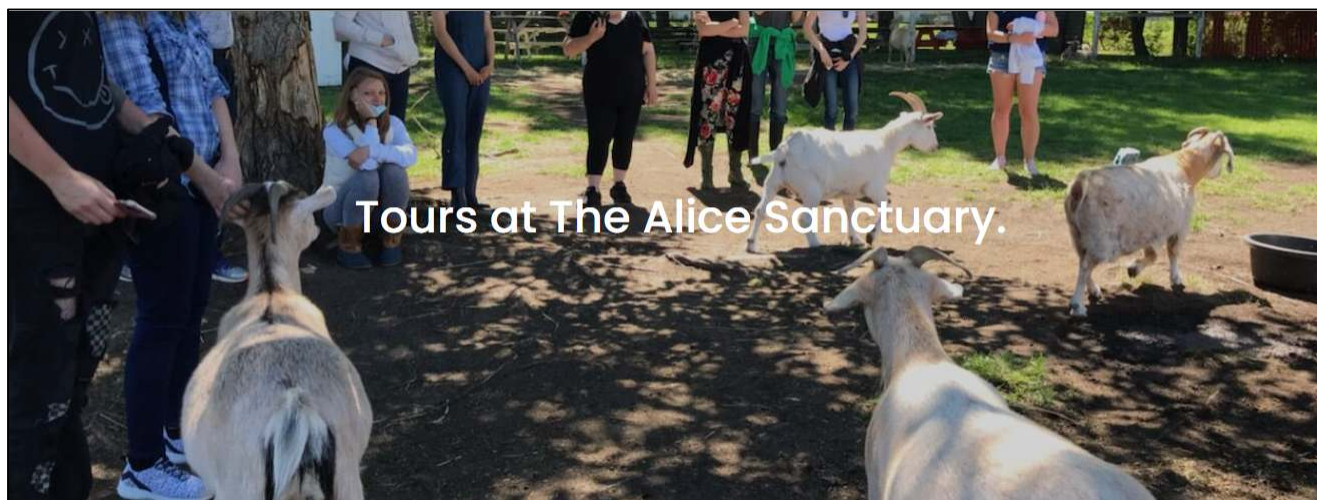


#### Appendix D: Recommended Dust Control Area





## Appendix E: Photos













## Appendix F: Circulation Responses

February 4, 2023

Attention Suzanne Hayes  
Development Officer

File Number: DP 2023-006 (Development Permit)  
Legal Description: NW 17 26 25 4  
Area 47.97 ha (118.54 Acres)

We are expressing our concerns and **do not support this application** for Home Base Business Type 3. These are our questions that give us concerns.

### LIVESTOCK BIOSECURITY

Are all animals seen by a vet when they are surrendered?

Who is taking responsibility of diseased (sickly) animals or birds?

Do they have a quarantine facility for sick or injured animals?

What shelters do they have for all animals?

Will there be regular inspections on the welfare of surrendered animals to insure disease issues are met and stopped from spreading to local livestock?

How do they handle carcasses? We don't want another WAIST SITE in the County!!

How often is manure waste removed from site?

With these many acres how many large animals will this business say they can handle?

### TRAFFIC

The heavy traffic from Sylvis has put a strain on our road already. This extra traffic will be detrimental. We have notice a lot of people pulling into our driveway and turning around (lost). Worry about our security now. This facility hasn't invested in good signage for the greater good.

### TRUST

This business has been operating since 2014 and **NOW** is applying for a permit! We do not have a lot of trust in operators trying to ignore our county bylaws.

The livestock biosecurity, traffic concerns and mistrust are why **we are against** this application for Home Base Business Type 3.

Sincerely,

Dave & Judy Collier

February 4, 2023

Wheatland County  
242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

Attention: Development Department

**Re: DP 2023-006**

In regards to file number DP 2023-006, a home-based business type 3 in Wheatland County division number 5.

- As a direct neighbour who shares a yard fence line with the applicant's home-based business type 3, we would like to not see this set as a home-based business for the proposed land use, as it will directly affect our lives and livelihood. Our sense of security living on a dead-end road in Wheatland County will feel jeopardized if the application is allowed to go through. Currently, as close proximity neighbours we already have a rather strained relationship due to different views regarding the agriculture industry.

Some of our biggest concerns regarding this location as a home-based type 3 are:

- Livestock biosecurity
- Our own land security
- Applicant is a radical operator who is vocally against the agriculture industries.

Bio security is a massive issue, because there is no proper quarantining of any new animals brought to the location or even patrons doing "tours" of the facility. This could not only greatly impact them as well as Wheatland County. If a reportable disease is contracted, myself and other neighbours within the threshold of 5 to 10 km's (depending on the disease) of the applicant's site of operation could lead to many issues. A few examples of reportable diseases in Alberta are:

- **Avian influenza** (would greatly impact any brethren Hutterite colonies as they hold over 50% of egg and poultry quota in Alberta)
- **Chronic wasting disease**
- **Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)**



Our own land security is also a big issue in our eyes due to strangers given tours of the applicant's facility and constant flow of volunteer workers. We don't know if these people are a part of the program or are just going to see the "petting zoo". As we share a common drive way on a dead-end road there is no sense of safety feelings for myself or my family and livestock. The feeling of privacy will no longer be in place as all patrons to the facility are able to look and see over the shared fence line into our yard. The location of this facility is on Google maps. It is easy for anyone who does not want an animal to release it onto either driveway and leave, leaving the animal dumped and the livestock on our property in jeopardy. This can lead to biosecurity issues and safety issues to our livestock. Example abandon dog can injure a farm animal

There are numerous examples of bylaw violations that are on record but can be provided upon request that need to be assed in regards to this application. One part of this operation is a cat sanctuary which in other counties have very strict guide lines to regulate its operation to keep the animal (domestic or feral), wild animals and neigbours and property safe and secure and none of these are followed and as such conflict between said animals have created numerous situations.

We do not feel that a home-based business type 3, is suitable for the applicant, even if the county is just trying to make the applicant comply with regulations and bylaws. The applicant runs a NON-PROFIT, organization in which she purchases, takes in surrendered livestock, cats, dogs etc.

As per the above statement we would make a recommendation of adding a new bylaw to the County of Wheatland in regards to "animal sanctuaries", and bring forth a properly laid out bylaw to which protects animals, patrons as well as neighboring houses and the agriculture sectors.

Upon request a list of conflicts and situations can be supplied that have led to this application and the county being notified of these operations.

Regards

DocuSigned by:  
  
C3AB83AEC98F44B...  
Mark Shorhen

DocuSigned by:  
  
0AE8A2E762254CE...  
Kara Shorhen

FOIP s.17(1)

# EXHIBIT C

## Appellant Documents



The following package is as follows and prepared for the SDAB Hearing April 20th 2023:

Communications with Development Planner

Complaints addressed

Volunteer Program

Speech that was prepared for the March 14th meeting\

Adjacent Neighbour concerns

Letter from Land owner

Letters of Support

Thank you for taking your time to review this information

Janneane Madill

President and Founder of The Alice Sanctuary



The Alice Sanctuary &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

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**Committee meeting**

---

**Suzanne Hayes** <suzanne.hayes@wheatlandcounty.ca>  
To: The Alice Sanctuary <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

Thu, Feb 16, 2023 at 4:50 PM

Hello Janneane,

My answers are below in red.



wheatlandcounty.ca infinitemc.ca

**Suzanne Hayes**  
Development Officer

P: 403-361-2013

242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

**From:** The Alice Sanctuary <info@thealicesanctuary.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023 7:58 AM  
**To:** Suzanne Hayes <suzanne.hayes@wheatlandcounty.ca>  
**Subject:** Committee meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Suzanne,

Thank you again for speaking with me yesterday.

As per our conversation, I have some questions and inquiries:

1. Is the next meeting to discuss the application as it is? **Yes, as it was previously presented.**

or

2. Is the next meeting to discuss us as a sanctuary for farm animals in this county? 2. Is the next meeting to discuss us as a sanctuary for farm animals in this county? The discussion was deferred to the following meeting as the Municipal Planning Commission had questions for staff regarding the use, as well as to allow an opportunity for you to respond to some of the concerns from adjacent landowners who were in attendance at the meeting.

3. We have circulated the meeting conversation and our board has urged us to bring this to a lawyer as per the conduct from the discussion. Would you Have specific information on what specific animal agriculture bylaw we are not fitting into ? There is a definition in our Land Use Bylaw that explains what we consider to be an Agricultural Operation. Our Land Use Bylaw is at the following link, the definition is on page 5 [https://wheatlandcounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/LUB-2016-01-Approved-20221004-Amendments\\_.pdf](https://wheatlandcounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/LUB-2016-01-Approved-20221004-Amendments_.pdf)

4. The landowner we currently lease from will be notified of this meeting and it's accord, since the other landowner will be allowed to speak, will the landowner we lease from have the same right to speak since this impacts her directly? MPC seemed to be open to having you speak as the applicant in addition to the concerned neighbor. I cannot predict if they will allow the landowner to speak but I would have her attend either in person or on the conference line and be ready to speak if they allow it.

5. Can we see the complaints and numbers of them?

As it was suggested there have been so many.

And we were only informed of one - parking.

Which we have addressed in Great details in our application. I am currently gathering this information.

6. Since we are a business, an educational attraction to many, a community builder, and have applied as such - how do we not fit the economic business development strategy mandate Wheatland County has adopted. Wheatland County does promote business development and to assist with this strategy we work with potential businesses to navigate the required permits and/or land use changes that would facilitate their proposed business.

Or

Does this come down to a proximity challenge than could be mitigated with a properly built shared fence line If you want to propose this option to the neighbor, it may be beneficial in addressing his concerns.

7. As is, our goal is to provide small tours and a couple small events.

The support we have will be informed of the decision and the committee's response to us wanting to provide small tours for a two year permit. Is there a legitimate platform for grievances and concerns they will have in regards to this Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) meetings are conducted in accordance with approved procedures (Bylaw 2018-11), as was the case for Tuesday's MPC meeting. Additional time has been given by deferring the application to the next meeting to allow you the opportunity to provide further input. However, if you wish to file a complaint or concern with the MPC's procedures, you could submit letters to the Chief Administrative Officer.

8. What other information can you provide to us so that we are best prepared for the following meeting. We will need to make plans going forward. This is an opportunity to answer questions that the Commission members may have and to emphasize the mitigation measures you are proposing to address adjacent landowner concerns.



The Alice Sanctuary &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

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## Committee meeting

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**Suzanne Hayes** <suzanne.hayes@wheatlandcounty.ca>  
To: The Alice Sanctuary <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 10:30 AM

Hello Janneane,

Information regarding complaints we have received.

- Parking has been the main concern, staff were made aware of two complaints which had gone through the County CAO.
- There was a complaint in 2020 about an electric fence placed in the ditch.
- In 2014, there was a file regarding the neighbors dog attacking a cat.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Suzanne



wheatlandcounty.ca infinitewc.ca

**Suzanne Hayes**  
Development Officer

P: 403-361-2013

242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

**From:** Suzanne Hayes  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:51 PM  
**To:** The Alice Sanctuary <info@thealicesanctuary.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Committee meeting





The Alice Sanctuary <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

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## Committee meeting

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The Alice Sanctuary <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 1:42 PM

To: Suzanne Hayes <suzanne.hayes@wheatlandcounty.ca>

Good day,

Parking complaint was made - even though we haven't parked on the road for over 3 years.

The efence was placed along the county road on the neighbours side. The shorens had cows that would escape daily looking for pasture as his fields were overgrazed. He set the efence up from his front gate and it ran all along the south side of the road for about 200 meters.

The fence was destroyed within days and laid out all over the place for months. The fence peg insulators stayed in the ground until fall.... We asked for this to be cleaned up but it sat. I can only assume the employee of the county had made the formal complaint since it wasn't from us or our landowner.

The third complaint in 2014 was made 2 years prior to my occupancy here. Also this was a complaint made from the current landowner towards the closest neighbour.

So, from this I can see 2 parking complaints that would be considered as relevant to this application.

Thank you

Regards

Janneane

[Quoted text hidden]



The Alice Sanctuary &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

---

**Committee meeting**

---

**Suzanne Hayes** <suzanne.hayes@wheatlandcounty.ca>  
To: The Alice Sanctuary <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 2:55 PM

Ok thanks for that info Janneane, you provide those details when you are given the opportunity to speak at the meeting if you want. I can verify these were the complaints Protective Services had been referring to.

Suzanne



[wheatlandcounty.ca](http://wheatlandcounty.ca) [infinitewc.ca](http://infinitewc.ca)

**Suzanne Hayes**  
Development Officer

**P:** 403-361-2013

242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

[Quoted text hidden]

## Complaints

"Complaints" keep getting brought up in relation to this permit. We'd like to clarify.

When we asked for the list of complaints our development officer came back with the following email:

*Hello Janneane,*

*Information regarding complaints we have received.*

- Parking has been the main concern, staff were made aware of two complaints which had gone through the County CAO.*
- There was a complaint in 2020 about an electric fence placed in the ditch.*
- In 2014, there was a file regarding the neighbors dog attacking a cat.*

*Please let me know if you have any questions.*

*Suzanne*

Our response:

*Good day,*

*Parking complaint was made - even though we haven't parked on the road for over 3 years.*

*The efence was placed along the county road on the neighbours side. The shorens had cows that would escape daily looking for pasture as his fields were overgrazed. He set the efence up from his front gate and it ran all along the south side of the road for about 200 meters. The fence was destroyed within days and laid out all over the place for months. The fence peg insulators stayed in the ground until fall.... We asked for this to be cleaned up but it sat. I can only assume the employee of the county had made the formal complaint since it wasn't from us or our landowner.*

*The third complaint in 2014 was made 2 years prior to my occupancy here. Also this was a complaint made from the current landowner towards the closest neighbour.*

*So, from this I can see 2 parking complaints that would be considered as relevant to this application.*

*Thank you*

*Regards  
Janneane*

Please note:

- We were only ever made aware of one parking complaint. We were not given dates. The second could have been prior to our tenancy, as was one of the other complaints.
- When asked for the circular to be changed so we received:

*Ok thanks for that info Janneane, you provide those details when you are given the opportunity to speak at the meeting if you want. I can verify these were the complaints Protective Services had been referring to.*

*Suzanne*

NOTE: We were prepared for clearing these inaccuracies up at the March 14th MPC meeting. We were never told that we would no longer be able to speak. It was voted on in the Feb 14th meeting that both Shoren and the applicant would be able to speak. We came with some support to the March 14th meeting. The council never voted to no longer allow us to speak. We were not aware of this change until they began voting on the permit. The council did not follow their own vote, and never voted during a meeting to disallow. The council must have discussed this case outside the meeting when deciding to no longer allow this discussion. We had consulted lawyers regarding some of what was brought up at the original meeting. We prepared for a month to speak and clarify. This was a blatant violation of their own policy and vote.





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

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**Volunteers**

2 messages

**Suzanne Hayes** <suzanne.hayes@wheatlandcounty.ca>

14 March 2023 at 14:27

To: The Alice Sanctuary &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

Good Afternoon Janneane,

We would not regard friends and family to be the "volunteers" mentioned in the Notice of Refusal, and the Land Use Bylaw cannot restrict people from entering the site for personal visits. People who come as a result of an advertisement or another means of attracting them would be more in line with what the MPC were referring to as volunteers. Since we may get complaints about any visitors to the site, seeing as it would be difficult for others to differentiate personal visitors from volunteers, it may be in your best interest to keep a record of who attends (up until an appeal if you decide to go that route). If it comes up that you had X number of people there on a given day, you can have specific information on hand to provide an explanation.

In the interest of not attracting any further negative attention prior to the appeal, you may want to exercise some restraint if you are considering having a large number of friends and family at one time.

Regards,

Suzanne

[wheatlandcounty.ca](http://wheatlandcounty.ca) [infinitewc.ca](http://infinitewc.ca)

**Suzanne Hayes**  
Development Officer

P: 403-361-2013

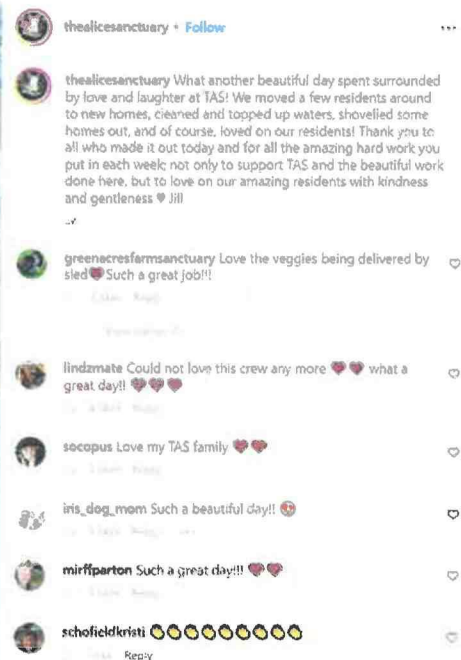
242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

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## Volunteers

All of our volunteers are vetted through a detailed application and email contacts. We have a 6 month shadow and training program, two volunteer co ordinators who have been trained for a year before taking on the leadership role - to keep both the volunteers and residents safe. Volunteers are encouraged to commit to a minimum of once a month, the majority of our volunteers have been with us for years. Volunteers are kind hearted people who choose to generously offer their time, skills and strengths to help care for the land, infrastructure and assist with animal care. Many of our volunteers are willing and excited to learn new skills like construction, how to use tools, mechanics, animal care needs, sheep shearing and hoof trimming. They form extensive bonds with the animals and with each other. This program is valuable to individuals and to our community in many ways - physical, mental, emotional health and support. Below are the volunteer posts for 4 weeks leading up to the council's decision. We have been posting a volunteer post every Saturday for years. We urge you to take a look on Instagram. This small group of dedicated volunteers does not adversely impact the adjacent neighbour. They carpool and park inside our gate. Two of the volunteers pickup donated produce for the animals on their way out. The day starts at 10 and ends at 3:30. They are no different than paid farmhands or family/ friends helping - we have had strong support in the agriculture community stating how inappropriate this decision to cancel our much revered and respected volunteer program. The volunteer program was not a request for the permit application; our lawyer strongly disagrees with the MPCs decision and it was an overreach of the commissioners. We insist this program is recognized and validated by this appeal board.

March 11, 2023





March 4, 2023



**thealicesanctuary** • Follow

thealicesanctuary It was a small but mighty crew today, but there was just as much love and fun as ever. This amazing group of humans worked their butts off tidying several areas, cleaning our feathered friends' coop, and most of all, giving love to our beautiful residents. Thank you everyone for all the laughter, conversation and team work. You are the best! ♡ Jill

spetes34 You guys look great ♡

thealicesanctuary An amazing day out here with you all! Thank you always for the hard work, laughter and all the love shared! ♡

lindzmate Looks like a beautiful day ♡♡♡ missed you all!

ruth.madill ♡♡♡♡♡ to all

gilary.guzman ♡♡♡

iris\_dog\_mom Great job team! 🐾

ela.n.a.c ♡

Feb 25, 2023



**thealicesanctuary** • Follow

thealicesanctuary I absolutely love this group of humans! Despite this cold snap and a chillier day, this crew showed up with nothing but love, smiles and hard work! I love the camaraderie, the connections with the residents, and the respect they have for the amazing place TAS is. The work done at TAS is nothing short of beautiful, compassionate, love and respect. Thank you for a beautiful day everyone! ♡ Jill

lindzmate I love you group of humans so much! ♡

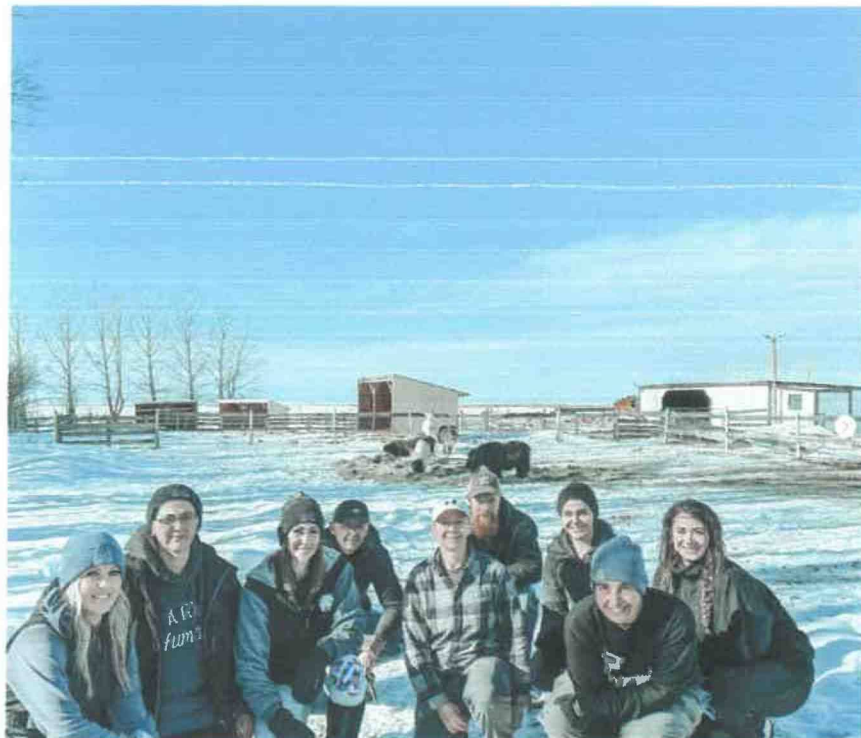
socopus Such a great crew ♡♡♡

peachesyvr This is L♡VE!!

better\_food\_daily ♡♡♡

ruth.madill ♡♡♡♡♡


Feb 18, 2023



thealicesanctuary · Follow

22



thelesanctuary What a fun Saturday with these beautiful humans! Our days are never short of laughter, love, hard work and endless love for our amazing residents. This crew works so incredibly hard to get so much done - their dedication and support of TASF with all it's important facets and what beauty it brings to the world, makes me so grateful to be a part of this team. Thank you for all the laughter and work today everyone! 



iris\_dog\_mom Work hard play harder 🐾



socopus Great work pals! See you next week ❤️



Indymate What a beautiful day!!! Loving all the love for Benny and Faye ❤️❤️❤️





## **introduction**

My name is Janneane Madill, Founder and President of the Alice Sanctuary, a registered charity with the CRA. Thank you for offering space for me to voice on behalf of TAS

I have a couple things that I wanted to address to the Committee before the decision is made today, and to give the public more information on our organization/operation.

- First I want to tell you a little bit about us and what we do.
- Second I want to talk about what specifically we are applying for and why
- Lastly I want to answer some of the questions that have been raised so that you have all the information you need to make your decision.

## **About us**

- The Alice Sanctuary is named after my grandmother, Alice, who was the wife of a farmer. Neil and Alice operated a large farm with pigs, cows, chickens and had a lot of land for grains and hay fields.
- I come from many generations of farmers
- Other members of my family are dairy/cattle farmers.
- I founded The Alice Sanctuary a decade ago, my career at that time was in social work and psychology, I worked with vulnerable populations, disabilities and mental health. After a long process of learning how to amalgamate my two core passions... TAS was created.
- Over the years, along with learning more about agri skills, I also taught myself vehicle and farm machine maintenance and mechanics, furnace repairs, fence building, technical and construction skills, shelter building... I have been taught medical skills that help me deal with emergencies. I have taught myself how to shear and trim hooves of goats, sheep and pigs.

- I have a broad understanding of the unique needs of each and every animal. I continue to learn how to care for the land, the pastures, and manure compost. I've built up a phenomenal amount of experience as well as a strong network of respectful relationships within the agricultural community.
- Just like any farmer I have a long list of chores to get to and animal care needs in between - daily.
- As a sanctuary operator, one of my important roles is to know our limits. I will receive on average 5 emails a week with requests - both from owner surrenders as well as animal protection agencies. TAS cannot help in every situation for many reasons: pasture areas, climate prognosis, shelter space, quarantine space, capacity, limited financials, winter months etc> there are a number of factors that go into decisions and I have to say no 80% of the time.
- Unfortunately, there is always a potential threat for bio security. SO on a sanctuary we go above and beyond to ensure that anyone who comes into our care is quarantined if they have not been already, vet checked, vaccinated, dewormed, neutered. I am a proactive person. we have farm and herd health vet visits annually, we observe closely and monitor everyone of our residents that come in to our care.
- All of our herds are well removed from anybody else's animals and are living within a tight fence line that would not allow access in or out. The only threat to crossover - .... would be if animals from neighboring fields would have broken a shared fence line to enter my pasture to graze, eat our round bales or walk into our yards - which has unfortunately happened frequently over the last 6 years

- we have a hayfield contracted out for use by our neighbors to the north. This is an important lease as they have spent thousands of dollars seeding and keeping this land in good health. It's vital to make sure anyone who operates animal agriculture, to understand the importance of proper infrastructure and their upkeep. Fences and working gates keep animals and ppl safe.
- Most of my work is with farming families, 2/3rds of our residents have come from requests made from these families or individuals in farming.
- Covid saw a spike in families separating- sometimes out of desperation and at times out of necessity due to violence in the home. We became a resource.
- Some have asked with help for Special needs animals in their care and they wanted to make sure they continued to get this care, but it's expensive to keep them - we know that so we become a resource. Some families just couldn't afford their care especially during that harsh hay season last year. We became a resource.
- The other 1/3 have come to us through animal protection organizations.
- I have only actively bought three animals in our entire existence - these three animals came from the neighbor.
- We Work with animal enforcement agencies
  - Aarcs, the Humane Society, Animal Bylaw and other protection organizations such as Langley Animal Protection, Siksika Nation animal protection services, CANADIAN Animal task force



Based on the last MPC meeting:

We have sought legal counsel who specializes in land use planning disputes on this issue; and they believe that we fit into this land use. Our lawyers also informed and Further assured us that sanctuaries across Canada operate and thrive on land designated for agriculture use.

- In Wheatland County's Vision for the future, the county expresses support for bringing visitors. Which the Alice Sanctuary does. TAS attracts both visitors and volunteers.
- "agriculture in this county is who we are, and this is animal welfare - and it's polar opposite". I would go as far to say animal welfare should be one of your biggest priorities with animal agriculture - im sure no one likes to read how an AB man has been charged with neglect, abuse and indecent care of animals and illegal backyard slaughtering. In my humble opinion, animal welfare should never be the polar opposite of animal agriculture.
- I would also like to address Whether the sanctuary fits into the definition of an agricultural operation as defined in the Wheatland County land use by-law
  - First we'd like to highlight that a number of acres of the 118 we live on, is contracted out for hay crop. We have a respectful relationship and contract with our neighbors to the North of us
  - The definition of animal agriculture includes
    - The cultivation of land, which we do
    - The raising of animals, which we also do;

The definition Also requires an agricultural operation to conduct these activities for gain or reward or in the hope or expectation of gain or reward. Our 'farm' generates money from the hay contract. I Sell photography of our animals. We provide farm educational tours to



generate funds. And what does gain or reward even mean? Wouldn't this be a matter of perspective? We are a successful registered charity. In that way we are no different than someone with a large property who profits from share-cropping and/or has a hobby farm of laying hens, dairy cows, goats and sheep or llama breeding.

Our sanctuary cares for the same farm animals that live on surrounding farms, the only difference being is that they are not slaughtered.

### Deceased animals

- As stated in our application; We follow all bylaws in relation to our deceased
- Animals come to the Alice Sanctuary to live, and yes there are deaths that occur, as they would with any agriculture operation but these are from natural occurrences such as age or heart failure.
- We have under 200 residents with different expected lifespans. This number includes our feathered friends - so its not 200 large animals over grazing the fields.
- We have utilized vets for cremation as well as Just Passing - a service that helps with taking our deceased loved ones to another space for burial
- We have buried on site in accordance to the Alberta agriculture rules and Wheatland bylaw regulations.
- We bury away from any shared fence lines and We can provide excavator rental receipts to show that this does not happen frequently as has been suggested. We also have hired the excavator to replace a broken hydrant ( another thing we taught ourselves to do ) and we use it to turn over compacted compost that was here before we moved in.
- While our operation may seem uncommon to many, we comply with all legal requirements and aim to be good citizens of the County.

TAS supports agriculture and community

- last year alone we spent over 120K in local agri businesses
- We buy all of our lumber and supplies locally as well

For 6 years we have cleaned 13 Km of highway 9

Our big events are all held off site such as

- Jann Aarden concert - who is a big supporter of tas and is present with us today
- Stampede plant based Pancake breakfast
- Paint nights
- A Holiday Fundraiser
- All of our events Support and collaborate with a long list of local businesses and community groups and orgs – its a win win for everyone where we all help each other to thrive.
- We have even been approached by a large and popular nightclub in YYC to help raise funds, we have been invited to a number of events here in Strathmore including a goat farm we had exchanged information with and approached by a number of media outlets looking to hear more about us and how to help.

### **What we are applying for**

- As you can see, we operate in a very similar way to other farms in the area, except we don't kill the animals that we take care of. The reason that we are seeking a Home Based Business 3 permit is to allow small tours on our farm for such a short period of time over the summer months. Naturally many people are curious about our operation and we want to be able to show them the good work we do.
- Our neighbor and Mr. Klassen has said we had been operating over and above what was outlined. Yes, in the past, Over 3 years ago we had a few bigger events on-site . Which we have since moved offsite over the last couple of years. We have demonstrated ample parking onsite for the tours being outlined
- Since the beginning our neighbor was well informed of our operation, our trajectory and our future goals. he has been invited to see our events and operations, he has even been an invited guest speaker at one of our events as a family farm, he has also asked if we could include a pal of his as a vendor at one of our open house events. I mention this because our neighbor has been informed from day one who we are, what we are and how we do it. It has been only after the increase in animal ag practices and the on site slaughtering/butchering business that we have become an inconvenience.
- We have not had a permit and were not aware one would be required until we were notified, and since then we have been actively working with both Taylor and Suzanne to rectify the situation. We have submitted 2 very thorough applications that included 24 letters of support and even more have come in over the last 2 weeks. We would like to thank both Suzanne and Taylor for their patience in navigating this as it is a new concept for everyone and helping us with this process. It was also based on their direction that we could apply for a HBB permit type 3.



## Tours

- While our current agricultural operation is within the existing land use zoning, This permit is about tours and our ability to provide them on the farm over the months of July-Sept..
- All cars have parked inside our gates for years now, on our property, all visitors have to reserve, register and provide contact information prior to a tour date. On arrival they sign in. so we have a list of visitors and we keep these lists in a confidential file. We email clear directions, we are also now on google maps, and provide a phone number if visitors were to get lost.
- We Have volunteers greeting and directing them at our gate. no one goes up the other driveway on purpose and if they have it has happened only a few times.... This being said we have had the same confusion with patrons looking for animals, meat or other products our neighbour sells. I have also watched as many drivers come down the road marked dead end by mistake and turn around, i have also witnessed a number of illegal hunters driving on this road - at one point i was stopped by fish and wildlife to make sure i was a safe person.... I have also had many drivers coming in looking for the neighbours to the north... one of which even came through my back field! SOOOO We all have been inconvenienced at times, and we are not an exception.
- It's a great way for ppl to connect with animals and nature, to express themselves and ask questions, to learn what it takes to care for animals and their specie specific needs. To learn how climate change effects animals lives, the cost of feed, hay and bedding.... What over grazing means, the essentials of care....
- So many ppl just don't have this idea or connection. Tas and our tours provides a large scope of awareness and understanding. It's not anti farming propaganda. They are about connection, compassion, kindness and love.



- The Alice sanctuary has never been in poor character and if anything, we are a wonderful representation of this county. There is so much beauty in the prairies. Most people wouldn't understand what it takes for farm life, the effort, the climate changes, the cost of feed and hay, the cost of day-to-day needs and requirements - different species have different needs, and what it takes to get to know these needs it's not as simple as buying a cow or buying a sheep or buying pigs to breed there is more to know about farm animals and their needs that extend beyond the basics of food water and shelter.
- when guests come out to tours they learn about these things extensively - my tours are 5 hours long. They learn about what it takes to take care of all of the residents with the upmost of care, the challenges through seasons, financially, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.
- When people come to visit, they get in touch with nature, they get in touch with things outside of themselves. This creates an expansion a gratitude, sense of connection and love. they bring this back home into their community into their workspace into their family life. I don't think these are bad qualities to have emanating from your county, and what a shame it would be if these no longer had a space to exist and Thrive in.
- We are not only a sanctuary for animals. We are a sanctuary for people. We are a space for people to feel free to connect, to feel compassionate, to be a part of community.
- In a world of 8 billion people, in a county of 8,738, one sanctuary that sees a handful of visitors, who does things a little differently and with a strong desire to have high standards - is not a threat.

In summary, the existence of our farm/sanctuary is not the subject of this application, but this permit would allow us to continue to run smaller tours on our farm to allow the public to see what we do and contribute to shared success.

### **Responding to Public Questions**

Before I close I want to briefly respond to some of the questions that have been raised by the public to provide some more information that may help..

The amount of distance, our visitors are directed to come to the sanctuary is just over 1.5 km on a Wheatland county road. The main roadway that is leading into our home is a shared roadway with Silvis, the neighbours the north, the immediate fence line neighbour and myself. We showed no hesitation to pay for the dust control for 200 m of said roadway to mitigate dust.

As for the diseases of concern listed by the closest neighbor, my vet care team, who has been with me for the past seven years has stated and i quote "Your animals have never shown neurologic disease of any nature, let alone BSE or the sheep form JKD". we have also taken precautions to mitigate avian flu concerns, including regular cleaning of coop, ppe etc. We are not taking risks with new birds unless they have been through a quarantine time through other orgs.

Chronic Wasting Disease effects Cervids. It does not narturally infect cattle or other farm animals. If this was a big concern, then all farms should put up 10 foot fences, and all natural habitats that are nearby animal agriculture should be destroyed - so i am not seeing how a sanctuary would be signaled out as a threat of carrying this disease? But no other animal operations would be?

We have spent over \$17,000 last year alone in vet care and medical attention. That includes our protocols for vaccinations/deworming, neutering, and vet checks of all animals that have come into our care and our annual Heard health days.

As was accurately stated by the adjacent neighbour - We are not a dog and cat rescue, we have helped with a few barn pals three years ago during the pandemic, and they came from reputable cat/dog rescues. In fact we have even helped with a litter of kittens from the adjacent neighbour by bringing them to a rescue where they were vaccinated spayed/neutered and rehomed elsewhere. - because we are not a cat rescue.

As stated by the adjacent neighbour as a safety concern - We have never had animals abandoned at our gates. EVER. our communication lines are very open to anyone who is need of help.

We are also prepared to spend our raised funds to build a proper privacy fence that will greatly decrease the risk of privacy being invaded from either side - which is what I proposed to neighbour two years ago. We have already brought out a property surveyor to give us an accurate map of this shared fence line.

As for safety and security, we have property cameras and an automatic gate, along with solid fences. We have had three vehicles over time that were parked along the shared fence line - vandalized which prompted our extra security.



## Peace officer complaints

- In the circular peace officers stated there have been multiple complaints
- I'd like to clarify what these complaints are:
- A parking complaint made against The Alice Sanctuary from last year.
- One complaint was before our residency in 2014, and was filed against the closest neighbour
- The other was about an e-fence on the south side of the county road and scattered in the ditch - filed against the closest neighbour AND not filed by us
- There has been a recent false complaint suggesting we have been hosting events. We have not, and have been very respectful of this permit process.

In closing, I am grateful for this opportunity to rectify any misunderstandings and the misrepresentation of myself and TAS.

The decision today is about the Alice Sanctuary receiving a permit to run 14 tours, to host our Mother's Day event, and one pumpkin composting event. It should not be about whether or not we have relevance in this county. Today I see this as a pivotal moment to build a bridge for conversation and communication between TAS and the county, to get to know what I do, see what I do, let me know where I can improve if necessary. I've been misrepresented to persuade you that we 'don't belong' here, my integrity and character even coming under attack, even going as far as radicalizing me - I am far too old and tired for that label. I am one person who works 24/7 for 10 years now, deeply dedicated to my family and this charitable organization, with a strong sense of character and who wants to see the world experience a little bit of kindness, compassion and love, all while doing farm things just with a little twist.

Thank you



## **Adjacent Neighbour**

We have received some media attention after the denial of the permit. This is the CTV coverage. The reporter did talk to Mark Shoren and he stated that he believes it is a safety issue with the number of visitors. We have 5 cars every Saturday for most of the year. Up to 15 a week during the summer months. We have 2 residents in two separate homes on 118 acres.

As far as safety, his animals broke his gate years ago. If safety was a concern it would be a priority. We have a gate as well as installed security cameras.

<https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/no-sanctuary-here-animal-rescue-operation-faces-threat-of-closure-after-permit-denied-1.6321617>

He also stated that he does not believe a sanctuary is compatible with his farming operation which includes on-site slaughter.

A neighbour should not determine the compatibility of other neighbours around them.

We are operating within our land designation, we follow all bylaws. The root of the complaint; is an ideological difference.

**RE: File # DP 2023-006 Division 5**

Dear Council Members;

My name is Barb Stefanich and I am the owner of the property being discussed today. My late husband and myself purchased this land in 1989. That is 34 years of paying taxes in Wheatland County, and keeping a clean, beautiful farm. We raised llamas, donkeys and had pet goats, pet sheep, feral & tame cats, always fixed, and several dogs. We never did kill any animals for food, they were all humanely euthanized when their quality of life was over.

When my parents got elderly and needed my help in caring for them, in the spring of 2016, I asked Janneane and The Alice Sanctuary to come and live on my farm. Nothing was changing, I was done raising llamas and only had pets on my farm, all of my animals had always had Veterinary care when needed. Janneane practiced in the same manner as myself. The sheep, goats, mini horses, mini donkeys have their pens cleaned weekly and this goes onto the manure pile that has been there since 1989 and is turned into dirt and then used around the farm. All that changed was a few more people came out to help with maintaining the farm. A few events happened, which none of us were aware that any bylaws had been broken. Mark & Kara Shorhen and their family of 4 children came to many of these events. All events stopped in the Spring of 2020 with Covid19. Hence, so did the traffic.

You may ask, why are the two yards so close together? The person that my late husband and myself bought the farm from had subdivided the less than 40 acres off for his family member. Then the family member sold it to the Shorhen's. The Shorhen's are the ones that chose to build all their buildings so close to the fence line, they very easily could have built everything further South. But also every property in Wheatland County has a joining fence line that is cared for usually by both parties.

The main complaint originally to Wheatland County was traffic to my property. The local Hutterite Colony also have a lot of traffic, as well as the Shorhen's due to their side businesses – Eggs, Auto Repair, Storage of travel trailers and such, and butchering and meat sales.

The Alice Sanctuary sends all of its traffic East on the Balzac Highway #566 – this causes only 1.5 miles of traffic on any Wheatland County Road and all of the guests, volunteers, friends of Janneane and The Alice Sanctuary are documented by Name, Address, Phone Number and Identification.

Janneane and myself have always had a policy that any new animals coming onto the farm are to be vetted and either quarantined off site or on site before being released with the other animals. This answers the second complaint about Bio Security.

All of The Alice Sanctuary animals have adequate and heated shelters that are cleaned on a regular basis.

All deceased animals are either Cremated off site, sent to "Just Passing" for burial, or buried on site according to proper guidelines.

The talk about mistrust is unwarranted. None of us knew that we needed a permit or land re-designation to run a Canadian Registered Charity that just took care of unwanted animals to the best of their ability. In 1989 when we bought the farm, this is what we also did, we had animals and cared for them and to loved them. If we had known any different we would have contacted Wheatland County. There was no mistrust intentioned.

The Shorhen's talks about a cat rescue at The Alice Sanctuary.... This is not true.... It was myself that co-founded the Happy Cat Sanctuary Society of Alberta in 2004. Happy Cat is also a Canadian Registered Charity. When I left the property in 2017 so did the rescue cats. All of the rescue cats were kept inside of a separate building, none were ever allowed to roam freely. The few farm cats that I had stayed behind as the farm is their home. All the cats at The Alice Sanctuary are fixed and cared for, when a stray comes in, it is caught and vetted and fixed. Every farm needs a few cats to help with pest control.

The Alice Sanctuary is NOT a petting zoo, like the Shorhen's want you to think. It is a loving and educational place where people from the city can come and learn about animals, their feelings and the love they give. Kids can come and read books to the animals, to help the animals feel welcome and for the kids to practice their reading.

I would not have let The Alice Sanctuary move onto my property if they were not exactly like myself in my care for animals. I have always been in good standing with the Hutterite Colony, which is my next closest neighbor. They have farmed my hay land since 1990.

I want my husband and my own legacy on this farm to live on forever. We put our whole lives into this farm and I want it to continue as we started it in 1989, to be a safe, loving, caring, peaceful environment for all who visit and live there.

Thank you for your time.

### **Support Letters**

The following are a sampling of the over 200 letters that have come in over the past month. These are from concerned citizens upset by the actions and words of the MPC. They have all watched the meetings and paid attention to the media that followed.

We have included letters from our veterinarian, Dr. Tara Risling, of 6 years.

Julie Van Rosendaal , board members, volunteers, supporters and Wheatland County residents.



June 21, 2022

I am writing this letter at the request of The Alice Sanctuary (TAS). I am a mixed animal veterinarian that has been working in close association with the Sanctuary over the past several years. In my field I work with clients and enterprises from many different backgrounds and therefore have extensive exposure to many, many approaches to animal care.

In my experience TAS and its director, Jeannene Madill, have only demonstrated the utmost of compassion and concern for animal well being in the scores of interactions I have been involved with there. From herd health preventative wellness visits to emergency surgical situations, I have worked on all the species that call TAS home. I can say with certainty that each animal receives the highest standard medical care possible. The Sanctuary also is acutely aware of the husbandry needs of the animals and works tirelessly to make sure the tenants of animal care – food, water, shelter – are met each and every day while being cognizant of the effects the animals have on the land they live on.

Sincerely,

Tara Risling, DVM, MSc, BSc

X \_\_\_\_\_



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

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**Wheatland County**

Deanna Thompson [REDACTED]  
To: The Alice Sanctuary <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

FOIP s17(1)

23 March 2023 at 16:52

Dear Wheatland County,

I was shocked and saddened to learn during the recent hearing for The Alice Sanctuary that you have denied their ability to host small gatherings and volunteers and are questioning if they have a place in the county. Volunteers are the heart of any charity and this move would drastically reduce their ability to function. I have been to the property and it is immaculate and would in no way impede the neighbours right to his own enjoyment of his property. Vehicles can easily be parked on the property, volunteers can car pool, there is a large fence obstructing the view and they are willing to pay for dust control.

The sanctuary was not provided a fair opportunity to speak and there are concerns that a biased view was taken in regards to their use of farm animals. I hope that during the appeal process they will be given the opportunity to speak for themselves and some of the misleading assumptions addressed. They live, work and spend money in your county. Their services provide a safe place for farm animals, which has assisted numerous animal shelters, including ours when we received calls about helping to place these special pets in new homes. Noting that many of the animals have come from farmers themselves.

I hope that you will reconsider your position with an open mind and allow them an opportunity to present and ensure that your opinion of the situation is based on sound judgement of current bylaws, facts and not a personal bias. In a world where a division on ideology fuels harm and hate, you have an opportunity here to be a leader in proving that Alberta is welcoming of diversity and inclusion for all.

Sincerely,

Deanna Thompson  
Executive Director  
Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society

Julie Van Rosendaal  
Food Writer/Journalist

FOIP s17(1)

June 21, 2022

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in support of The Alice Sanctuary (TAS) and its amazing team of volunteers, and to express my gratitude for who they are and what they bring to our community. I have worked closely with many not-for-profit and charitable organizations over the years, and The Alice Sanctuary is one of the best I've encountered.

TAS is a safe space for visitors of all ages, and an organization that fosters positive connections in so many ways. Founder Janneane Madill and her team are highly regarded as leaders in animal care and agricultural management — I have witnessed the exceptional level of care and compassion provided to their residents, and the lengths Janneane and her volunteers will go to support and accommodate the needs of family farms and the animals in their care.

TAS has always been an enthusiastic supporter of small businesses across Alberta, and Janneane and her team have initiated and participated in so many amazing collaborative projects and community events. Their efforts empower and inspire so many through farm tours and community outreach.

Alberta is lucky to have Janneane and the entire TAS family here in our province. Please contact me anytime if you have further questions.

Best,

Julie Van Rosendaal

April 6, 2023

Dear Members of Wheatland County Council including Amber Link, Reeve, Donna Biggar, Glenn Koester, Rick Laursen, Scott Klassen, Shannon Laprise and Tom Ikert,

Regarding: The Alice Sanctuary

This letter is to express my support for The Alice Sanctuary. Their work to provide sanctuary for animals who require unique and extra care, and for animals who have been surrendered by their farm family, or taken there because of neglect and abuse, is valuable and important.

I have done my best to review the facts involved in the current situation regarding The Alice Sanctuary and I am dismayed and disappointed to learn of restrictions and barriers now in place for their operations.

It is my understanding that volunteer teams, often including citizens with disabilities and who face health challenges, have historically given of their time to assist in the care of the animals in sanctuary. This offers a clear benefit to the individuals, providing meaningful work with tangible positive outcomes, as well as the obvious benefit to the well being of the animals.

I am aware that there is a severe lack of opportunity for our citizens with disabilities and other health challenges to find meaningful work and volunteer opportunities and our County of Wheatland representatives should be advocating for these opportunities to continue. Indeed, they should be taking a position of clear leadership to ensure more opportunities such as those historically provided by The Alice Sanctuary are able to continue and grow.

A place of sanctuary, both for animals and for people, should be supported and in fact encouraged by our elected officials. The fact that our county is largely based in agricultural production should in no way be seen as a conflict or eclipse the importance of providing sanctuary for those who require it.

Thank you kindly for hearing my position of support in this matter. I would be happy to speak in person on this subject.

Sincerely,

Sheila Konschuh

Founder, Project Hope, Strathmore and Wheatland County

Founder, and current Board Chairperson, Hope Bridges Society

Co Owner of Generation Land and Grain, recipient of 2022 BMO Farm Family of the Year



March 20, 2023

To members of the Wheatland County Appeal Board:

I am truly saddened that I have to write this letter in an effort to protect a place that I hold so close to my heart, The Alice Sanctuary. I am also not sure what to focus on to sway this board to right the wrongs made by the MPC and overturn their decision.

I have been volunteering for Tas for about 5 years, it means so much to me. I am a lifelong volunteer, I have volunteered extensively in schools, on boards and as both a Scout and Girl guide leader. Volunteering builds and strengthens communities; I have always been so proud of all the work I have done as a volunteer in my community. I am finally at a stage in my life where I can volunteer for something just for myself, not my kids. I have had the most amazing experiences with the most kind hearted people I have ever met. I have expanded my skill set in so many ways. I have a background in bookkeeping and have become a board member and treasurer. I was part of the team that took the Sanctuary from non profit to CRA registered charity. I help with all kinds of admin as well. I love renovating and home repairs, I am a property manager. I have expanded on those skills with fencework, shelter repair, and even some machine maintenance. I was one of the leads a few years ago when we built 3 horse shelters in 2 days. I cannot describe the healing and joy I have experienced petting a rescued horse or giving a pig a belly rub. Witnessing them relax into safety is a gift, every time. The friends I have met are more like family. Being outside, and physical around animals is so soul filling, even at -40. COVID really limited my social interactions, but I was always able to come out to TAS and experience my community. I never knew I would find so much joy in shovelling poop!

Mr. Shoren has decided he doesn't want TAS there. The irony is that he has many bylaw infractions even visible by satellite. TAS houses four of his pigs, one was pregnant when she arrived and gave birth to 8 piglets, who are all residents. His family attended events, he spoke at one event. He was very aware of and participated in TAS. His parking complaint was made over 2 years after the last time we parked on the street and was made because the neighbour relationship had deteriorated. I am a good friend of the founder and have watched the sanctuary for a few days here and there. I have witnessed animal abuse, trespassing to get both his cattle and dogs back onto his property, and overall aggressive behaviour. The only truth I found in his letter was regarding privacy, indeed, I would not want people to witness this.

I went back and counted our volunteer crew pics for 3 months preceding the feb 14th meeting. Taking out the two people who reside on the property. We are talking about 5-10 people a week. Always on Saturdays. We publicly thank them every week on social media. We arrive by carpool at the same time and leave at the same time. His claim about safety has no basis in that volunteers or patrons have never had any interaction with the neighbours. After his animals broke his gate years ago, he has not fixed it. We have a gate plus had to install security cameras. All of our tour dates are pre-determined, and volunteers on Saturdays. I urge you to take a look at our SM to see the amazing group of volunteers we have. His blatant false complaint the Saturday after the first MPC meeting should be treated as harassment. Claiming that we were holding a fundraiser; and taking pictures of our cars. He knows full well we come every Saturday to clean and help with animal care.

The fact that we have been told to log visitors to the property in case he complains again is truly against our rights. He should be held accountable for false complaints and wasting the county's resources. We have been told to practise restraint if planning a large social gathering. We are on 118 acres, if we want to host a book club or friends for dinner? No one should have to do this. The fact that the County has put a hold on our volunteer program is an over reach. The program was not in the permit application. All residents of Wheatland County can have people come over and help unpaid, but a charity focused on animal rescue cannot. We have been advised by counsel, how strongly they disagree with the county's decision.

We spend the majority of our money locally, buying feed, over 1K a week at the Strathmore UFA. We buy hay and straw locally as well. We spent 120K on this last year. 17K on vets. Our animal care is top notch. We have also cleaned 13km of local highways for 6 years, using volunteers.

I was there the day the peace officer came and informed us of this complaint, we explained we parked legally on the road, one tire off one on, not in any way blocking either driveway as stated: He said it is legal, but maybe don't it again. We explained we had not and would not. No tickets or anything was issued. And then our permit road began.

The MPC meeting was so disappointing, biased; many comments were baseless and untrue. A simple permit to allow a handful of tours, supported by the development office turned into a discussion about deadstock, land use, running under the radar ect. Some of the discussion was actually an infringement of charter rights. The fact that the case was deferred, so that Mr Shore could speak and by default so could we and then not given that opportunity with no notice at all was more than disappointing, it went against the council's own vote. The council did not vote to deny us the ability to speak, which should be required after voting to do so. It was very evident that some members of the council had no intention of granting the permit and were reaching for reasons. The final reasons given were based on inaccurate information about complaints, claiming we are not a business, and that we had a negative impact on adjacent properties. Our development officer was aware of the inaccuracies and urged us to address them in our speech, which we were not given the opportunity to do, I believe because they did not want us to clear up the matter publicly.

Examples of what was said in the meetings:

"We are the MPC we can do whatever we want"

"This is where animals go to die"

"Im not sure they are within their land designation"

"I've never heard of it...but got so many complaints"

"We are Wheatland County..Animal agriculture...they are animal welfare, polar opposites"

"I feel they spend too much time on fundraising not enough time on animal care"

Tas has always spread kindness, compassion and love. We are transparent in our practices, and invite people to visit and experience the residents, and the rural area. I came for a tour and have never left. Wheatland county should be advertising what an amazing charity it has in its borders. The county should demonstrate that animal welfare and animal agriculture MUST go hand in hand. The County has a vision to increase tourism and slogan "room to grow", this decision has clearly gone against both.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Iris Gill

Treasurer / Board member

Calgary, AB

FOIP s17(1)





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: Letter of Support**

1 message

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**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>  
To: TAS Treasurer <thealicetreasurer@gmail.com>

8 April 2023 at 07:20

----- Forwarded message -----

From: S Petes [REDACTED] FOIP s17(1)  
Date: Wed, Jun 22, 2022 at 9:16 AM  
Subject: Letter of Support  
To: [info@thealicesanctuary.org](mailto:info@thealicesanctuary.org) <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to give my full support to Janneane (J) Madill, the sole founder of The Alice Sanctuary (TAS), a Non-profit Organization in your County.

I had the pleasure of first visiting TAS last summer when I adopted a plant-based lifestyle. As soon as I stepped onto the property, I could feel this place was special. The day was overwhelming and emotional hearing the truth about animal agriculture and exploitations but it absolutely solidified for me that I made the correct choice in adopting a vegan lifestyle.

J has an amazing ability to tell the resident's individual stories and broach these incredibly emotional topics with an open heart and a non-judgemental mind. J's dedication, love and determination to give any rescue that she takes in a better life is truly remarkable.

I have now been volunteering there every Saturday since January 2022 and I cannot be happier. The residents are well taken care of, have beautiful and well-groomed areas to live, and most importantly living free from harm.

I believe without a doubt that The Alice Sanctuary is incredibly important for the community, animal rights, but especially for these beautiful sentient beings that get to live out their lives feeling the love they deserve. It truly is an incredibly uplifting and inspiring place.

Thank you for your time,

Steph Petersen  
[REDACTED] FOIP s17(1)

To whom it may concern:

After hearing about the trials that The Alice Sanctuary has been put through recently, I knew I had to do whatever I could to help; a difficult task when you live on an island more than 1000 km away. So, when I saw that they were asking for letters of support, I didn't hesitate for a minute. I may not be able to lend a hand in person, but I will be a voice for those who don't have one, as I always have in both my professional and personal life.

I have followed this organization on social media for months now and I have admired what they do for animals, large and small. The fact that these animals have a place where they can go to feel safe and loved is not only a blessing but it's a much-needed sanctuary, as their name states. As a Veterinarian, I have seen all aspects of the human-animal connection. I have witnessed the love families share with their pets and the joy these animals bring to their lives, but I have also seen the most unthinkable abuse and neglect. As sentient beings, every animal deserves the former and this is why places like The Alice Sanctuary are so important to our animal friends. With just a little love, I have watched animals go from untouchable, fearful and shut down to happy and confident, with limitless love to give. I have also watched animals turn the hardest of humans into big cuddly babies because they love so unconditionally. Survival is not just about food, water and shelter. On the contrary, just as we need love to thrive, so to do animals and THAT is the most important thing that this sanctuary provides its residents.

So, I beg you to let love win. Allow these animals to continue to thrive in an environment that provides them with all their basic needs: food, water, medicine, shelter and love.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heidi Clouse  
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine



March 31, 2023

**Re: The Alice Sanctuary Appeal – Sanctuary Matters**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for The Alice Sanctuary, their beautiful residents for whom they care so much, and the volunteers (now friends) who have been providing such impeccable, dedicated, and loving care for all the animals at the Sanctuary.

I am a financial donor to the Sanctuary and a friend of the Sanctuary.

The Alice Sanctuary matters. Sanctuary matters for all the residents (animals) and all the humans who have benefited from having the Sanctuary – the volunteers, the people who have visited, the people who have interacted or came to learn about farm life and everything about running a home for these beautiful animals through their education on social media or other channels. I have personally benefitted from The Alice Sanctuary – I didn't grow up in Alberta and have ZERO contact or connection to farm life, to animals like this; and I have learned sooooo much. The Alice Sanctuary is founded and growing from a rich family history of farming and farm life, and through the posts and shares, reflections, and photos, I have benefited. I have learned. I have had my mind changed and opened. And in turn, I have been able to share with others who have benefitted and so on. Sanctuary matters.

I was in person at the meeting when the County denied even their ability to continue with their volunteer program, and many untrue statements were made. One that stood out to me and caused my heart to sink was the total mischaracterization about the programming and efforts. The statement that 'they care more about fundraising than the animals' was so offside and such an incorrect understanding. I cannot believe they could make such an inaccurate statement and then base that on their decision to deny.

The fundraising efforts are in place to provide care and ensure the animals are absolutely taken care of at the highest levels of concern and commitment to animal health and wellness. Sanctuary matters.

The volunteer program denial is the same situation of concern for me based on the comments made in the meeting. It remains unfathomable to me that a County would deny the Sanctuary the ability to take care of their beautiful residents. How can the County raise a concern that they want to make sure the animals are attended to, but then take away the very dedicated, trained, and caring people who are taking care and attending to them?!? It's absolutely

confounding to me and seems based purely in bias and misinformation. I would expect the County to have been more informed and make a decision based on facts not emotion or bias and absolutely incorrect information (that would have been very easy to confirm or fact check prior to the meeting).

I support the appeal because of these and many other concerns that I'm sure the Sanctuary will address and many of the other supports have addressed.

Having been there in person, the basis of the denial was made on incorrect, non factual information, and for this reason, I implore the Appeals committee to review this decision.

Sanctuary Matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meagan Hasek-Watt", with a stylized, cursive script.

Meagan Hasek-Watt

I would like to offer a few words on my experience at The Alice Sanctuary to address some of the concerns that seem to have arisen.

Events have been quite, respectful of the local environment and parking was well contained. Cars didn't trail down the road, there was no late night noise and there was definitely no garbage.

Tours of farms are not unusual concept in Alberta. In fact every summer there is an entire weekend dedicated to farm tours, ( Alberta Open Farm Days) .

These are animals that need homes and care. It is inhumane to cut off their ability to provide food and shelter requirements. Volunteering at farms is also a practise that seems to be encouraged by the province of Alberta. See <https://youngagrarians.org/how-to-start-farming-in-alberta/> and <https://wwof.ca/en/>

So in summary the Alice Sanctuary and its practise seem very much inline with local practises and in my personal experience they have always been respectful to the animals and the environment in their care.

Kimberly Dykin



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Letter of Support for The Alice Sanctuary**

2 messages

Colleen Johnson [REDACTED]  
To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

FOIP s17(1)

31 March 2023 at 11:01

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I were both born and raised on farms (grain and animal) in Saskatchewan. Third generation. As life would have it, we moved to Calgary and raised our family here.

We connected with the Alice Sanctuary in the summer of 2020 and were so impressed by the love and care for the animals, and the organization and impeccable cleanliness of the farm. J's dedication, work ethic, and contributions to the County are great and wonderful. As farm folks, we understand and are in awe of J's vision and her commitment to that vision. Her work ethic is next to none. A true farmer spirit.

We find it utterly perplexing that Wheatland County is not supporting such a positive and GOOD farm venture. If, as neighbours, we can't communicate and work together to support goodness, what is left?

As we have watched the misinformation and events concerning The Alice Sanctuary unfold, we are left to wonder what has become of farm folks? You claim to care for animals yet you take direct action to negatively impact the care of the animals? We urge the County to reconsider its decision to stop volunteers, small tours, and a couple of small fundraising events at the farm. Now is the time to consider all the goodness of The Alice Sanctuary and take whatever steps are needed to support its success for the animals and for us humans.

Thank you for this very important reconsideration.

Regards,  
Colleen & Sven Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

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**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>  
To: TAS Treasurer <thealicetreasurer@gmail.com>

1 April 2023 at 08:41

[Quoted text hidden]





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Letter of Support**

2 messages

FOIP 17(1)

**Sandi Fielder**

6 April 2023 at 11:01

To: The Alice Sanctuary &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

I am writing to express my support for the Alice Sanctuary.

I have followed and supported the sanctuary for years. They take in animals that would have nowhere else to go, and take exemplary care of them. More recently I was able to witness this first hand. When my father went into the hospital and my mother was not able to care for his pet goats, we contacted the Alice Sanctuary. They were kind enough to provide a new home for our goats and identified a medical problem in one of the goats that we had no idea about. I don't know how my family would have gotten through this recent difficult time without them.

I have seen the reports that volunteers are not being allowed to come to the sanctuary and care for the animals. This is ridiculous. I have literally had more people in my 1000 sq ft townhouse for family get togethers than go out to the sanctuary on Saturdays to care for the animals. They don't park on the road and don't cause any trouble so I fail to see what the problem is. The sanctuary needs volunteers to care for the animals and maintain the property.

The sanctuary is an important part of Wheatland County. They contribute to the local economy through purchases of animal feed and supplies as well as veterinary care. They care for animals that would otherwise have nowhere to go. I sincerely hope the county will use good judgment and common sense and allow the sanctuary to continue having small tours and volunteer days. Thank you for your time.

Sandi Fielder

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**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

6 April 2023 at 12:27

To: TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

[Quoted text hidden]



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Letter of Support**

2 messages

**Janet Hawkins**

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

FOIP s17(1)

7 April 2023 at 09:41

To whom it may concern,

The Alice Sanctuary is a special place - it takes only a few minutes of visiting, reading their posts or attending a well-curated event to understand this. Not only does TAS provides a safe haven for animals with special needs to live out their lives peacefully, but it offers opportunities for the people in our community to experience empathy, volunteering and the community spirit that Alberta is famous for. TAS is a place that people can visit to witness inclusion, practice a connection to nature and refresh their faith in humanity with clean air and fuzzy noses.

I fully support The Alice Sanctuary, their events and purpose.

Sincerely,  
Janet Hawkins  
Calgary, Alberta

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**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

To: TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

7 April 2023 at 16:22

[Quoted text hidden]

June 23, 2022

Mona Enachescu

FOIP s17(1)

Calgary AB

Wheatland County  
242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB  
T1P 2C4

**Attention: Wheatland County Council**

**Re: The Alice Sanctuary  
Letter of Support**

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I am writing in support of The Alice Sanctuary as a long-time supporter, volunteer and donor.

The Alice Sanctuary is a critical link in our community for both the animals it serves, many of whom are surrendered as special needs or rescued from dire circumstances, and as a center for outreach, advocacy and leadership. The Alice Sanctuary plays an essential role in the animal welfare and advocacy sphere both locally and provincially. Through its founder and its dedicated team of volunteers, The Alice Sanctuary provides a location to experience, understand and interact with farmed animals in a safe and humane way that inspires individuals towards greater compassion. Many of the global issues that threaten our autonomy, safety and longevity arise from a lack of grace and empathy for the world around us, and the resulting societal, political or environmental implications. The Alice Sanctuary serves as a touchpoint to expand awareness, respect and kindness extending to the greater community and calling for individuals to make positive change in their own lives and the world.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Animal Task Force and a Women for a Humane Canada member, I see everyday the link between the mistreatment of animals and its affect on community. From the proven link between interpersonal violence and violence against animals, to the social and health implications that range from environmental injustice to zoonotic disease, animal welfare is a major public health concern. The Alice Sanctuary is a small but mighty tool to spark change in our interpersonal, interspecies and global lives. It is a powerful pillar in our community with support from those across every social and economic status that inspires us to act with greater humanity and advances a progressive, compassionate Alberta.

Sincerely,



Mona Enachescu, P.Geo. MSc

FOIP s17(1)

The Alice Sanctuary <[info@thealicesanctuary.org](mailto:info@thealicesanctuary.org)>

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## The Alice Sanctuary

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The Alice Sanctuary <[info@thealicesanctuary.org](mailto:info@thealicesanctuary.org)>  
To: The Alice Sanctuary <[info@thealicesanctuary.org](mailto:info@thealicesanctuary.org)>

Wed, Apr 12, 2023 at 12:31 PM

On Wed, Apr 12, 2023 at 12:27 PM The Alice Sanctuary <[info@thealicesanctuary.org](mailto:info@thealicesanctuary.org)> wrote:

From: Cal Schule

FOIP s17(1)

Date: Wed, Apr 12, 2023 at 10:48 AM

Subject: The Alice Sanctuary

To: [info@thealicesanctuary.org](mailto:info@thealicesanctuary.org) <[info@thealicesanctuary.org](mailto:info@thealicesanctuary.org)>

Re: The Alice Sanctuary

To Whom It Concerns:

As an avid animal lover and sanctuary supporter, I am saddened and angered over the recent events concerning the history, future existence, and the daily operations of the Alice Sanctuary.

I learned of the founders and the dedicated staff, the multiple volunteers required to care for the sanctuaries built environment, it's animal residents, and its goals and objectives to host tours, two events.

I learned of initial complaints made by a neighbour(s) regarding road access and parking. Of offers of operation, rezoning and permits being suggested and directed towards by the committee itself. Only to learn that the same permits they were directed to, would ultimately be denied by the Wheatland County Municipal Planning Commission. Further insult, was not having the opportunity to defend themselves by speaking at a committee meeting, and then being told they said they can no longer utilize volunteers in its daily operations.

From the decisions given for rejecting the Alice Sanctuary application are weak, one-sided, and made without community discussion. What's more, is that these decisions seem to cross lines on the value of an agricultural-based county. Besides crops, you would think that animal welfare especially as it relates to farm animals would be high on the sanctuaries neighbours, and commission board members minds.

As we know, The Alice Sanctuary provides care and healing for rescued, surrendered, and abandoned farm animals. Drawing from the resiliency and life-affirming presence of the animals who live there, the goal of The Alice Sanctuary is to empower, encourage, and inspire visitors to find the tools they need to go out and make a positive change in the world around them.

Of course, providing such a service requires not only a sizeable staff of volunteers but also significant monetary funds. From food to medical treatment to daily comforts and care, all aspects of our operation are paid for by the generous donations of the members of their community.

2023-04-12, 12:32 p.m



Protection is the primary reason for having farmed animal sanctuaries. Many of the animals are rescued from places where their living conditions were not ideal, like slaughterhouses, dairy farms, circuses, petting zoos, hoarding situations, and abusive individual owners. Most of the rescued animals are found in conditions that have caused them to suffer. Many are rescued after medical emergencies or injuries. Sanctuaries take in the hurt animals and provide treatment. Animal sanctuaries also take in animals born with deformities or who were abandoned or orphaned. Unlike animal shelters, sanctuaries do not seek to place animals with individuals or groups, instead, they maintain each animal until his or her natural death.

Sanctuaries provide a symbol of how animals raised in farms can live a happy and fulfilling life when they are treated with proper respect and care. This is important because few people are directly exposed to animals used for food, and thus don't recognize them as individuals.

Farmed animals in sanctuaries provide educational value on several levels. Most sanctuaries incorporate some form of education by allowing the public to visit with animals in natural settings while learning more information about their history.

In conclusion, as anyone who has worked and/or volunteered in a farmed animal sanctuary will tell you, that the calls asking for rescue never stop, and the number of animals needing assistance never decreases to zero. Yet caring for these farm animals as The Alice Sanctuary does requires patience, love, time, creativity, money and a lifetime commitment. These 200 or so animals bring with them different needs and experiences, and the demands on the sanctuary staff, volunteers and the animals themselves can be substantial.

The rewards however are worth every minute of discussion, campaigning, and care, and with this letter of support for The Alice Sanctuary, it is our hope that through education, maybe the Wheatland County Municipal Planning Commission board members will understand exactly what "every minute of care" really means.

To effectively discuss the purpose, value and impact of farmed sanctuaries, it must be in positive terms, not negative ones. Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns. If you need any more information, please feel free to contact me at 403.830.6466 or [cal@spectraalt.org](mailto:cal@spectraalt.org).

Respectfully,

Cal Schuler



"Making Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility a Part of Everything We Do"

Cal Schuler (he/him/his)

2023-04-12, 12:32 p.m



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Letter of Support**

2 messages

FOIP s17(1)

**Chelsea Cusack** [REDACTED]

3 April 2023 at 08:34

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

I'd like to express my support for The Alice Sanctuary and its volunteer program. I've been volunteering at TAS for 8 years. It's a place that has helped me mentally, spiritually, and physically. I've been able to make lasting friendships with likeminded people and develop relationships with neglected and homeless animals. TAS is a place where they can get a second chance at life to feel love and connection. Volunteers are a vital part of any community and to forbid them at The Alice Sanctuary puts it in a scary place. TAS is a community and needs its volunteers to thrive. From clean up, to event planning, building and spending time connecting with the animals - no time is wasted volunteering. I always feel so refreshed and ready for a new week after spending my day at the sanctuary. Forbidding volunteers is detrimental to the founder, the animals and the volunteers. Why is this just affecting TAS and not the neighbouring farms? I can't wrap my hand around the fact that the sanctuary is being singled out. It's not right.

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**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

3 April 2023 at 21:11

To: TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

[Quoted text hidden]

Dear Wheatland County Council Members,

I am writing to express my support for The Alice Sanctuary, and to urge you to reconsider the decision to deny their request to host tours and revoke their ability to bring in volunteers. As a former volunteer at the sanctuary, I can attest to the invaluable sense of community it provides, and the profound catharsis that comes from interacting with the animals. The sanctuary has not only had a positive impact on my mental health but also greatly improved my physical well-being through the laborious tasks required to maintain the animal environments. I would like to emphasize that J, the sanctuary's founder, works tirelessly day in and day out to ensure that all the animals are adequately equipped and properly taken care of. However, the amount of labor required to maintain the sanctuary is impossible for them to complete alone without the aid of volunteers.

In addition, it is important to note that The Alice Sanctuary plays a crucial role in educating the community about animal welfare, conservation efforts, and proper animal care practices. The sanctuary provides an invaluable opportunity for people to learn about these important topics, and it would be a great loss if anyone were to be denied the chance to benefit from these valuable educational resources. Therefore, respectfully, it is urged that the decision to deny The Alice Sanctuary the ability to host tours and bring in volunteers be reconsidered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zarif Qazi





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**Fwd: Letter of support**

FOIP s17(1)

Heather M [REDACTED]

29 March 2023 at 10:58

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

March 25, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: The Alice Sanctuary**

I am writing today to confirm and provide my full support for The Alice Sanctuary. It was a misguided decision by the council that a charitable organization is being handled in this way, especially one that wants only to care for animals that otherwise would not have a home.

Contrary to the misrepresentation of facts and lack of basic understanding of TAS presented by council members at the March 14 meeting (which I attended), fundraising is *not* more important than caring for the animals – fundraising is done directly for the purpose of providing proper care and support to these animals.

Fundraising and volunteers, even just the small group that helps once per week at TAS, are a key part of the function of any charitable organization. These volunteers allow all proceeds from fundraising to be put directly towards the cost of animal care and maintaining the sanctuary.

Please reconsider the recent decision made by 3 of the 5 Wheatland County council members to deny a business licence. TAS was directed to apply for this license, then denied, as the council was unclear regarding how they should be classified within the context of the County. There was also a misrepresentation regarding the number of past complaints that were made against TAS itself (one, from only one source).

TAS has a place within Wheatland County and should be allowed to continue their operations; they have been in full compliance with all requests made by the County to date.

Sincerely,

Heather Murphy

[REDACTED]

FOIP s17(1)

Calgary, AB

[REDACTED]





TAS Treasurer &lt;theallicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: Letter of support**

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**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>  
To: TAS Treasurer <theallicetreasurer@gmail.com>

29 March 2023 at 10:46

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Neil L [REDACTED]  
Date: Wed, Mar 29, 2023 at 9:47 AM  
Subject: Letter of support  
To: <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

FOIP s17(1)

March 25, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: The Alice Sanctuary**

I am writing today to confirm and provide my full support for The Alice Sanctuary. It is not right that a charitable organization is being handcuffed in this way, especially one that wants only to care for animals that otherwise would not have a home. Posts on the TAS social media pages clearly display the love and special bond between the animals and volunteers, and even more so between them and their guardian, J. I feel honoured to be a part of the volunteer group and witness it first-hand. Fundraising is not more important than caring for these animals – fundraising is done directly FOR the purpose of providing proper care and support to these animals.

Fundraising and volunteers, even just a small group that helps once per week like the one at TAS, are a key part of the function of any charitable organization. These volunteers allow all proceeds from fundraising to go directly towards the cost of animal care.

Please reconsider the recent decision made by 3 of the 5 Wheatland County council members and allow the limited small tours and volunteer program to continue at TAS. They have a place within Wheatland County and should be allowed to continue their operations; they have been in full compliance with all requests made by the County to date.

Sincerely,

Neil Leonzio

FOIP s17(1)

Calgary, AB [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealiceretreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of Support**

FOIP s17(1)

Miranda [REDACTED]

22 March 2023 at 23:20

To: The Alice Sanctuary &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

For the Wheatland County Appeal Board.

I have volunteered weekly at The Alice Sanctuary for over a year now. I have come as a guest to their events on and off the property and given my time and assisted in numerous ways. I have also made the most precious memories there with my mom and other family members while attending events together.

Ever since my first visit to the Sanctuary I knew that this was a very special place and a cause that I wanted support. This is a beautiful and well cared for space where the 200 animal residents all come with inspiring stories of resilience, compassion, healing, and hope. Something we can all say we have in common in our human experience as well.

I joined TAS's volunteer program because being of service is an essential part to my own recovery as I navigate a life in sobriety. Their volunteer program has provided me a safe space and a beautiful avenue to build community and friendships and be of service in this way. I share this part of my personal experience but everyone who visits the sanctuary creates their own deep and profound connection to this place just as I have.

The Alice Sanctuary not only supports the individuals in this community such as myself but its businesses also. Feed, hay, straw and vet care are all bought locally. TAS is also a resource used frequently by farmers in this community. Those that seek refuge for animals they make special connections with or have special needs beyond the resources they have available.

TAS brings people together and offers a unique experience to connect to the land and have meaningful interactions with the residents. It builds bridges between people of all backgrounds and beliefs and provides a platform for thoughtful conversation. These connections and relationships should make this County and Alberta as a whole extremely proud. TAS provides a working example of the spirit of community and the benefits of building connections to the land, the animals and each other.

To prevent The Alice Sanctuary from hosting its small tours during the summer and from running its volunteer program to help insure the most exemplary care and upkeep is a disservice to this community. These tours are less than 20 people with multiple coming in the same vehicle. People cause more of a traffic disruption by having a garage sale on a Saturday than these tours do. Also prohibiting a charity from having volunteer support is unheard of and crippling for any not for profit organization. Wheatland County should be ashamed of how it has handled this application. I have been following the process from the beginning and clearly there was no attempt made at gathering any insights into to validity of the original complaint nor was there any earnest attempt at keeping personal bias off the table in the interest of making a fair assessment and resolution moving forward. This application clearly should Not have been denied. And those that handled this with such blatant bias should no longer hold their positions.

Miranda Milligan

FOIP s17(1)

Sent from my iPhone



March 28, 2023

To whom it may concern,

July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was the first day I ever visited The Alice Sanctuary, as well as Wheatland County. I remember this day as if it was yesterday because it was one that made a lasting impact on me and my husband, changing our lives and how we view the world for the better. Since then, I have attended numerous events at The Alice Sanctuary, and have incredibly fond memories of each one. The property is incredibly well-maintained, and the animals are loved, and cared for immaculately by Janneane Madill (J) and the volunteers and friends of The Alice Sanctuary. In Wheatland County's meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>, it was stated by a councillor that The Alice Sanctuary focuses more on fundraising than actual animal care. As a non-business and registered charity, fundraising is integral to The Alice Sanctuary's animal care. Animal care cannot exist without fundraising. To say that The Alice Sanctuary cares more about fundraising than animal care is nonsensical and untrue. To use lack of animal care as a reason to take away their right to hold tours and events, while stripping them of their volunteers who take care of the animals, is not only hypocritical, but showing the County's intent to use regulatory power to reinforce the issues that they are criticizing The Alice Sanctuary for having. It has been made clear that Wheatland County is biased against The Alice Sanctuary and is actively working against a resolution of this issue.

The sanctuary that J has created is warm, inviting, inclusive to all, and greatly impactful to both the animals that live there and the humans that have had the opportunity to visit. The property itself is clean, well-maintained, and safe for both people and animals. Not once in the last three years of my visits has anyone parked on the road that is shared with the neighbor who made the complaint and there has never been an unsafe number of visitors or volunteers. All parking is located within the gates of the sanctuary. Dust is kept to an absolute minimum, in part due to the work The Alice Sanctuary puts into maintaining their property, the highway, and surrounding area. The Alice Sanctuary must continue to exist as a haven for farmed animals in need of care, and as a space of sanctuary for people to visit with and learn from the animal residents. Every visit at The Alice Sanctuary is a learning experience, and an opportunity to grow and expand your worldview. Every time I have visited The Alice Sanctuary, whether on a tour or at other events, I have learned something new by speaking to J, the wonderful volunteers, or just by existing in the same space as the animals. To experience a rescued animal's safety, joy, and care, like so many animals at The Alice Sanctuary has made me feel truly lucky, and my hope is that others can continue to experience this feeling there. It is imperative that sanctuaries like The Alice Sanctuary be able to exist, for both children and adults who love and care for animals, especially for who wouldn't be able to connect with them on a day-to-day basis. To take away The Alice Sanctuary's events and volunteers, is not only a disservice to the province and to any person wanting to visit, but also destructive to the animals' lives.

Sincerely,  
Meghan MacWhirter

March 26, 2023

### Alice Sanctuary Support letter

I was dismayed to see the opposition by Wheatland County to the Alice Sanctuary. The Sanctuary has been in operation as a great neighbour in their current location for over 7 years. I am in disbelief by the restrictions put on the Alice Sanctuary activities.

I have been a supporter of Alice Sanctuary since the inception, I am a friend of the founder and have visited many times and am currently a monthly donor. The animals are provided phenomenal care in a wonderful environments. The grounds are kept in impeccable condition. The buildings, fencing are in excellent repair. The animal pens and shelters are very well kept, clean and well set up. The Sanctuary also supports the local economy with their purchases of feed, supplies, farm equipment and veterinary care. The sanctuary has small tours to support the work and provide education, which are done thoughtfully to respect the residents, neighbours and environment. The tours also allow people to connect with nature, rural Alberta and the animals. The founder and volunteers are exceptional people which is evident in the amazing care provided to the residents and the contributions they make to our community.

I was shocked to hear that Wheatland County is trying to restrict both volunteers and tours which are essential to the Sanctuary operation. My family has roots in farming in Alberta and volunteerism has always been an integral part of rural life. Historically communities came together for a barn raising and many pitch in on small and large scales with harvest and other activities. Farms also rely on hired farm help to assist in operations - how is this different than volunteer labor?

I can not understand how these restrictions can be permitted when many others in Wheatland County are allowed similar activities. Members of Wheatland & Area Hospice Society also hold volunteer harvesting events. In 2021 Farming For Hospice, had many volunteers, seven combines, four trucks, and covered 155 acres of land. (<https://strathmorenow.com/articles/community-comes-together-for-farming-for-hospice>)

Other Wheatland County community members are welcomed, like Bluff Organic Farms who sells direct to consumers who visit their farm. Wheatland County I am sure has many other home/farm based activities, events, artists, farm tours, bed and breakfasts, and businesses not being singled out with such restrictions. I have seen signs while driving through the area that advertised a dozen eggs for sale - will this be banned?

Wheatland County also supports many events. In 2022 alone, Wheatland County website advertised the "Soil Structure & production Field Tour" at Gemstone Cattle Company, "OH & Tongue Creek Ranch Tour" at Tongue Creek ranch, "Soil Health Field Tours" at Rod Vergouwen's (Valley View Ranch) etc. The Wheatland County Tourism Initiative website also specifically promotes farm tours. I notice, Wheatland County's Agricultural Service Board also hosts bus tours of various agricultural facilities in the county. (<https://strathmorenow.com/articles/ag-service-board-tours-the-county>) As well,



Alberta Farm Days opens up many farms and facilities for public tours, including within Wheatland County. Why are these events supported but restrictions placed on the Alice Sanctuary?

Our province purports to support freedom and cutting red tape but I do not see this reflected in the actions of Wheatland County in regards to Alice Sanctuary's permits. I am concerned that Alice Sanctuary is being unfairly targeted due to ideology. It is embarrassing as an Albertan and makes Alberta look bad locally and internationally. I urge those in power to reconsider and allow Alice Sanctuary to continue their necessary activities as contributing members of our community.

Capri Rasmussen



TAS Treasurer &lt;theallicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Form Submission - Contact us**

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Squarespace &lt;form-submission@squarespace.info&gt;

25 March 2023 at 07:02

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

FOIP s17(1)

Sent via form submission from [The Alice Sanctuary](#)**Name:** Terry Lindsay**Email:** [REDACTED]

FOIP s17(1)

**Message:** If anything the world needs more places like the Alice sanctuary. I grew up on a gentle farm, raising show cattle, they were like pets to us. I'm not vegan, but we don't eat meat very much. Industrial farming is horrible thing. I hope things work out for the sanctuary, otherwise it's a sad day for are planet. Thank you for what you do.

Does this submission look like spam? [Report it here.](#)



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

**IN SOLIDARITY: The Alice Sanctuary**

FOIP s17(1)

Leslie Jerome

24 March 2023 at 11:18

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

**I Proudly Support The Alice Sanctuary!**

This letter is written with concern from a future volunteer and forever supporter of The Alice Sanctuary located in Wheatland County, Alberta. In addition, my perspective and opinion are formed as a 25-year rural resident of neighbouring Rockyview County.

For me, it began with a goat named Maggie, a true ambassador of The Alice Sanctuary. She built a connection with many in her short tenure and opened my eyes to what's possible with the simple act of rescue.

Treating animals with dignity and respect is the cornerstone of good agriculture practice everywhere. And so the Sanctuary's mandate to "provide care and healing for rescued, surrendered, and abandoned farm animals" is an easy cause to passionately support. Volunteering at such a farm feels good. So states the goal of the Alice Sanctuary is to "empower, encourage, and inspire visitors to find the tools they need to go out and make a positive change in the world around them". I dare you to not want to be a part of that.

The concerning issue is the Wheatland County Councillor choosing to vote based on "going with his gut" while voting in absentee. Additionally, it was very concerning that the Council did not provide an opportunity for the Sanctuary to address Council directly. The lack of curiosity to investigate demonstrative facts by the Wheatland County representatives was a clear abrogation of duty and responsibility. The representatives are in a position of power, acting on behalf of all residents; their decisions should be based on a full accounting of information available and not on a crafted, incomplete, and arguably fictional narrative.

I urge people to stand in solidarity with The Alice Sanctuary. I believe that many of the residents of Wheatland County, especially those family farmers who rely on the rescue services of The Alice Sanctuary to care for animals they cannot, are disappointed with the treatment of their fellow citizens. It is not too late for the Wheatland Council Council to fully support The Alice Sanctuary.

Thank you,  
Leslie Jerome

Providing care and healing for rescued, surrendered, and abandoned farm animals

Providing care and healing for rescued, surrendered, and abandoned farm animals.



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

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**Letter of Support****Gail Urquhart**

FOIP s17(1)

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

29 March 2023 at 19:14

Dear Janneane,

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to support animals in need at The Alice Sanctuary. You're instilling a sense of respect, empathy and caring through the work that you do - such a much needed commodity these days...and providing a place for your small, respectful corps of volunteers to contribute to the quality of life in Wheatland County. The County should be proud to have you in their community.

Gail





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of Support**

FOIP s17(1)

**Lawren Schwindt**

29 March 2023 at 13:37

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

To whom it may concern,

I was saddened to hear the news that The Alice Sanctuary may not be able to continue tours on their property. I have attended a tour at TAS a couple of times and these experiences have been extremely impactful for me. It is inspiring to see the volunteers and especially J give so much to the animals and their community. I have attended tours with colleagues which has bonded us in a unique way, with friends who had no idea the sanctuary existed and were not aware of the wonderful things they are doing, and I look forward to bringing my children to the sanctuary as a learning experience for them.

TAS contributes to the economic success of agricultural businesses and has the right to exist like other farms in the area. I hope Wheatland County reconsiders taking away their right to visitors on the property and the ability for a non-profit organization to fundraise and connect with people like myself in the community.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Lawren



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

**letter of support**

FOIP s17(1)

Rachel Binks

23 March 2023 at 22:33

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

In light of the recent controversy and unfair treatment of The Alice Sanctuary, I wanted to write to show my support for what you're trying to do.

Unfortunately, I have never visited the sanctuary in person (I live in BC). But I have followed along with you on Instagram for the past few years, as I have learned about all the amazing local and not-so-local rescues and sanctuaries that exist here in BC, Alberta, and beyond.

I started my volunteer journey with two rescues closer to me (SAINTS and The Happy Herd). Both are home to many animals that, due to medical reasons, disabilities, old age or simply just their species, would have ended up homeless - or worse. It is places like these - and like The Alice Sanctuary - that give those animals - the unwanted - a place to be, to live a happy, comfortable, natural life.

It is places like The Alice Sanctuary that also give *people* a place to be - a place to feel useful, not judged, part of a community. Volunteering with animals has been such a huge benefit to my life. I started volunteering almost 3 years ago, just once a week. And that one day out of my stressful, monotonous, unfulfilling work week, was the one day I actually looked forward to (and still do!). Giving your time and working hard for someone or something other than yourself, is such a gratifying thing to do. Volunteering is so good for the soul & the heart. It makes you feel connected to others around you and makes you feel purposeful.

Places like the The Alice Sanctuary are so important, now more than ever. Our society has become more and more disconnected from community, from helping others, from just doing things without expecting something in return. We need to be encouraging more people to get off their screens, get outside, and go DO something for someone else - not stopping it. Preventing the volunteers from being able to come to the sanctuary to care for the animals, is not only devastating for the animals, it is also devastating for the mental health of many of those people that also seek refuge and purpose at the sanctuary. Yes, those people could go volunteer doing something else - but for many (like myself), it is sometimes difficult to connect with people, whereas animals make you feel alive in their presence. They have a way of relaxing the mind, soothing the soul, and mending the heart. They really are the best teachers.

Not everyone has to agree with what The Alice Sanctuary does, in that it HELPS animals. For some that is not important, and that's ok. But at the core of their beliefs is compassion for others, kindness and respect. The folks at The Alice Sanctuary - and any sanctuary - are simply trying to make a small difference in the lives of a handful of individuals, those individuals just happen to be animals. If anything, as a community we should be encouraging their mission and supporting it, because at its core is love and we need more of that in the world right now than ever before.

I hope and pray that the community surrounding The Alice Sanctuary takes a moment to really look at what they're doing there, without fear, without bias and without judgement - and truly see what they are about. And if the parties involved still feel that parking spots or occasional congestion on the roads is really more important than providing love and acceptance for both humans & animals, then they clearly have not given enough of their time to a selfless cause, and could probably benefit from a volunteer day at the sanctuary.

I will continue to follow and support The Alice Sanctuary in any way that I can, because I believe in what you are doing and I know in my heart how much it is needed. Please don't give up, there are so many people (and animals!) rooting for you! Kindness will always prevail.

Much love,

Rachel :)

Wheat Land County Counsel Members  
Wheat Land County, Alberta

March 22, 2023

Dear Counsel Members,

I am deeply saddened to have to write a letter of support to urge a change in decision from your March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the future of the beloved Alice Sanctuary. I hope when you re-assess this appeal you do so with very deep consideration and compassion. The Alice Sanctuary has been an incredible beacon of light and love for so many people over the years, and the recent attempts at stifling its important and beautiful work are absolutely heartless. Spurred by complaints of a complacent neighbor, and allowing his voice to outweigh any reason or justice is appalling. As a longtime volunteer and volunteer coordinator at the Sanctuary, I have seen him be nothing but a bully; not only mistreating his animals but his land; littered with old cars, trailers and garbage, poorly built animal shelters and fencing, the fact he is complaining about a small amount of traffic is absurd. The Sanctuary has been nothing but respectful of his space, and removing our beloved volunteer program and incredible summer tours and events to placate to his childish complaints is not only unfair but highly unreasonable.

The Alice Sanctuary's mission is to spread kindness, compassion and love – and I believe you would agree that during this tumultuous time they have complied and acted with as much understanding and kindness during this process. What the Sanctuary does is far beyond what you may appreciate as an outside spectator. From an incredible volunteer program, to giving back to our community, they are a valuable asset to not only the County but our world. They deserve a place to exist, just as much as any one else; and they deserve to have a loving community surround it as well. The summer tours provide so much more than the important funds needed for the winter months – it gives people from all walks of life the opportunity to connect with animals on a deep and personal level, while giving support to the Sanctuary's day to day operations. I've seen so many life changing moments during the summer tours, and to disallow such connection and community is quite frankly heartless. Traffic for such events has been scaled back significantly and do not in fact impact this neighbor as all vehicles are parked inside the Sanctuary gates. Yet, this neighbor can continue to have people come in and out of his property to purchase his 'products' with no thought given to that? Seems rather unfair. As a longtime volunteer, to be denied the incredible volunteer program quite simply breaks my soul - this group of individuals values the strength in our community and giving back to something far greater than ourselves. To be told this cannot occur is ignorant and I truly implore you to see how completely unreasonable this is. Volunteering is an incredible gift that this community values so very deeply. Not only are we giving back to something we find incredibly important, but we are able to assist the incredible founder to help run the Sanctuary to its fullest potential.



Tours and events at The Alice Sanctuary (TAS) bring so much love and beauty. As someone who has volunteered and even lead some of these events, such as a beautiful Mother's Day Brunch, I can tell you first hand how in a world full of so many dark spaces, moments to escape and connect with our community and the TAS residents provides something so very meaningful and valuable in this world. Tours and special small events such as this not only provide special moments with our community, but also allows TAS to give back and support our community. These events allow us to support other local farms for our straw, hay and feed. We support local small businesses and highlight their talents during such events to help flourish our community even further. So, dear County, I implore you to see reason and to allow TAS to continue its meaningful and important work, despite these unreasonable complaints. This neighbor's space is always respected – we have the right to use a simple roadway just as much as he does for his work. I hope you can see that by denying these small events and volunteer program, the negative and detrimental impact that would have on our community.

TAS's founder is an incredible person who I have seen work tirelessly to help the residents thrive and live such beautiful lives despite their past traumas. While fundraising is an important part of any charity or Sanctuary, J balances this with the welfare of the animals as well as respecting the land splendidly. J's focus is not on one aspect over another, rather, they balance each intricate piece of TAS to allow it to flourish and thrive. They have grown TAS into the place it is because they have taken the time and care to know what makes a Sanctuary so successful. It also takes a team to give a Sanctuary a strong foundation, and our founder needs that vital support from the volunteers and the community to keep its light shining.

Sincerely,

Jill Andersen





TAS Treasurer &lt;theallicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of support**

FOIP s17(1)

Lindsay Mate [REDACTED]

27 March 2023 at 16:30

To: Tas &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

To Whom it may concern:

Hi there – I have been a volunteer at TAS for around 6 years.

I am not from Calgary – and only moved here about 15 years ago – but the friendships and community I have made at TAS will last a lifetime.

The TAS community is such an amazing group -It was made my move to calgary very easy having a group of loving and supporting people to be with weekly.

I cannot express how much the volunteer program has impacted my life. Not only on a friendship level, but also on a mental health level.

I work a lot of hours in a fairly high stress job – going to TAS on Saturdays has been an absolute breath of fresh air.

While Saturdays include a lot of manual labor and hard work – Janneane Madill has always encouraged us to take time and sit with the residents. I can't tell you the amount of times I have snuck over to hang out in the potbelly barn and just sit and snuggle with the pigs for a mental re charge. There is nothing better than to have a pot belly snuggle up to you for love – it will leave your heart so full.

Tas is a great physical workout for me on a Saturday, but also a break from the business of life – a chance to go outside, enjoy the outdoors, enjoy nature and animals, and enjoy love and laughter with friends.

We as a society are constantly dealing with pressure , stress, the rushed way of life – when you come out to TAS to visit, its almost like you enter a small bubble – away from it all. It gives visitors the chance to stop for a moment and pause - animals and fresh air can be so therapeutic. Tours give people the chance to come out and engage and have amazing experiences – the opportunity for people to come out for tours and volunteering should not be take away. If anything, we need more of this type of activity in Wheatland county, Calgary and surrounding areas.

TAS stands for kindness, compassion and love - the more people we can have out to visit and volunteer – the more we can instill and spread these values in our community.

With love and kindness,

Lindsay

**Lindsay Mate**

Transportation Supervisor



FOIP s17(1)



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of Support**

FOIP s17(1)

Sonia Cutts

26 March 2023 at 21:32

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this email to show my support for The Alice Sanctuary. I live in Calgary and had an opportunity to visit this beautiful animal rescue on several occasions. I have always found it to be a bright and happy place. I grew up on a farm in a very rural part of Prince Edward Island and was surrounded by animals my whole childhood. I was thrilled to be able to take my children to the Alice Sanctuary, so they could experience some of what I experienced as a child. They saw creatures living together peacefully, interacting with one another. They saw open spaces and sunshine and fresh air. They saw what I lived growing up.

On PEI, we care about our neighbors. We pull together as a community when one of our neighbors needs help. I expect cold indifference from my neighbors here in Calgary. I am disheartened to hear of this happening in Wheatland county. A place I drove to, on unpaved roads, and felt less homesick then anywhere else in Alberta. I saw dirt roads and land and fields and felt closer to PEI. I was shocked to hear neighbors of The Alice Sanctuary are, what, diligently working to shut down **an animal rescue**? They are actively trying to prevent TAS from helping animals that were deemed as having no value or place anywhere else? Sick and broken animals that have no chances left and no other place to go. I cannot believe that a small community is choosing to fight its neighbors rather than pull together. Thank goodness my parents do not have neighbors like these on PEI.

Please leave these animals in peace. Please recognize how valuable TAS is and how important volunteers are in keeping up with the care of these beautiful creatures. Please let The Alice Sanctuary continue to care for animals that would not have a chance otherwise.

Sincerely,

Sonia Cutts

Calgary, AB

March 26, 2023

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in regard to complaints that have been made about The Alice Sanctuary, and the resulting withdrawal of permits for tours and volunteers at the sanctuary. I live in Leduc, and I visited the sanctuary to attend a tour in July of 2021 as I have a strong interest in supporting the rescue and rehabilitation of animals. I am aware that there has been a complaint about guests parking at the property during tours and events. When I attended a tour, instructions were given to come at a specific time, and we were promptly admitted onto the property so that we would not be blocking access for the neighbours. Everything was carefully thought out and organized, and it was very apparent that Janneane works extremely hard to maintain the property and care for the many animals to a very high standard.

To care for such a large property and a wide variety of animals requires a team effort. I know this firsthand, as I volunteer at a sanctuary not far from where I live in Leduc. Volunteering has been such an important and rewarding experience for me, as I'm sure it is for the great group of volunteers who donate their time and efforts at The Alice Sanctuary. In addition to volunteers, charitable organizations must fundraise in order to continue the valuable work they do. Summer tours and other events are a vital part of fundraising for a sanctuary, and by denying the right to hold these tours the welfare of the animals is being put at risk.

I am very disappointed that the county is not more supportive of this amazing charitable organization. Many people who have attended and supported the sanctuary are outraged by the actions that have been taken, as they should be. I sincerely hope this matter will be reconsidered, as many innocent animals and people will be negatively impacted by these restrictions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jolene Sudeyko

Leduc

FOIP s17(1)





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**letter of support**

FOIP s17(1)

Monika Salkauskas  
To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

23 March 2023 at 18:42

Hello Alice Sanctuary team,

I am saddened that you have to go through this tough time and be treated in this shocking way by the council. Please find my letter of support below. Will this do or would you need it in a proper paper letter format as an attached pdf, I can send that too if you like.

Thank you and all the best for your valuable work! Greetings, Monika

.....

Dear Wheatland County Council,

I am writing this letter on behalf of The Alice Sanctuary to show my support, so that they may be permitted to continue their work as before, benefiting the animals in their care.

A farm sanctuary does furthermore benefit the whole community by providing a place for people of nearby communities to learn about farm animals, thereby doing important public education and liaison work. This should in turn benefit all farmers in the community, when thus public relations ties are strengthened.

Another important benefit of a farm sanctuary is that it allows people to volunteer for a good cause. The volunteers are of course once again members of the nearby communities, who come together in this way to work on a project that does something good, makes the volunteers feel good and encourages stronger community ties. All this is again a benefit to the Wheatland County community.

For all the services required, such as deliveries of feed, veterinary care and contracts for trade workers the sanctuary will once again benefit the community by conducting this business with goods and services providers within the community.

I sincerely hope that a way can be found to accommodate the sanctuary for its need of volunteers, events and other requirements for its operation on a permit that all can agree on. It would be a devastating loss for the Alice Sanctuary not to be able to continue its valuable work for farm animals in need. And I hope to have highlighted some of the points that also make it clear how much of a loss it would be for the Wheatland County not to have this sanctuary operating in its community anymore.

Thank you for your kind consideration, best regards, Monika Salkauskas

--  
Monika Salkauskas



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of Support**

FOIP s17(1)

**Sandy Kelston**

23 March 2023 at 17:24

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

I visited the Sanctuary with my two daughters last summer for a well organized informative tour.

We parked within the gates on the property as did all the visitors, there were no cars parked on the road or blocking any access to other properties.

Volunteers are an essential part of The Alice Sanctuary as they cannot do everything necessary to run the property such as maintenance, cleaning and feeding on their own. I myself have been considering applying to volunteer.

As a nonprofit organization they depend on the Fundraisers to fund it.

The property and animals are very well cared for.

The Sanctuary is a valuable member of the community contributing to the local economy by way of Supplies, Feed, Hay, Veterinary Care etc with no negative impact to surrounding properties and businesses.

Thank you,  
Sandy Kelston



TAS Treasurer <thealicesanctuary@gmail.com>

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**Letter of support**

FOIP s17(1)

Caleigh MacArthur

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

23 March 2023 at 16:08

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to show support to The Alice Sanctuary including its residents, staff, and volunteers.

You provide a safe place for rescued animals who would have no other place to go.

You are an invaluable resource in our community who is absolutely needed.

I have supported you in the past and will continue to do so.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance in showing support for TAS.

With kind regards,

Caleigh MacArthur 🌱❤



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of Support**

FOIP s17(1)

**Ciara McKeown**

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

23 March 2023 at 11:09

I am writing to express my unwavering support for The Alice Sanctuary. My family and I have visited and supported TAS, and our visit was a powerful experience. The robust, professional and engaging manner in which we were toured through the sanctuary gave us joy, hope and demonstrated that there is so much compassion and care in our Alberta communities. There are many ways to care for and be with animals and it is disappointing that this space fundamentally challenges Wheatland County's notions of animal welfare and of being a community. Our province should be thriving on how we treat each other, on the many ways we care for land, nature, animals and each other, and not on assumptions or ideological divides. We should laud people and places such as TAS for their leading role in a dialogue about care, sustainability, and ways to contribute to our communities. There is not one way to be in rural and agricultural places, and TAS should not threaten neighbours and residents, it should be embraced.

An organizations' volunteers and activities are the backbone of who they are and what they do, a necessity to exist, and near and far TAS has astounding support for what they do.

Please reverse your ill-informed decision Wheatland County, and show that you are a caring and supportive County full of people who embrace what is unique and who care for their neighbours.

Most Sincerely,  
Ciara McKeown





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**Alice Sanctuary**

FOIP s17(1)

**Joan and Juergen Ross**

To: scott.klassen@wheatlandcounty.ca

Cc: info@thealicesanctuary.org

23 March 2023 at 13:15

Alice Sanctuary was denied a permit to provide tours because of safety concerns regarding traffic and parking. I believe the situation at Alice Sanctuary is similar to community halls in rural areas who are not being persecuted for the same reasons. These halls offer various functions that are held throughout the year such as; weddings, reunions, ball games, etc. These functions along with an annual harvest dinner, raise money to keep the hall operating which is similar to what Alice Sanctuary does. If the sanctuary were operating as a business they would be making a profit which is doubtful, because it is a charity just to keep their animals alive.

I understand a complaint from a neighbour who feels he is in the right because his view of animals is for slaughter and not what Alice Sanctuary stands for. They have a right to keep animals on their property for their own reasons as much as the neighbour for their own reasons.

With the world wide recognition this animal sanctuary has received, I think the county should consider the optics of rejecting Alice Sanctuary's appeal. When the sanctuary offers education and compassion, this speaks volumes and could attract more people to live in your community. For example, how many people would want to live next to a slaughter house or feedlot? I hope council would consider being more open minded on this issue.

Regards,  
Joan Kerbes

Calgary, AB

FOIP s17(1)



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of Support**

FOIP s17(1)

Tasha Komery

22 March 2023 at 08:52

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

Hello,

I am writing to express my dismay at the denial of the permit application submitted to Wheatland County for the Alice Sanctuary. Firstly, a bit about me. I have lived in Calgary since I was 3 years old. I am now 52. My father was an engineer in the oil and gas industry for 50 years. I have grown up with relative privilege. I am an educated, beige woman. I have an MBA and hold a VP position in the third largest arts organization in the country. I am an animal lover, but I still include some meat in my diet (I try to support local, ethical farmers). I believe in social justice. I also respect differing viewpoints as long as they do not breed hatred or injustice.

I am so dismayed at this decision. To be clear, I have never been to the Alice Sanctuary. But I follow them on Instagram and have attended a couple of their fundraisers in Calgary. When I read the report from CBC that the Sanctuary was denied their permit to hold tours or to have a volunteer program, I couldn't for the life of me understand why. Hmm.... Let me think about the power behind something like the Stampede (just as a relevant example). I used to live in Mission. I moved from there because I wasn't able to sleep at night with my window open because of the noise (I didn't have AC). I wasn't able to have friends over because there was absolutely nowhere to park. I found garbage around my home, I saw someone urinating on a neighbouring building. I am not saying you should get rid of the Stampede, although I do not necessarily support some of the activities that happen there. But that 10 day event has an impact on people that live in neighbouring communities. Yet, the idea of not allowing those things to take place is like blasphemy in Alberta. Yes, it is an economic engine, but is that really all that matters?

Wheatland County won't allow a few cars to be parked a few times a year for tours? They won't allow volunteers to participate in the joy, love, and fulfillment of supporting an organization that gives a home to the most vulnerable beings on the planet? Have you ever heard of Sanctified Kindness? That is an Indigenous principle that means to have respect and compassion for ALL living things. Ok, I'm getting off topic. The point is, the Alice Sanctuary is doing REALLY hard work, raising awareness and caring for animals. This is not glamorous work, but it is important work. I see every day what animals teach us about humanity, kindness, love, compassion. And more people need to understand this. We seem to be regressing as a society. We are leaving the Age of Enlightenment and returning to the dark ages. If there was ever a time we needed more compassion in our lives, it is now.

Wheatland County has made an incomprehensible decision. They asked the Sanctuary to apply for a home-based business permit but then denied the permit with one reason being that the operation does not fall under the category of a business. Whaaaa? Makes no sense. And they are asking for some volunteers and a few tours a year? And that is disruptive to the neighbours?

Can we please look at the big picture? Hmm.. maybe Wheatland County wants to provide funding and land for the Sanctuary to build a parking lot and pay for staff to care for the property and animals, so volunteers aren't needed? Hmm, that would create jobs for people that have an affinity for caring for animals. Just an idea. Not necessarily saying that is what we should do - the Sanctuary would be better equipped to know what is needed. But Wheatland County has essentially taken action that could eventually lead to the Sanctuary shutting down their operations is clear as day.

I hope the individuals who sit on whatever committee made this decision will take another look and see the value of The Alice Sanctuary in our collective futures.

Thank you,  
Tasha Komery



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**Regarding the business license**

FOIP s17(1)

**Judge Singh Sumal**

22 March 2023 at 22:42

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

This email is in support of The Alice Sanctuary, and the incredibly important work being done there to ensure the livelihood of the people and the animals continues to thrive.

I have visited there more than a couple of times. There has always been care and support towards not just the residents there but the surrounding area to ensure people of all kinds of manner are still respected.

My full support goes to the Alice Sanctuary. And will always be there.

Thank you.

March 22, 2023

We are throwing our personal and organizational support behind The Alice Sanctuary in their appeal of restrictions imposed on them by the recent Wheatland County municipal planning commission decision.

The Alice Sanctuary is a reflection of the values of many residents of the county and the country of Canada as a whole. To put such biased and unwarranted limits on their sanctuary borders on trampling on the freedoms of all of us, especially when they are willing to go above and beyond to alleviate concerns and mitigate their impact on their neighbours. The work that they do, helping unwanted or distressed animals, should never be viewed as a conflict or incompatible with current society. There is ALWAYS room for compassion, kindness, and caring.

We hope that the County reconsiders its decision based on fact and in a spirit of cooperation and generosity.

*Kathy Bartley*

Mike and Kathy Bartley  
Bear Valley Rescue Society

*Comp 19, Site 6, RR2 Sundre, Alberta T0M 1X0 403-637-2708  
website - [bearvalleyab.org](http://bearvalleyab.org)*





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of support**

FOIP s17(1)

Lisa Yano

22 March 2023 at 20:19

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

To the members of the Wheatland County Municipal Planning Commission,

I am writing this letter in support of The Alice Sanctuary. I was appalled to learn that you have denied this incredible sanctuary a permit to operate. This sanctuary has built a sense of community while offering the opportunity for enrichment to visitors and volunteers, and provides a loving home for rescued farm animals. What a blessing for Wheatland County!

I would genuinely like to know how many of you on the Planning Commission took the time to visit the sanctuary, talk to visitors and volunteers prior to making your decision? Did your conclusion come after hearing both sides fully, or did you bend to the pressure of a few vocal neighbours?

I may be just one voice in support of The Alice Sanctuary, but I can assure you that I am one of a VAST community of supporters. We will not be silent on this matter.

Regards,

Lisa Jones (Yano)

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of support**

FOIP s17(1)

**Cindy Murrell**

22 March 2023 at 18:04

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

I would like to express my support for the volunteer program of The Alice Sanctuary. Volunteers are a vital part of any community and to discourage them is very short-sighted. Whatever one may believe about the work of the sanctuary, the forbidding of volunteer workers implies that no one should be working without being paid on any of the properties in Wheatland County. I was raised on a ranch, and my family certainly used the help of many relations and friends. Their sole recompense was our thanks and a few free meals. If volunteers are forbidden at the sanctuary, it seems to me that any free help which neighbouring farms are using could also be banned. This is the tip of a very dangerous iceberg.

Cindy Murrell

Sent from Mail for Windows



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

**Supporting The Alice Sanctuary**

2 messages

Jackie Webber

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

FOIP s17(1)

21 March 2023 at 22:54

The Alice Sanctuary (TAS) is an integral charitable organization within Alberta; we as a community and society need The Alice Sanctuary to continue their irreplaceable work to provide a safe and caring place for animals.

On February 14th 2023, an individual within the Wheatland County meeting said that The Alice Sanctuary is where animals go to die. That is the furthest thing from the truth. This shows that there is not a true understanding of what this incredible organization does. This place literally gives animals a second chance. A chance to live the rest of their days at the best place imaginable. Each animal is so loved and cared for.

Not only does this sanctuary give animals a chance to thrive, but there are so many other facets as well. The tours and small events provide an opportunity for members of the public to visit and learn about the important work that is done there. It provides the opportunity for individuals who have never been to a farm or had close contact with farm animals to learn about the various aspects required to care for the animals and the buildings and enclosures required. It allows for a greater appreciation for these animals, which most people take for granted and don't give a second thought to.

In October 2021, myself and my husband were fortunate to attend the annual pumpkin drop-off event. While we had supported TAS from a distance and saw all of the great work they were doing, this was the first time that we went to the sanctuary in person. This is where we met J and a number of the volunteers. We got to see the animals that call The Alice Sanctuary home. This was such a special day; an experience that I will forever cherish. I hope more people get to experience moments like this at The Alice Sanctuary.

Being a fourth generation Albertan, coming from a family of farmers and ranchers settling here in the late 1800's, it has been incredibly disheartening to see the recent comments and decisions from Wheatland County. Alberta has always been about the land of opportunity. Where people can come to make their dreams a reality, particularly in the agricultural industry. We should be supportive of new initiatives that help the agricultural industry progress.

I can only hope that Wheatland County will reconsider their decision and collectively work together to determine a solution that is fair and equitable for The Alice Sanctuary. The current decision to remove all tours, events and even volunteering would have such a huge impact within the county, negatively impacting other local businesses, but also within the Alberta agricultural community as a whole. As a society we should be open minded to new opportunities and collaboratively determine solutions. This is how we progress as a society, not remain stagnant or regress with close minded ideologies.

I look forward to the next opportunity to visit The Alice Sanctuary and continuing to support the positive change they are making within the Albertan agricultural community.

Jackie Webber  
Calgary, Alberta

FOIP s17(1)

The Alice Sanctuary &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

To: TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

22 March 2023 at 08:32

[Quoted text hidden]



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of support**

FOIP s17(1)

Shayla O [REDACTED]

21 March 2023 at 22:02

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

I strongly support the organization of The Alice Sanctuary. I and many others believe The Alice Sanctuary will provide a valuable benefit to our community.

I believe The Alice Sanctuary provides healing, care for abandoned farm animals. They empower and encourage people to do good in the community, and make a difference. Their volunteer program is extremely beneficial to the community, as it provides a sense of inspiration and knowledge to those involved.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shayla





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of Support**

FOIP s17(1)

**Carol Valenzuela**

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

Cc: Carlos Valenzuela

21 March 2023 at 21:58

Good evening,

I am writing in support of the Alice Sanctuary continuing to operate tours, and continuing to have volunteers assisting with operations. I am in favour of having mitigation measures considered before a property owner is stripped of their rights to use their property how they see fit - private property is just that, and if the Alice Sanctuary is willing to adopt measures to mitigate any concerns around parking or noise, they should be allowed to at least be heard and attempt to adopt these measures before being stripped of the ability to operate effectively.

The Alice Sanctuary provides an amazing opportunity for so many people to visit and interact with animals, get away from the city and learn about farm life. I would urge anyone reading this and other letters of support to at least afford the Alice Sanctuary the opportunity to be heard.

Thank you,  
Carolina and Carlos Valenzuela



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**(no subject)**

FOIP s17(1)

zippyzoie@hotmail.ca  
To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

21 March 2023 at 20:11

My daughter and I have spent time at the Alice sanctuary. We both grew up in Alberta and are so grateful that there is somewhere that the animals can go when the farmers can no longer care for them due to illness or circumstances. What a great resource for Alberta to have such a place all run by volunteers!

It is important to me as an Alberta to support Alice Sanctuary.

Erin Mock

Sent from my iPhone



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of Support**

FOIP s17(1)

E Davidson

21 March 2023 at 12:47

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

Good afternoon,

I hope my letter of support can assist you! I haven't yet had a chance to visit the Sanctuary in person but I have supported your mission through your various virtual events and I would still love to see everyone in person in the future!

**To Whom It May Concern:**

Please accept this letter as a show of support for The Alice Sanctuary, a registered Canadian charity located in Wheatland County, Alberta. Recent events have indicated that there is clearly a lack of support and understanding of what The Alice Sanctuary represents and the lack of due diligence and respect given to the situation is concerning, even for me as a non-resident of the area.

The goal of the Sanctuary is clear - **to empower, encourage, and inspire visitors to find the tools they need to go out and make a positive change in the world around them.**

As a registered charity, The Alice Sanctuary relies on the support of volunteers to ensure animal welfare is maintained to the highest standard. Alberta prides itself on being a province filled with volunteers and in 2014-2015 over 60% of Albertans indicated that they volunteered in some capacity. From all indications, the Sanctuary has mitigated the perceived issues brought forth by some in the community regarding traffic, etc. I believe that there needs to be more evidence brought forth regarding the negative impact that the volunteers and visitors would have to the community overall. The Council seems to fail to recognize that these volunteers and visitors also bring valuable money into Wheatland County and its associated communities.

In the 2018 Economic Development Strategy prepared for Wheatland County (<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/economic-development-strategy/>), there were many items identified that are reflected in the attitude towards The Alice Sanctuary as well as opportunities to support the area's growth that The Alice Sanctuary could potentially support if given the chance. I've highlighted a few of them below:

**Strengths:** The community with friendly people and small-town lifestyle - The way that the Sanctuary has been treated by the Council is in direct conflict with this statement.

**Challenges:** Red tape/permitting processes difficult and lack consistency – 'Depends who you know'

County perceived to be unfriendly towards new development/new businesses

**Aspirations:** The County offering experiential holidays including agri-tourism, local culinary and cultural experiences

**Results:** Strong local foods, art, culture, entertainment and events

Friendly, welcoming people living in Wheatland County

Unfortunately, the attitude of the elected officials within Wheatland County seems to be the stereotypical "we don't understand it, so we don't want it." Despite having different goals than the agricultural sector, The Alice Sanctuary has never tried to force their beliefs on anyone. They simply provide a place where people can learn about a different way of viewing life and the animals in it and helping people become better humans, which benefits us all.

I hope this letter shows that there are people in Alberta and around the world, who support The Alice Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Erin Davidson  
Edmonton, Alberta

**Economic Development Strategy - Wheatland County**



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

**Letter of Support**

FOIP s17(1)

**Tara Cockerline**

21 March 2023 at 09:55

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

To whom this may concern,

I am absolutely appalled by what is happening to The Alice Sanctuary. My family and I have visited the sanctuary on many occasions over the past few years and it is such a place of kindness, community and love. It is an amazing experience to be able to share with my children and teach them that animal's lives matter, they are not just a slab of food to be put on our plates. It was said in one of the meetings that animals go there to die. From what I've seen that couldn't be further from the truth. The animals that have the privilege of going to the sanctuary finally get to live. Their lives are important there. They experience love and kindness. And to shut this down simply because their views are the "polar opposite" of neighboring farms is really sad, especially when the sanctuary is willing to work with the neighbours on mitigating any concerns - limiting guests on tours, fewer events, etc. I cannot understand how a small group of volunteers going once a week to work on the farm is a problem. How is it any different from other family farms having friends, family or employees over? It isn't. I plead with you to reconsider this decision. You are setting the example that to be different and have a different view or ideology isn't ok. Because let's be honest that's what this is about. Open your hearts, open your minds and do what's right here.

**Tara Cockerline**





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support for The Alice Sanctuary**

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**Kaitly Hutchison**

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

FOIP s17(1)

20 March 2023 at 16:09

Good afternoon,

I am writing this letter in support of The Alice Sanctuary and in response to the recent decision by the Wheatland County to decline their permit request.

I feel strongly that the role of government, in particular local government, is to facilitate solutions for the people who live and work in the communities they govern. Our goal as Albertans should be to work together as a community, contributing to the success of charities and businesses alike.

I would respectfully request that the Council allow The Alice Sanctuary to fundraise and have volunteers on the property, with additional measures to protect the needs of the community if necessary and as The Alice Sanctuary has offered to do.

Sincerely,  
Kaitly Hutchison



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support****Candice Gibson**

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

FOIP s17(1)

13 March 2023 at 11:48

To the Wheatland County Board,

As a resident of Wheatland county who pays their taxes, I am in full support of the Alice Sanctuary and it's compassionate, much needed work.

I find it shameful that there is anything other than support and encouragement for their attempts to make lives better for animals.

The Alice Sanctuary is worthy of celebration and I personally am proud to have them in our community.

Thank you,

Candice Gibson



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

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## The Alice Sanctuary

**Sarah Flynn**

FOIP s17(1)

29 March 2023 at 11:59

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

To Whom It May Concern:

It is not a good look for Wheatland County, or rural Alberta in general, the way the Alice Sanctuary is being denied a right to exist. Of course I understand that lots of rural Alberta engages in one form or another of animal agriculture; the folks at the Alice understand that as well. Nevertheless, for Wheatland to deny that the Alice has a place, a role to play in this world, is ignorant and hateful, and reveals a worldview that would deny other viewpoints. It is the very definition of bigoted and intolerant.

The Alice is literally a sanctuary. Another common use for that word is in reference to the large part of a church where people gather for spiritual grace and replenishment and connection. The Alice provides those things, not only for non-human residents, but also for humans who visit or volunteer there. First and foremost, the Alice is a place where people and animals alike can experience deep compassion and acceptance, growth and learning to what capacity is available without judgement for lack of capacity, and connection. These things are so important in the world, and people are desperately seeking them. Sadly, they're also exceedingly rare. People who are lucky enough to find the Alice, whether they are vegan or not, will be changed forever by what they experience at the Alice. They will be better, kinder, more compassionate, more accepting people. These are the qualities we need to solve the many crises facing humanity at this time.

That Wheatland County can not find space for one tiny oasis of kindness in a world filled with violence and cruelty is rather astonishing. And heartbreaking.

The Alice belongs in Wheatland County. The Alice belongs in Alberta. The Alice belongs everywhere where people long to be kinder, to understand compassion and to embody it, and to see the world move in a direction away from violence and hate towards peace and plenty.

Thank you, TAS, for making me and my family better and kinder people. May the folks in Wheatland County be blessed with an opening of their hearts and May they come to cherish the Alice for the true sanctuary that it is.

Sincerely,

Sarah Flynn

Hillhurst, Calgary AB



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support letter**

2 messages

candice [REDACTED]

FOIP s17(1)

1 April 2023 at 08:53

To: "info@thealicesanctuary.org" &lt;info@thealicesanctuary.org&gt;

To Whom it may Concern:

I was outraged when I learned about the recent denial of a business license to the Alice Sanctuary. I was at the sanctuary on one occasion and let me tell you that they are wonderful, compassionate people who put their hearts and souls into caring for these well deserving animals who would otherwise have no where to go. Please reconsider this denial and let the Alice Sanctuary get back to their very important work of caring for these animals without the stress of all of this. They more than deserve it.

Sincerely,  
Candice Howrish  
Calgary Alberta

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**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

1 April 2023 at 09:03

To: TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

[Quoted text hidden]





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealiceretreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

**Support letter**

2 messages

FOIP s17(1)

**Monica Wieb**

2 April 2023 at 10:24

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

I am writing in support of The Alice Sanctuary. The bond between animals and humans is an amazing healing force. It would be wonderful if there were more animal sanctuaries like The Alice Sanctuary not less! In these post? COVID pandemic times, we are realizing how important mental health and wellness is. Places like The Alice Sanctuary can offer this healing and wellness opportunity for visitors, volunteers and staff. There must be a way to enable The Alice Sanctuary to continue its operations which includes visitors tours and volunteers.

That is my hope.

Monica 🍷

**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

2 April 2023 at 15:11

To: TAS Treasurer &lt;thealiceretreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

[Quoted text hidden]



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

**Love and support for TAS**

FOIP s17(1)

2 messages

Lori Chang-Shivji

31 March 2023 at 11:46

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

Dear Janneane and TAS,

It has been breaking my heart to see the battle that you have been going through recently. It is painful to hear the negative attacks and misinformation spread about what you do.

Having been on a tour and a pumpkin drop event, I was able to get a glimpse into how your sanctuary is run and how the tours are conducted.

I never felt like we were part of a large convoy disrespectfully blowing through your neighbourhood and disrupting nearby properties. We were all given clear directions on how to get there and where to park. Many of us carpooled or came in groups, so there wasn't a large number of vehicles on site. Upon arrival, we were warmly greeted and guided to where we could leave our vehicles while maintaining access to the road. Once parked, our tours never trespassed on neighbouring farms...we were much too occupied and in awe with the beauty of the sanctuary itself.

It is SO clear that the care of the animals is first priority, and that the TAS team is there for that reason, and not to 'entertain' visitors or focus on raising money. You can feel the love, care and compassion for the animals, the land and for each other.

Anyone who describes TAS otherwise, clearly has not been for a visit, or feels that what you do is a threat to their livelihood/industry, or just doesn't understand the word 'sanctuary'.

Your commitment, efforts, dedication and passion makes this a better world for the animals and any of us who have been touched by your good work.

You can count on my love and support.

♥ Lori Chang-Shivji  
Calgary, AB

**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

1 April 2023 at 08:41

To: TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

[Quoted text hidden]



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicesanctuary@gmail.com&gt;

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**Wheatland County MPC Appeal - Letter of Support for TAS**

2 messages

Deanne [REDACTED]  
To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

FOIP s17(1)

1 April 2023 at 20:48

I am writing to express my sincere and unwavering support of The Alice Sanctuary (TAS) and the work that it does, as well as my shock and extreme upset at the Wheatland County Municipal Planning Committee's (MPC) recent denial of the sanctuary's permits and the ban of its volunteer program. These decisions are not only unreasonable and mean-spirited, they have left TAS in an untenable situation that threatens the sanctuary's ability to function, the welfare of the animals on it, and has led to great personal stress to the sanctuary's owner, not to mention infringing on her personal and daily interactions at an unreasonable level!

Many of the animals at TAS have been surrendered by farmers for various reasons. There has always been a need for sanctuary for certain farm animals. Some farmers develop a special relationship for certain animals, have animals with special needs, or seniors that need to be retired, but it's not always possible for the farmers to keep these animals. With the growing financial strain on farmers, sanctuary is needed now more than ever. The Alice Sanctuary is a valuable member of the community and contributes to Wheatland County by:

- buying food and bedding
- using local veterinary services for its animals
- providing a meaningful community for people interested in animal welfare and the unique relational bonds between animals and humans, which can be incredibly healing

The Alice Sanctuary has gone to great lengths and expense to meet the county's requests, and yet has repeatedly been treated very poorly by the Wheatland County MPC, as well as being seeming deliberately misled as to the process and potential opportunities to speak. My hope is that the hearing will bring all of this to light.

I believe it would be reasonable to create a zoning category to accommodate TAS, as most sanctuaries in rural areas DO NOT experience problems with zoning. I feel very strongly that TAS's tours should be allowed and, at the very minimum, its volunteer program should be reinstated immediately.

Sincerely,

Deanne Cotton-Cornwall  
Calgary, Alberta

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**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>  
To: TAS Treasurer <thealicesanctuary@gmail.com>

1 April 2023 at 20:54

[Quoted text hidden]



Dear Wheatland County Development Appeal Board,

After reading the reasons outlined in Wheatland County Council's decision to deny The Alice Sanctuary (TAS) a permit to continue its operations, I was dismayed by the egregious lack of consideration given to TAS in order to reach a reasonable and fair resolution. Traffic concerns can be mitigated; however, it's troubling that the complaining neighbour was reported by CTV to have said the sanctuary is incompatible with his farming practices which include the slaughter of animals. Please explain how TAS impedes the neighbour's 'farming practices' and why rural farms need to be monolithic?

Simply put, this decision is untenable. TAS provides much needed community services. Not only does it extend compassion to its sanctuary residents, but also to an untold number of community members in Alberta and beyond. Numerous people are extremely grateful to TAS for its invaluable contributions, allyship and inclusive social programs.

It would be a blight on Wheatland County if TAS is denied its right to continue operating with all essential supports in place, including volunteers and programs. In fact, one would think Wheatland County would be grateful to TAS for providing a home to numerous farmers' unwanted and disabled animals, at no expense to the farmers. This community service, in addition to rehoming animals in need from animal protection agencies, is a distinct and essential undertaking.

I urge you to show principled leadership by finding a solution that respects the integrity of all Wheatland County residents involved in this dispute. Good neighbours and leaders solve disputes without intimidation and threat of banishment, regardless of personal ideology. Please do the right thing and revoke this destructive and discriminatory decision.

I look forward to a reply outlining how this dispute will be resolved without compromising the rights of TAS to continue its exceptional work and contributions to our Alberta community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

J. Joffe





TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Supporting your cause**

2 messages

LYNN BERRY

FOIP s17(1)

3 April 2023 at 14:11

To: Info@thealicesanctuary.org

Hello, I am not sure what I should write but I wanted to support your endeavour. What you are doing is admirable. If I should change or add anything, please let me know.

I am writing in protest to the March 14<sup>th</sup> decision of the county's development board to deny the type 3 permit application to Alice Sanctuary. The county's development board were uninformed about the facts of this situation when they made this decision. It appears the information given and received was muddled and the decision was a biased opinion rather than based on objective considerations. There was numerous misleading information shared in very unprofessional ways. The reasons given for the refusal were based on misinformation. Parking was not an issue. Having a small number of tour groups and volunteers did not have an impact on the neighbours, any more than having a small party at a house a couple of times a year.

Perhaps the question to be asked is the adjacent land use appropriate for this area? The complaining neighbour does not have a On-Farm Slaughter Operation licence. This would seem to be a more significant concern that a place that provides care to animals in need.

This decision appears to be the result of one person making accusations that are untrue, professional boards should not be basing their decisions on outdate and inaccurate information to make a life changing decision.

Cheers, Lynn J. Berry

FOIP s17(1)

Don't worry that your life is turning upside down.

How do you know that the side you are used to  
is better than the one to come?

-Rumi

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The Alice Sanctuary <info@thealicesanctuary.org>  
To: TAS Treasurer <thealicetreasurer@gmail.com>

3 April 2023 at 21:12



TAS Treasurer &lt;theallicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Letter of Support**

2 messages

**Sharon Kelly**

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

FOIP s17(1)

6 April 2023 at 11:22

Dear The Alice Sanctuary,

I would like to personally and emphatically express my deepest support for your sanctuary!

I was heartbroken to hear of the council's unfair and misguided decision to deny your permit application and volunteer program. It is clear that your sanctuary relies heavily on the funds generated from these tours as well as the hard-work of dedicated volunteers; anyone who has had the privilege of spending time at your sanctuary knows it is a community of kind-hearted, warm, and incredibly generous individuals, and there is no reason you should not be permitted to continue to do the amazing work you have been doing over the last decade.

I hope that this letter, along with the many more I am confident you will receive, will contribute to a successful overturning of the council's decision. You have my support.

Thank you,

Sharon Kelly

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**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

To: TAS Treasurer &lt;theallicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

6 April 2023 at 12:27

[Quoted text hidden]



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

**You have our support!**

2 messages

FOIP s17(1)

**Lesley Bergen**

1 April 2023 at 08:06

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

Dear TAS,

Your sanctuary has always been such a bright place in the landscape of Alberta and the community. We're very sorry to hear of the grief you've been put through this past year. It just doesn't make sense that a municipal council who's job it is to represent all members of their area would try to remove this gem that garners incredible positivity in so many ways locally and even beyond Wheatland County. You have our support and appreciation. We hope Wheatland County does their job and supports volunteer groups such as TAS. Thank so much for all the brilliant work you do. TAS makes the world a better, kinder place.

Best wishes

Patrick &amp; Lesley Bergen

Sent from my iPhone

**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

1 April 2023 at 08:40

To: TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

[Quoted text hidden]



TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

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**Letter of Support - The Alice Sanctuary**

2 messages

**Tina Colber**

To: info@thealicesanctuary.org

FOIP s17(1)

1 April 2023 at 17:58

To Whom It May Concern,

The Alice Sanctuary stands for kindness, compassion, and love. They are providing care and healing for rescued, surrendered and abandoned farm animals. They also provide the same for the humans, including volunteers, who love and care for the animals.

We support The Alice Sanctuary and what it stands for.

We do not support Wheatland County and the blatant disregard to work with the sanctuary. There seems to be no alternatives given, like perhaps a Public Event Permit for summer events, but simply a no / denied. Your website boasts of proud heritage and hard work in your farms and ranches with pride in the community. Yet, there seems to be some sway from those with closed minds. Alternatives need to be given.

Work WITH The Alice Sanctuary NOT against them.

Do better. Do the right thing.

Thank you,

T. Tymstra

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**The Alice Sanctuary** <info@thealicesanctuary.org>

To: TAS Treasurer &lt;thealicetreasurer@gmail.com&gt;

1 April 2023 at 21:57

[Quoted text hidden]



# EXHIBIT D

Public in Favor of  
Appeal

## Michelle Van Haarlem

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**From:** Administration Mail  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 29, 2023 1:24 PM  
**To:** Sub Division Appeal Board  
**Subject:** FW: Support for The Alice Sanctuary

FOIP s17(1)

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**From:** Samantha Cross [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 29, 2023 1:03 PM  
**To:** [info@thealicesanctuary.org](mailto:info@thealicesanctuary.org); Administration Mail <[admin@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:admin@wheatlandcounty.ca)>  
**Subject:** Support for The Alice Sanctuary

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Alice Sanctuary and whom it may concern at Wheatland County,

The Alice Sanctuary is an amazing and compassionate place. I have been there on an open day and enjoyed a tour (I drove over an hour to get there!) and loved meeting the animals and hearing their stories.

I understand these situations can be complex and that the public doesn't always have all of the information behind the decisions a county makes. However, this Sanctuary is a valued member of our animal-loving community in and around Calgary. They require tours, volunteers, and events, to help cover the numerous costs of caring for their animals. They do not generate revenue from slaughtering them, unlike many other agricultural businesses in our area. They need to find alternatives to ensure the animals are fed and looked after and these things (tours, events, and having volunteers) do not encroach on the rights of any of their neighbours or community.

They are not an intrusive business and are great stewards of the land and the environment around them. To deny their ability to create this revenue will be denying them the chance to continue rescuing animals. This is not acceptable and I am sure they will work with you if there is anything that needs to be addressed. I'm hopeful you'll come to a resolution soon that will allow them to continue doing the great work they do every day, unhindered.

Samantha

April 12, 2023

Andie and Veronica Amaya  
Canela Vegan Bakery & Café  
1319 9 Ave S.E.  
Calgary, AB T2G 0T2

**Re: The Alice Sanctuary Permit Issuance**

Dear Wheatland County and its residents,

We, Canela Vegan Bakery & Café, are disconcerted and disheartened to learn about the ongoing debate regarding whether or not to issue a permit to The Alice Sanctuary<sup>1</sup> and its caretaker, J. We would like to take the opportunity to share our unequivocal support for TAS, its operations (i.e., volunteer programs, seasonal tours, etc.), and the community the *not-for-profit organization*<sup>2</sup> has cultivated on its grounds and throughout the City of Calgary. The reason for our support is two pronged: support for the community and the community enrichment opportunities the organization provides, and support for the freedom of expression.

Human beings are innately social animals and regularly seek out opportunities that integrate them into the communities around them. That is why in Western society we have built neighbourhoods, community centers, and regularly support small businesses. Government and the ability to actively participate in governance is one of the lifeforces of democratic societies, and it is all based upon the principle of community. TAS is not only a sanctuary for animals but for humans, too. Although the animals are at the heart of the operation, it is the humans who cultivate a sense of belonging and lend a helpful hand to other persons who need a place to belong to. The Sanctuary volunteer program encourages and nurtures our sense of belonging and our sense of duty to become an asset to the community we serve. Taking away this quintessential human characteristic certainly denies a piece of what makes a human a person and a part of one whole.

Although our operations are based in Calgary, we are actively participating to contribute to an equitable community alongside TAS by building a sense of belonging. When you enter our bakery/café, one of the first things you see are framed images of the residents of TAS hanging on our walls. Former volunteers frequent our space and have associated community and belonging in our bakery that they are no longer privy to since the cessation of operations on the grounds. But how wonderful, isn't it? That community and connection stretches from one geographical location to another. In our case, TAS and our bakery has built a community despite the 61 kilometers between us.

It has come to our attention that some elected members from the Wheatland County Council have commented that TAS is focused on fundraising over anything else. We wholeheartedly disagree for the aforementioned reasons. However, municipal, provincial, and federal election candidates all have to participate in some form of fundraising whether that be social or monetary. Fundraising is a just one piece to the whole community puzzle. Organizations, charities, causes, and electoral candidates all participate in that innately social *thing* that makes us part of one whole, and it is does not make a cause lesser than the other. Frankly, a lack of monetary fundraising would be unsustainable and result in operational downfalls. Therefore, for TAS to be a sustainable charity, they require monetary fundraising to continue to meet the necessary demands to care for living animals and the property they inhabit.

The freedom of expression is such a dominant principle in the legal and social tenets of Canadian society that we have entrenched it into our *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*<sup>3</sup> and has been continually upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada before and after the repatriation of the Constitution. The freedom of expression forms the foundational fabric of self-fulfillment and the prerogative for an individual or group

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<sup>1</sup> Hereinafter "TAS."

<sup>2</sup> TAS is a formally registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and is inaccurately labeled as a "business."

<sup>3</sup> Hereinafter "*Charter*."

April 12, 2023

of individuals to “realize [their] full human potential.”<sup>4</sup> We vehemently support the right to the freedom of expression TAS is granted under our Constitution. Preventing TAS from obtaining a permit to operate on its grounds without a volunteer program places a barrier unto those who would like to engage with the ideas, motivations, values, and beliefs that are shared within the Sanctuary grounds. Those who would like to engage, learn, and participate in healthy discourse within the confines of the Sanctuary are prevented from doing so thereby indirectly infringing on their right to participate in express themselves as they are barred from participating in tours, workshops, events, and classes.

As frequent collaborators and visitors of the Sanctuary, we strongly support the issuance of permit to TAS granting them permission to resume their community oriented programs and events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andie Amaya', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andie Amaya (She/Her/Hers)

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<sup>4</sup> “Freedom of Expression,” American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), accessed April 12, 2023, <https://www.aclu.org/other/freedom-expression>.



Dear Wheatland County Development Board,

I am writing this letter regarding the recent decision made to deny The Alice Sanctuary's (TAS) application for a home-based business (type 3) permit. As a volunteer with TAS, I am asking you to please reconsider this decision.

I moved to Calgary during the COVID-19 pandemic and had a difficult time connecting with the community and meeting people. I started volunteering with TAS in April 2021 and it provided me with that much needed connection. The family I have created at TAS with both the residents, volunteers, and community, has become invaluable. On top of the newfound community, my time at TAS has taught me so much. Before volunteering with TAS, I had minimal experience working with farm animals. I quickly realized how much work goes into caring for the animals to keep them housed, fed, and their areas clean. The team at TAS was incredibly welcoming and helpful in teaching me how I could contribute to the operation of the sanctuary. I have learned so much since I started volunteering including how to build shelters, use power tools, feed animals, handle/transfer animals, and read animal behavior.

Given how positive my experience has been with TAS, I was shocked and disheartened to hear about the denial of the home-based permit. I have seen firsthand how much work and dedication the owner, J, puts into the sanctuary. They provide superior care for the animals and farm space. Their dedication to the sanctuary and animals is truly admirable. The fundraising events bring members of the community together and also support local businesses. TAS has become an important part of many people's lives and has brought so many people (and animals) together.

I understand that the existence of the sanctuary itself is not at risk, but rather the ability to retain volunteers and hold fundraisers on site. Unfortunately, removing volunteers and/or fundraisers would inevitably put the sanctuary and animals at risk as these efforts are vital to the functioning of the sanctuary. The volunteers come out to the sanctuary weekly and assist with heavier jobs that otherwise could not be completed by one person. The fundraisers on site, in particular the tours, provide the funds to feed and house the animals and keep up superior standards of care at the sanctuary.

For the reasons listed above, I am requesting that you please reconsider granting the home-based business (type 3) permit to The Alice Sanctuary. I believe this would be in the best interests of everyone involved, including the animals and community.

Warm regards,

Chantala Forgie

# EXHIBIT E

Public in  
Opposition to  
Appeal

To Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

In reference to DP2023-006 and SDBA DP2023-001 I would like to include the listed details below for the Appeal Boards information and consideration. I will be referencing the applicant appeal letter in the first part of the appeal letter.

**Section E subsection 1a**

- time frame for parking complaint isn't relevant as it's the act they violated and the complaint was substantiated

- electric fences comment was never part of any information on this application and has no relevance to this appeal (information irrelevant to this application should be disregarded)

- 2014 complaint was never part of this application or documentation (nothing in the original county's circular)

**Section E subsection 1b**

- errors that are being claimed were never made in writing and made available for public viewing (why were these errors not included here)

- speaking to the MPC was explained they have the authority to allow if council all agrees and was explained it was not in the best interest of the permit process (neither party was permitted to speak)

**Section E subsection 1c**

- my name was included in this section (violation of FOIP)

- the owner of property (Barb Stephanich) operates Happy Cat Sanctuary and has operated or does operate with cats (feral or domestic) on property

- there was no reference to any dog rescue in any documentation

- quarantine procedure for commercial animal operations and public involvement are very strictly regulated guidelines and this operation doesn't follow these guidelines

- this operation is on public maps and I have had new male (unfixed) cats appear on my property (very isolated location so these situations are because of the sanctuary operation being public knowledge)

- "no privacy issues" and "tours in vicinity of my yard" – we share a property fence line and farm operation/dwellings have no separation of said fence line and as such there is no privacy (sanctuary does not have say over my feelings of privacy)

- in my documents I never stated they had such diseases, but stated as they do not follow regulated strict quarantine protocols with animals that come from all over western Canada that there is a high probability in this world of transmittable disease that this can happen (example bird flu transmit ability and no proposals for people coming to operation, a commercial bird operation has foot baths and restricts access to birds to protect animals and humans)

**Section E subsection 2a-c**

-MPC followed proper procedures and based decision on supplied documentation and the bylaws that regulate the county and no “ideology” as stated and did not violate any Charter issues (Animal Justice letter is irrelevant and should be disregarded)

-MPC minutes disrepute all this subsection claims

**Section E subsection 3a**

-MPC stated at beginning of discussion neither party was to be allowed presenting (the decision and authority of the committee and procedures were followed)

**Section E subsection 3b**

-no submission was submitted by Mountainview Colony and as such irrelevant

**Section E subsection 3c**

-MPC member never stated this and can be confirmed through meeting minutes making this statement false and irrelevant

**Section E subsection 4b**

-acting ignorant to rules and regulations is not acceptable behavior from an organization that is not just a “small mom and pop shop” that has support from large groups that know better

-asking for permission after they were caught does not show trust in an organization that they will follow proper rules and regulations

-growth of this operation has been huge since it arrived on this location and comparing the last few years is not a truthful example being their growth was affected by covid and regulations outside of their control

**Section E subsection 4c**

-false statement that parking on the shoulder is legal as per peace officer statement

-as per Wheatland Traffic Control bylaw section 6.9 “unless permitted by a traffic control device, a person shall not park or permit a vehicle to park in any of the following area”

-(h) on a highway contrary to a traffic control device (this applies to any municipal owned/operated road)

**Section E subsection 4d**

-the applicants’ opinion is not relevant or even of any consideration to “increased traffic to site has a negative impact to adjacent land owner” as its not them being affected by this operations traffic and public visibility



-this is a very remote location that did not have constant traffic as it's a dead-end road and as such changing the dynamics to a very public location does change how myself and family are affected by the increase of people/traffic

-the statement that I run multiple business and have a constant flow of traffic is not only completely false (and has been confirmed by the county) but has no bearing to this appeal as my agriculture business is not in question so should be completely disregarded

- dust control has never been of my concern as I live on unpaved roads and that is not of concern (that was an issue the county development committee had included or recommended)

-the privacy fence is not only an absurd idea but inconceivable as there is over 1km of shared fence line that this would be required on and this organization already has been difficult to deal with to maintain the basic fence that's in place

-if this was even considered it would also cause serious issues in the winter for drifting and such on both drive ways and such along the property line

#### **Section E subsection e**

-tours, volunteer and friends and family are in no way a way to operate an agriculture business operation and there is no accountability to anyone that doesn't have a vested interest (employee) of what they do on the property (they cannot reprimand a volunteer)

-we operate the same if not a larger animal agriculture operation and do not rely on friends and family and volunteers to run my operation

-we have had numerous issues with volunteers commenting online publicly, coming up our drive way, and in general taking away our privacy on our own property

-as stated earlier this location is a very isolated location and that is a main reason we are on this location (this is also the family farmstead) and bringing a very public operation brings many conflicts of our privacy, security and ability to enjoy the peace and quiet and freedom from the public eye

Lastly in regards to the letter from Animal Justice, this is a bully tactic against this appeal process and should have absolutely no admissibility in this application. I am in full support the MPC board followed proper procedures in their initial decision with absolutely no discrimination to either party involved. Consultation of the MPC minutes from both meeting will reveal this is a completely unfounded accusation.

To begin with my main issue with this operation is the fact it is a very public operation with a large following and the sheer proximity of the two properties. Animal welfare is always at the utmost importance for any animal agriculture operation so what they are doing with the animals is in line with any reputable person in the animal agriculture business. As stated, before my farm is in an isolated location where it has very limited public intervention (vehicles/traffic and people) and that was and still

is a big factor of my family and I being out here. On that note this operation has not only tried to push their public operation on our family (not considering we enjoy the peace and quiet of our location) but have engaged in the mainstream media (CTV, CBC, and Global) to try and further their cause and get public support (which has no bearing on this appeal as the public is not a stakeholder) and in doing so has now done exactly what we have been battling against of having the public eye on our small farm operations and family life. Not only have they misled the media and public with misinformation about the permit application process and tried to discredit the community and the county of wheatland but because of the obvious fact whose is the opposing farm, my farm has been targeted by the public with defamatory comments. My family and I are now even more concerned for our safety, security and privacy of our operation that we always feel like we are under the spotlight and are waiting for the next situation to rear it ugly head. As per bylaw 8.15.2 Neighbouring Properties “(a) a home-based business should not negatively affect neighbouring residences with lighting, noise, vibration, smoke, dust, odour, or other nuisances and (b) a home-based business should not negatively affect the livability or enjoyment of neighbouring properties” shows how this style of operation with its public volunteers and tour groups does in fact violate a very important bylaw to protect what my family and I enjoyment of our property.

As stated earlier we respect and hold animal welfare to the utmost importance but this is not an agriculture-based operation, other then the fact it has farm animals involved, and even huge agriculture activities do not run on this kind of a public platform that brings non agriculture people out to tour or work in the farm life. This operation has more similarities to a petting zoo with the public involvement and does not fit into any category within the county bylaws. I suggested in the initial permit application process that a proper bylaw with regulations, rules and bylaws be formulated if the county sees benefit to this kind of operation operating within the Wheatland County.

As I am sure there will be huge public support and testimonial, I want to reiterate that the public in this appeal process is not a stakeholder and their testimony and support should not be allowed to derail this appeal process and make it a public event as they have tried to accomplish after the first permit application process.

Regards Mark and Kara Shorhen and family