

Centre County PAWS, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2019, 5:45 – 7:00 pm
PAWS Adoption and Education Center

Board Members/Staff Attending: Dave Abler (presiding), Lisa Bahr, Mike Chilcot, Bob Conn, Brian Eppley, Chris Faust, Reenie Ferretti, Ginny Ishler, Ryan Macaluso, Ginny Newman, Heidi Petruzzi (recording)

PAWS Members and Guests Attending:
Deb Bezilla, Elaine Cassin, Jackie Wolfe

Dave Abler called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

Action Item - Approval of July 23, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes - Heidi Petruzzi

Bob moved to approve the minutes. Ginny N. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Officer Reports

President Report - Dave Abler noted that Yvonne cannot attend the meeting and that Joan will arrive later. Reenie added that Monica also cannot attend the meeting.

Vice President Report – Virginia Ishler did not have a report.

Treasurer Report – Reenie Ferretti did not have a report.

Recording Secretary Report – Heidi Petruzzi did not have a report.

Staff and Committee Reports

Director of Finance Report - Brian Eppley emailed and distributed the finance report. Income is good for this time of year. Expenses are a little over budget. Money was transferred out of capital reserves for minor cat addition expenses. The Summer Program income line will be changed to include all of the children's programming. The Summer Program income was much more than budgeted. Medical expenses are a little high for the year. SNAP voucher expenses still are very high. Earlier this year the value of the SNAP vouchers was increased, resulting in more people using them since the vouchers now truly cover the cost of spay/neuter surgery. SNAP expenses will be a future budget question since the line item already is at 87% of budget for the year. Social media income is low currently.

Director of Operations Report – Lisa Bahr emailed her report. Cat adoptions look great. Lisa highlighted that Deb Bezilla did thirteen adoptions in one day last week. Deb concurred that it has been a good year for cat adoptions. Lisa also commented that it is good to have Jackie back after a break and that she appreciates Elaine's work on the front desk and with the Summer Program. Dog adoption numbers are down, but the dog team continues to work on the issue. Fortunately, there now is a reliable foster that will take litters of puppies. Also, the Ambassador dogs program proactively reaches out to people who are pre-approved for dog adoptions. The Alumni Play Date this past Sunday was attended by about 35 dogs. SNAP participation looks really good, with numbers exceeding those in 2017 and 2018. Part of this is due to Lisa Schneider (who maintains the cat waiting list) proactively reaching out to Barbara Shuey (who is in charge of SNAP) when she encounters people on the waiting list who have unaltered cats. Summer Program is complete and Lisa passed around thank you cards for Board members to sign.

With Chris' help, Lisa reached out to specific individuals and raised enough money to cover the cost of a new fenced play yard with an inclement weather shelter for volunteers, a total of \$11,000. The new play yard will be dedicated in loving memory of Katara, a PAWS dog that died a few years ago.

The Board members toured the newly finished cat wing addition.

Nominating Committee Report – Joan Ritchie was not present.

Personnel Committee Report – Yvonne Riley was not present.

Executive Director Search Committee Report – Reenie Ferretti reported for Monica that the Committee has been meeting over the past few months to work out the job description and hiring strategy. The plan is to share information about the position and the justification for it with volunteers and staff before the position is posted, so that everyone understands the rationale behind what the Committee is doing and why. Chris would like key volunteers to have a chance to offer insight and input into the job description, since they have a deep understanding of what PAWS needs. Reenie noted that the plan is to involve volunteers throughout the process.

Development and Marketing Report – Chris Faust emailed and distributed the development report. All of the Fur Ball sponsors are listed in her report; this probably is the complete list. This is the second highest sponsorship dollar amount that PAWS ever has raised. Alicia's assistance enabled Chris to do significantly more outreach to businesses and donors. In addition, the Committee members really contributed to keeping the sponsorship levels up. Chris requests that, if anyone recognizes any familiar names of individuals or businesses, please reach out to them. Many thanks to David Taylor, husband of PAWS volunteer Kendra Kennedy Taylor and also 2018 World Wrestling Champion, for his work on the national "Clear the Shelters" campaign last weekend. He participated in a social media campaigns and selected PAWS as the 50/50 beneficiary of the David Taylor Bobblehead Night at the Spikes game. PAWS received \$550 from the 50/50 and David donated wrestling tickets to the Fur Ball. In addition, a number of PSU wrestlers adopted cats from PAWS recently.

Centre Region Parks and Recreation is holding their annual Paws-A-Pool-Ooza at Park Forest Pool on September 8. Admission is \$5 per dog. The early part of the event is for little dogs and the later part is for larger dogs.

Chris will add the Board picture to next newsletter.

Tickets are on sale for the Fur Ball and publicity is in full swing on Face Book. Please like and share the event as well as mark that you are attending if this is the case; this will increase the event's social media presence. There will be some new and different prizes and auction items. Additionally, there will be a "Buy a Square" event to win \$1,000 in gift cards.

Member Questions and Comments

Elaine reiterated what Chris mentioned in her report about volunteer involvement in the Executive Director search, that it is vital to the process and to what the Committee hopes to accomplish. Currently, volunteers have questions and concerns since much is unknown about the position and the search process. Reenie expressed her hope that the meetings with staff and volunteers will make clear the amount of time and thought that went into this decision and also address any concerns these constituent groups have. The goal is to be transparent and inclusive.

Deb asked who receives advance email notification and a copy of the agenda for each Board meeting. Dave responded that there is a listserv that members can join by emailing webmaster@centrecountypaws.org; the listserv information is on the same page of the web site that has links to minutes from previous meetings. Elaine requested that this information be placed in the newsletters so that more members are aware of the listserv. Dave suggested it be included in both "The Shelter Scoop" and "PAWS for the Latest."

New Business

The Vanguard Star account signatory list may or may not need a Board resolution or Board approval; the published information is ambiguous. The signatories will be same as those on the bank account: the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Lisa Bahr. Since there is some ambiguity, Dave suggested that the Board formally approved a resolution. Brian Eppley resolved that investment accounts, as with the bank account, require two signers out of the four signatories. Mike moved to approve the resolution. Reenie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ginny N. moved to adjourn the meeting. Ginny I. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm, followed by an executive session.

The next PAWS Board Meeting is September 24, 2019.