

Centre County PAWS, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2020, 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, Heidi Petruzzi (recording), Yvonne Riley, Joan Ritchie, Monica Wright

PAWS Members and Guests Attending: None

Dave Abler called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm.

Member Questions and Comments

None

Action Item - Approval of December 9, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes - Heidi Petruzzi

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

Officer Reports

President Report - Dave Abler did not have a report.

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

Treasurer Report – Reenie Ferretti arrived later.

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. Capital expenditures, capital reserves, and capital donations do not match in the spreadsheets since some specific purpose donations were designated for particular capital expenditures. It was an unusually expensive December. Medical expenses were high, as was SNAP. Payroll was under budget for the month. Most expense categories were higher than budgeted for the year, especially medical (cat and dog) and SNAP (feral and non-feral). Planned giving was low for the year. General donations were low for the year, but specific purpose donations were high. Dog adoptions were low for the year. Some money from capital reserves was used. The Vanguard account was opened on December 12th. There is a two year CD maturing this month that will be added to capital reserves.

Director of Operations Report – Lisa Bahr emailed and distributed the 2019 numerical summary as her report. The length of stay was down for both dogs and cats for the year. Overall, dog adoptions numbers were very low, but were stronger at the end of the year than anticipated. There were 93 more cat adoptions in 2019 over 2018. SNAP was very active in all categories. There is a core group of people who repeatedly use SNAP vouchers to reduce the feral cat population in our area. Volunteer hours were up over last year.

Lisa gave a presentation on the very busy week PAWS had recently: bringing in three dogs that were surrendered to local veterinarians (Cheddar, Zeus, and Lana), working with Centre County Humane Society Police Officer Harold Walstrom twice to rescue an injured Pit Bull mix (Candy Cane) and again to save eleven Huskies, the latest transport of fourteen dogs from Freedom Fences, and the emergency intake of Chewy, a French Bull Dog.

Development and Marketing Report – Chris Faust emailed and distributed the development report. PAWS received notification of an estate gift that will arrive in the next few months. The Centre Foundation PAWS Fund also received an estate donation; the Fund produces interest income for PAWS. The Freas Foundation grant will provide money for enrichment toys. PAWS received a gift from the United for Animals Golf Tournament fundraiser that was held in August.

The Comedy Club is sold out, particularly thanks to two Committee members filling almost seven tables. Thank you to Ritchie Veterinary, Best in Show sponsor.

Chris noted that Heather Mannion and Kaitlin Grau have done a great job tweaking the web site to increase Google hits. These adjustments have resulted in donations to PAWS.

Nominating Committee Report – Joan Ritchie noted that one person applied for a Board position. Yvonne posted basic information about joining the Board in both kitchens at PAWS.

Personnel Committee Report – Yvonne Riley did not have a report.

Executive Director Search Committee Report – Monica Wright did not have a report.

Unfinished Business

Revisions to PAWS Bylaws - Dave Abler (ACTION)

Mike moved to approve the Bylaws revisions. Reenie seconded the motion. The Bylaws revisions were approved unanimously.

Revisions to PAWS Mission Statement; Vision and Values Statements - Lisa Bahr (ACTION)

Bob moved to approve the revised Mission Statement and new Vision and Values Statements. Joan seconded the motion. The Statements were approved unanimously.

New BusinessMembership Policies: Clarifications and Revisions - Dave Abler (DISCUSSION)

One point that arose during Bylaws and Mission Statement revision processes is that the Membership Policies also need to be revised. Since members are important to PAWS, it also is important that PAWS be able to contact them. Many PAWS memberships are Lifetime Memberships that were purchased a number of years ago, with a significant number of these records containing dated contact information. In order to maintain a more accurate database going forward, the proposal is that PAWS would only sell annual memberships that are updated upon renewal. The Family Membership category would be eliminated as well since it is very similar to an Individual Membership. Existing Lifetime and Family Memberships would be honored. Membership dues were last changed sixteen years ago, when PAWS was a smaller organization. Raising Individual Membership dues to \$50 would place PAWS in the lower end of the range charged by similar organizations. The proposed Business Membership fee aligns with the cost of sponsoring an event. The proposed Membership Policy changes also clarify that complimentary memberships do not include voting rights and that each other type of membership has one vote. If anyone has any comments or questions about the policy changes, please contact Dave.

Monica moved to adjourn the meeting. Yvonne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm, followed by an executive session.

The next PAWS Board Meeting is February 25, 2020.