

Centre County PAWS, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
November 24, 2020, 5:45 – 7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Board Members/Staff Attending: Dave Abler (presiding), Lisa Bahr, Maureen Casey, Mike Chilcot, Brian Eppley, Reenie Ferretti, Ginny Ishler, Ryan Macaluso, Ginny Newman, Heidi Petruzzi (recording), Susan Strohm, Colleen Williams, Monica Wright

PAWS Members and Guests Attending:
None

Dave Abler called the meeting to order at 5:47 pm.

Member Questions and Comments

None

Action Item - Approval of October 27, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes - Heidi Petruzzi

Susan moved to approve the minutes. Mike seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Officer Reports

President Report - Dave Abler did not have a report.

Vice President Report – Ryan Macaluso did not have a report.

Treasurer Report – Reenie Ferretti did not have a report.

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

Executive Director Report - Lisa Bahr shared that Cap, a three year dog side resident at PAWS, was recently adopted. She also noted that, of the 202 total PAWS animals, 104 of them are in foster homes and 59 are in trial adoptions (foster-to-adopt). Currently, there are 28 cats in the building and 13-14 dogs, with several more scheduled to go out.

Operations - PAWS recently had its first staff member test positive for COVID, but none of the associated PAWS contacts tested positive. Several staff members quarantined due to potential exposure. Lisa noted that there are 46 cats and fourteen dogs or puppies in homes as foster-to-adopt. This primarily is due to difficulty obtaining spay and neuter appointments. As the animals are altered, adoptions numbers will increase in November and December.

Personnel - Over the last month, Jeannette Macaluso worked with Lisa and the Operations Team to successfully get daily operations back on track.

IT - Lisa and Bob Conn met to discuss his future volunteer participation. Bob will remain on the IT committee, but will not be the chair. He will focus on the Salesforce transition over the holidays.

Events - The November Bingo netted over \$4,400. The December 11 Holiday Bingo tickets are on sale. The raffle grand prize is a fresh cut tree from Tait Farms. Lisa shared event ideas from the last Board meeting with Chris and Alicia. They are utilizing some of those ideas to develop an experience auction in February and a train ride event in October. They also have been working on modifying the Fur Ball to continue it as a hybrid event. Maureen will look into opportunities for coordinating with 4H, particularly their dog training club.

Development - PAWS received a \$20,000 Centre County CARES Act grant. The anticipated estate gift check arrived as well.

Other - Lisa announced that PAWS recently paired with State College Meals on Wheels to provide Pet Pantry items to some of their clients.

Meeting Theme: 2021 PAWS Budget - Brian Eppley and Lisa Bahr (leads) and Everyone

There are two different budget proposals, one for a full year of COVID restrictions and one for a partial year of COVID restrictions. Brian reviewed the budgets' format and contents. Dave noted that the two budgets are similar with differences only in a few line items. For example, fundraising is higher in the regular budget, but grant income is higher in the COVID budget. The budgets project a deficit of \$100,000 or more for 2021. The paver project income and the timing for filling the Operations Manager position will impact the need to use reserves. Any reserves used in 2021 can be replenished by cashing out a CD in January 2022. Investments currently are doing well.

Dave asked Lisa about the schedule for virtual versus in-person or hybrid events. An optimistic goal is holding an outdoor hybrid event to unveil the new patio in April. This event could be pushed back to July or moved to a completely virtual event if necessary. The August Fur Ball is scheduled to be a hybrid event at PAWS in order to avoid conflict with other Fall non-profit events and to reduce overhead. Lisa is hopeful that PAWS can return to in-person and hybrid events in August 2021.

The Finance Committee consists of Dave, Reenie (chair), Shannon Hawbaker, Diane Kerly, and Ryan. Lisa, Brian Eppley, and Chris Faust also attend the meetings. Dave thanked the committee for their thoughtful work in putting together both budgets.

In meeting with the Finance Committee, Lisa stressed that staffing has been critical in maintaining normal operations this year. The volunteers have been tremendous, but PAWS has relied heavily on staff during the pandemic when volunteers hours have been down. Susan noted how critically important staff have been to cat adoptions. She thanked them for jumping in under difficult circumstances and making up the difference when volunteers could not be at PAWS.

New Business

2021 Meeting Dates - Dave Abler

The Board members present agreed to continue meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:45 pm. The dates are January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25 (Annual Meeting), June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, and November 23. The December meeting date and time will be determined later.

Ginny N. moved to adjourn the meeting. Susan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

The next PAWS Board Meeting is December 8, 2020.