

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Franklin County Humane Society
June 27, 2021**

Board Member Participants: Fred Deaton, Leslie Driskell, Leo Haggerty, John Hibbard, Keeuna King, Brian Logan, Sam Marcus, Ray Smith

Officer Participants: Cheryl Broyles, Diana Taylor

Staff Participants: Kerry Lowary, Terri Lynn Smith

Other Participants: Mike Ball, Miche' Branscum, Betsy Kennedy, Bill Klier, Lori Macintire

The meeting convened via Zoom at 1:15 p.m.

Shelter Manager's Report (Kerry Lowary)

- The year was marked by a flood in addition to the pandemic restrictions.
- Shelter Manager Lowary recognized and thanked the shelter staff: assistant manager and veterinary technician Christina Alves; Cheryl Douthitt, dog adoption attendant who is retiring soon; Teresa Masters, part-time dog attendant; Shaun Cunigan; Sherry Reyes, who is moving into the dog adoption kennel; cat attendants Angie George, Taylor Downey and Chastity Heitzman. Assisting as shelter veterinarians are Dr. Malinda Farrell who does spay/neuter and TNR surgeries and oversees the care of shelter animals; and Dr. Marie Gagnon of Prospect, a traveling veterinarian who does spay/neuter surgeries.
- There have been two to three clinic days a week for spay/neuter.
- Dr. Casey Eckert helped last year; FCHS is sending cases that need to be seen in a veterinary clinic to her.
- Many volunteers have made great contributions. To recognize a few:
 - Jeanine Slone is in charge of rescue coordination and helps with social media; in fiscal 2021, FCHS had 124 dogs transferred to rescue, an increase from the previous year, and 122 cats transferred to rescue. A big part of that is due to Jeanine's work.
 - TNR coordinator Gae Broadwater has headed that program for eight years. She is also on the capital campaign committee and works on grant applications.
 - Lori Macintire is the volunteer foster coordinator and a regular volunteer with the TNR program.
 - Jill Williams is the portable adoption coordinator for cats and also does social media.
 - Deb Graner has taken responsibility for coordinating volunteers.
 - Bill Klier helps on multiple fronts – making repairs to the shelter, transporting animals to the vet, picking up supplies and other activities.
- In fiscal 2021, the shelter took in 612 cats and 466 dogs. The numbers were lower than normal as a result of the pandemic restrictions. The live release rate was very good and continues to be above 90 percent.
- More animals are coming to the shelter from people who don't have a home. Consequently, the Pets4Life Program has experienced an increase in the number of animals coming in. This program provides temporary assistance when pet owners are displaced. The animals typically are at the shelter for two to three weeks.
- The average number of shelter days for cats is 23, down from 35. The average for dogs increased slightly.
- The pandemic curtailed a lot of programming and prompted a break in spay/neuter surgery, but it has accelerated again after restarting. In calendar 2020, FCHS performed surgeries on 535 cats through the All the Cats program and has already exceeded that number in calendar 2021.

- The spring flood prompted the evacuation of all the animals, which were placed with different agencies. All utility services were suspended. There was 8-12 inches of water in the main building; the cat trailer was destroyed. We were back in the building with the animals in just over four weeks. Staff, volunteers and the Woodford, Lexington and Anderson Humane Societies as well as Tin Woof Inn provided an incredible amount of support and help.
- Grants were received during the year from the Humane Society United States, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Bluegrass Area Development District, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, the Petco Foundation and Animal Rescue Aid.
- Cheryl Douthitt is retiring July 8; she has worked with thousands of animals at the facility. An open house on July 8 will recognize her commitment.
- Shelter Manager Lowary expressed special appreciation to the board of directors for the members' support, encouragement and assistance.

Treasurer's Report (Cheryl Broyles)

- Covid made it a very trying year, and staff members (Kerry Lowary and Terri Lynn Smith) are to be commended for their assistance.
- FCHS received \$47,800 from the federal Paycheck Protection Program with loan forgiveness. That helped with the organization's income stream.
- The City of Frankfort gave FCHS a \$10,000 small business grant.
- Expenses exceeded income for the year by \$6,700, but expenses were kept to a minimum.
- As of the end of April, FCHS had \$2,935,165.26 in total assets.

Capital Campaign and Finance Committee (John Hibbard)

- As of this date, the value of the capital campaign account was \$2,312,850; FCHS has raised nearly 68% of its \$1.6 million goal.
- A bourbon raffle is being developed to raise funds for the new shelter.
- Donations have been significant; stock transfers, which provide tax advantages for donors, have worked out well.
- Payments have been made to the principal architect; expenses of \$55,975 were incurred during the year.

Fundraising

- The online auction, which replaced the in-person Celebrity Waiters' Dinner, generated approximately \$16,000 in sales; the raffle of a week's stay at a Florida condo raised an additional \$4,000.
- The Celebrity Waiters' Dinner planning committee is considering a combination of an online auction and in-person dinner for the 2022 gala.
- Appreciation was expressed to the celebrity waiters for the auction.
- Trails for Tails will be a virtual race, which will conclude September 4.

Membership (Betsy Kennedy)

- A membership mailing was distributed recently; there were 475 members when the drive began and additional memberships are anticipated in the coming weeks.
- The next mailing will be December membership and Christmas cards.
- President Marcus expressed special appreciation to Betsy Kennedy for her coordination of the membership mailing and maintenance of the membership list and the Constant Contact email database. Her work on the online auction and its website totaled an estimated 1,000 hours.

Public Relations/Board Nominations (Fred Deaton)

- Special appreciation was expressed to:
 - Members who post FCHS information on social media
 - Diana Taylor for preparing the weekly email blast newsletter

- CapCity Communications
 - The Frankfort Plant Board
 - The State Journal
 - Lexington television stations
- The greatest avenue for public relations is the members and support staff who share information about FCHS with others in the community.
- Regarding board membership, there was a great deal of interest and many qualified applicants. The nominating committee screened the applicants and conducted telephone interviews. Special appreciation was expressed for this work.
- Mike Ball and Miche' Branscum were welcomed as new board members; they will take the positions in July.

TNR (Gae Broadwater)

- The report is included as part of the record.
- Shelter Manager Kerry Lowary noted that Gae Broadwater coordinates and takes calls from people interested in the service; coordinates trapping the animals, generally 25 to 30 for each clinic, and returning them to their homes; coordinates volunteers; and tracks data.
- The program has been almost completely self-sufficient financially.
- President Marcus noted that the hope is that TNR will have an impact on shelter intake (by lowering it) and on other shelter activities.

New Leash on Life (Terri Lynn Smith)

- The report is included as part of the record.
- NLOL conducted three yard sales during the year for the new shelter.
- Lionel's fundraiser in Blondie's memory raised enough funds for a kitten kennel at the new shelter.
- The thrift shop has totally re-opened. It was closed for two weeks due to Covid, then started curbside service before moving to limited admissions and general opening.
- Appreciation was expressed to Larry Sorrel and Thomas Clay for their help in moving donated furniture, to Teresa Masters for helping with Blondie's care and to Shirley Elkins. All are volunteers.
- President Marcus expressed appreciation to Terri Smith for her efforts during the difficult year to keep the shop open, the keep sales up and to hold create fundraisers.

President's Report (Sam Marcus)

- Noting that the people he works with makes his position an enjoyable one, President Marcus expressed special appreciation to:
 - Board member Ray Smith for his work at the spay/neuter clinics, for fundraising efforts and for the online auction.
 - Bill Klier for his many volunteer efforts and work with the capital campaign committee.
 - Charlie Jones and Penny Peavler for their instrumental role in developing the bourbon raffle.
 - Gae Broadwater, for the Trap-Neuter-Return program, the capital committee and grant writing.
 - Betsy Kennedy for membership and the Celebrity Waiters' Dinner.
 - John Hibbard for the capital committee and New Leash on Life.
 - Cheryl Broyles as treasurer.
 - Diana Taylor for producing the weekly email blast newsletters and help with the online auction.
 - Christina Alves for her work at the shelter and on designing special documents.
 - Cheryl Douthitt for her 12 years of committed service at the shelter.

- Rodney Williams for five years of service as a board member, the support he has arranged from Whitaker Bank for the Celebrity Waiters' Dinner and New Leash on Life.
- President Marcus further noted that Shelter Manager Kerry Lowary goes above and beyond for FCHS, attending dozens of extra meetings with city and county officials and others; working on the capital campaign committee, the design committee and the general contractor committee. Her contributions are invaluable.
- Looking forward, FCHS is committed to getting construction started on the new shelter. We hope that, at this time next year, grand opening will be just a few months away, in September 2022.
- President Marcus concluded his remarks by thanking everyone for supporting FCHS.

- Shelter Manager Lowary, in additional comments, expressed special appreciation to President Marcus for his unwavering support and encouragement.

Upon a motion by John Hibbard, the meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. EDT.