

**Minutes of the Franklin County Humane Society Board
Zoom Meeting
August 27, 2020**

Board Members participating: Leslie Driskell, Matt Freire, Sam Marcus, Randy Smith, Ray Smith, Rodney Williams

Board Members not participating: Fred Deaton, Leo Haggerty, John Hibbard, Keeuna King, Brian Logan

Officers participating: Cheryl Broyles, Diana Taylor

Staff participating: Kerry Lowary

Volunteers participating: Gae Broadwater

The meeting convened via Zoom at 5:37 p.m.

President's Report (Sam Marcus)

- On a motion by Leslie Driskell, seconded by Rodney Williams, the July minutes were approved without objection.
- The site survey and geotechnical work have not yet been completed on the new shelter site. The site survey is needed to help FCHS with discussions with the city because it will define property boundaries in the event the city decides to sell surrounding property. It was to have been completed about Labor Day. President Marcus discussed that and other matters with the interim city manager, Tommy Russell, who was responsive, said he would look into the site survey and discuss it with President Marcus. Correspondence also has been initiated with Mr. Russell on the contract with the city for the site, the city's funding commitment and changes to the animal code ordinance that Kerry Lowary and President Marcus have been working on with Keith Parker and Laura Ross. No problems are anticipated in wrapping up pending matters with the current mayor and commission members.

Shelter Manager's Report (Kerry Lowary)

- Shelter stats attached as part of record.
- Last year at this time, the census included about 225 animals, 170 of which were cats. At the end of July, the census included 46 dogs and 88 cats, half of them adult cats and kittens in foster. At this point last year, 56 cats had been euthanized; through this date, eight cats have been euthanized. The lower numbers are continuing; the kitten room at the shelter is empty and Feeder Supply is eager to receive more kittens. The census is creeping up slightly with a number of kittens coming in during the past week.
- Shelter staff found, in the midst of the pandemic, that not having strangers walk through the kennels every day reduced behavior problems significantly as dogs were not always reacting to strangers. Some dogs that were once considered unadoptable are coming around.
- FCHS hit the required threshold under the Spay Together grant in six weeks, conducting more than 228 cat surgeries and 52 dog surgeries. There is the possibility of more funding through the Bluegrass ADD grant.
- The spay/neuter initiative appears to have had a very significant impact on intake and the overall census. It will be important to continue the pace in 2021 to be as successful as possible. The vast majority of people who call with cats or kittens they want to bring to the shelter decide to keep them when they are told they can have them spayed or neutered.

Spay/neuter surgeries are being done about seven days a month. There will be one TNR clinic in September and the regular schedule will resume in October and November.

- The animal code ordinance change is expected to be on the city commission's agenda in September; it does not include any radical changes, just codifies the TNR program into an ordinance.
- President Marcus and Gae Broadwater have been doing the majority of the work on a grant application from PetCo that is due August 31. The cutoff is an intake of 2,500 animals to ask for a grant of \$100,000 or more. Since FCHS' intake is not that great, the grant request will be for \$99,999. The prospects are promising since PetCo looks for facilities that are aggressively doing spay/neuter surgeries and TNR.
- The shelter is currently housing one dog for a displaced family. We expect more situations to develop in the future. We keep as many pets as possible with their families.
- The facility on C. Michael Davenport Blvd. is working well; appreciation to John Hibbard and Kim Davenport for providing access to that space.
- The volunteer coordinator position is vacant. Manager Lowary would like to review the job description with some board members and consider how it should be structured relative to the shelter and New Leash on Life before posting the position. There is no rush to fill the position.

Treasurer's Report (Cheryl Broyles)

- The June report should be provided soon. The treasurer is reviewing details in the paperwork in preparation for the full audit. The FCHS bank account is looking very good.

Committee Reports

TNR (Gae Broadwater)

- Report included as part of record.
- The new location is becoming more familiar and is working well.
- Most TNR cats are coming from the county, which is reflected in the July report and is expected to be the same in August.
- Although a number of reports are coming in, there is not the same level of pressure as in the past couple of years.
- There will be a variety of choices for Lionel's Bowls in this year's fundraiser. Additional people are helping with this project.

Membership (Betsy Kennedy)

- Report included as part of record.

Thrift Store (Terri Sorrel)

- Report included as part of record.

Fundraising

Trails for Tails (Leslie Driskell)

- As of August 26, 43 people had signed up for the virtual race; that's half of the number registered last year at this time.
- There will be a drawing among participants for a \$100 prize and a drawing for a \$100 prize for the best pet picture.
- President Marcus and Jaime Rice appeared on the FPB Cable Around 10 program to promote the race and also have been successful in getting sponsorships so there are no financial worries related to the event.

Celebrity Waiters' Dinner

- An online auction to replace this year's CWD will be conducted September 24 to October 3. Postcards with details on the event are being mailed to about 3,000 people; advertising and public service announcements also are being placed in area media.
- President Marcus noted that the planning committee had recommended that the net auction proceeds be used for the new shelter building fund. Because of the timing, the event is off budget this year; an in-person event is included in next year's budget. He moved, and Matt Freire seconded, to accept the committee's recommendation. The motion passed without objection.

Capital Campaign (John Hibbard)

- The balance in the New Building Fund as of today is \$1,319,084. There has been an overall gain of \$4,000 for the year, which means all losses incurred in March have been recovered.
- President Marcus reported that \$300,000 has been raised of the \$1.6 million campaign. There have been recent pledges, but the campaign has slowed compared to the beginning. The committee is meeting every other week and will contact as many people as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.