

**Minutes of the Franklin County Humane Society Board
Zoom Meeting
October 22, 2020**

Board Members participating: Fred Deaton, Leslie Driskell, Matt Freire, Leo Haggerty, John Hibbard, Keeuna King, Brian Logan, Sam Marcus, Ray Smith

Board Members not participating: Rodney Williams

Officers participating: Cheryl Broyles, Diana Taylor

Staff participating: Kerry Lowary

Volunteers participating: Gae Broadwater, Susan Preston

Guest: Randy Smith

The meeting convened via Zoom at 5:40 p.m.

Trap-Neuter-Return (Gae Broadwater)

- Report included as part of record.
- There was one TNR session this month.
- Lionel's spoon rests are still available at New Leash on Life and Broadway Clay; Broadway Clay has provided a space to exhibit the spoon rests. FCHS received 15-17 donations for spoon rests at the Farmers Market and also had a chance to talk about the TNR program.
- President Marcus expressed appreciation to Gae Broadwater for her assistance with a grant application that is to be submitted on October 23.

President's Report (Sam Marcus)

- On a motion by Ray Smith, seconded by Fred Deaton, the September minutes were approved without objection.
- Meeting dates for November and December will be changed due to the holidays. The November board meeting will be held on the 19th; the December meeting will be held on the 17th. There were no objections to these changes.
- President Marcus asked Shelter Manager Kerry Lowary to review policies and procedures. A situation involving some of these resulted in the resignation of board member Randy Smith, and President Marcus noted the importance of everyone being familiar with the policies and procedures.
- Information shared by Shelter Manager Lowary included:
 - It is FCHS policy, and is part of the adoption contract, that once an animal is adopted it becomes the responsibility of the adopter.
 - FCHS encourages adopters to schedule a veterinary visit in the first seven days; a list of veterinarians who will give a free checkup is provided.
 - If the animal is determined to have a significant health problem that wasn't apparent to FCHS, and it is more than the adopter wants to address, FCHS will take the animal back and offer a refund.

- Having a shelter veterinarian in some fashion for several years has eliminated problems where an animal has a significant problem, such as a heart condition or cancer. FCHS tries to address dental needs prior to adoption.
- It is not uncommon for cats/kittens to have upper respiratory infections caused by viruses. If the condition is diagnosed before they leave the shelter, FCHS offers to provide medicine to the adopter. In addition, animals are treated with a flea and tick preventative, are vaccinated for rabies if they are old enough, microchipped, tested for feline leukemia and FIV (cats) and heartworm (dogs); dogs that test negative are placed on a monthly preventative.
- Any animal that is likely to have an infectious disease is isolated from the shelter population.
- A handful of animals have been brought back to FCHS; these have been taken back and treated clinically.
- With the Pets4Life program, if someone has a sick animal they can't care for, they surrender the animals to FCHS to handle the treatment under veterinary supervision; the animal's owner pays for the treatment, with fees lower than usual veterinary charges.
- Veterinarians are under no obligation to contact FCHS if they find an issue within the seven-day window, and they typically do not. FCHS hopes adopters will contact the shelter if there is a major health issue and give FCHS an opportunity to address it.
- Regarding off-site adoptions, FCHS currently has cages at Feeders Supply where kittens are moved, space permitting, after they are fixed and ready for adoption. Occasionally they will have upper respiratory issues; in that event, as long as they are eating as they should, FCHS gives Feeders Supply medication to administer. If staff there notices a problem, FCHS is notified and tries to return the animal to the shelter for treatment on the same day.

President Marcus then offered Randy Smith the opportunity to make any comments regarding his situation. His comments included:

- He decided to speak out about his experience since he thought most people wouldn't have an opportunity to be heard.
- His family visited Feeders Supply for two weeks and watched a kitten, which was very docile. They thought it was healthy and would be a good fit with their two dogs; they were not permitted to hold the kitten until going through the adoption process.
- They signed a contract and received a list of veterinarians where the cat could be checked out.
- When they got home, the cat wasn't moving and felt warm; the cat was taken to the veterinarian the next day and they were told it had a fever and respiratory infection; injections had to be postponed to wait for medication to work. The cat was not better the next day, but they could not get another veterinarian appointment for two more days. As the cat was very lethargic, they took it to their own veterinarian, who diagnosed a fever and gave it an injection and medication.
- People who want an animal should receive one in good health; if not, FCHS should reimburse the veterinary costs.
- He is concerned that individuals might be liable for high veterinary bills they didn't expect. It does not make sense to return the cat to FCHS after it has been treated so FCHS can make money from adopting it again.
- He believes FCHS should look closely at such problems.

Members commented that they regretted the situation and appreciated Mr. Smith raising the issues with them. Concerns were expressed about Mr. Smith's resignation from the board after a short tenure, and a suggestion was made that perhaps further discussions with staff could have resolved the issue.

President Marcus commented later that Shelter Manager Lowary talked with Bonnie Smith about the situation and offered medication before they took the cat to the second veterinarian. Kerry also offered to meet Bonnie Smith at the shelter to look at the cat. Although an impression might have been made that there was not an effort to help them, this was not the case. The level of care, live release rate and controlled expenses speak for themselves about what is being provided for the community.

Shelter Manager's Report (Kerry Lowary)

- Shelter stats attached as part of record.
- There was a small increase in intake in September, with the end-of-month census at 164.
- There was another increase in October, with just over 200 intakes, but adoptions have picked up.
- We are in the process of hiring an additional veterinarian to replace Dr. Casey Eckert. In the interim, Dr. Malinda Ferrell will be doing surgeries, probably until after the first of the year, every Friday and every other Sunday.
- Procedures have been conducted two Sundays a month to keep up with TNR needs; operations are continuing under the pandemic guidelines.
- A second reading of changes to the local ordinance discussed in previous meetings is scheduled, and city commission approval is expected.
- A grant application for up to \$50,000 from the Rachael Ray Foundation is being finalized to help fund the All the Cats project in 2021 and to assist Anderson County with some spay/neuter surgeries. President Marcus has obtained letters of support from the mayor and county judge.
- President Marcus noted that FCHS has done more than 500 spay/neuter surgeries this year under the All the Cats program, not including TNR surgeries. The goal for the year was 400.
- FCHS will receive funds from the Bluegrass ADD for the cat project; the amount is unknown at this time. There is also a grant pending with the Department of Agriculture.
- Volunteers from AE Electrical Solutions (formerly Arts Electric) are going to work on the gate, gutters and building repairs at the shelter.
- Discussions are underway with the Health Department on how to resume vaccination clinics that have not been possible under COVID guidelines. The proposal will be sent to the Board of Veterinary Examiners for approval.

Treasurer's Report (Cheryl Broyles)

- July report included as part of record.
- There was nothing out of the ordinary. Total assets are now \$1,994,153.72.
- President Marcus noted that income is a bit below budget, but expenses are significantly down.
- On a motion by John Hibbard, seconded by Ray Smith, the treasurer's report was approved without objection.

Committee Reports

Capital Campaign (John Hibbard)

- \$348,825 has been raised to date; that is 22% of the goal.
- Four people have contacted FCHS who want to donate money or stock toward the end of the year.
- Additional fundraising ideas are being explored to generate the remaining 78%.

Trails for Tails

- Jaime Rice has provided an update that the event raised more than \$5,000.

Celebrity Waiters' Dinner Online Auction

- The auction generated \$20,000 through sales and waiters' tips. The raffle ticket sales added \$3,000. That totals \$23,000 for the new building fund.
- April 10, 2021, has been chosen for the next Celebrity Waiters' Dinner at the country club. A final decision doesn't have to be made right away; the situation will be monitored to determine whether an in-person event will be possible.

Membership

- A mini-mailer will be done in December with a focus on the capital campaign.

Thrift Store (Terri Sorrel)

- Report included as part of record.
- Total net revenue for September was \$11,307.88. This included \$251.94 in general donations and \$228.32 for the new shelter fund.
- Additional volunteers are needed in the shop and to pick up large donations, such as furniture, from donors.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. on a motion by Leslie Driskell, seconded by John Hibbard.