

**Minutes of the Franklin County Humane Society Board
November 25, 2019**

Board Members present: Fred Deaton, Billie Dollins, Leslie Driskell, Matt Friere, Leo Haggerty, John Hibbard, Sam Marcus, Jaime Rice, Ray Smith, Rodney Williams

Board Members absent: Keeuna King

Officers present: Diana Taylor

Staff present: Kerry Lowary, Terri Sorrell, Jean Unglaub

Volunteers present: Gae Broadwater, Freddie Johnson, Bill Klier, Lori Mcintire, Bill Mcintire, Terry Parker, Sharon Parrish

The meeting convened at 5:35 p.m.

Special guest Freddie Johnson from Buffalo Trace was introduced to draw the winning ticket for the Buffalo Trace 6 millionth barrel bottle. Mr. Johnson is the third generation of his family to work at Buffalo Trace, having returned to Frankfort to care for his father 17 years ago, following a career with AT&T, and becoming a tour guide at the distillery. His family members rolled out the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 millionth barrels produced at the Frankfort facility. The bottle donated this year by Buffalo Trace to the Humane Society was from the last barrel his father handled. Mr. Johnson's grandfather was the first African American bourbon warehouse foreman in Kentucky.

The winning raffle ticket was held by Lori Mcintire, who was in attendance. Mr. Johnson also conducted a "second place" drawing for an autographed copy of Bourbon Magazine that featured an article on Buffalo Trace. This was won by Bill Klier. A "third place" drawing for an autographed copy of Frank magazine was won by Greg Isaacs. Frank magazine featured an article on Greenhill Cemetery, the site of Kentucky's only monument to black Civil War soldiers. Mr. Johnson is working with others to restore the cemetery.

President's Report

The October 24, 2019, minutes were approved on a motion by Ray Smith and seconded by Jaime Rice. The minutes of the November 11, 2019, special board meeting were approved on a motion by Fred Deaton, seconded by Ray Smith. One correction is to be made to the special meeting minutes, changing the word under to until on page 3, third from last line.

President Sam Marcus reported on a November 12 meeting he, Kerry Lowary and the Humane Society's architectural consultants, Christopher Fuller and Veena Reddy, attended with Franklin County Judge-Executive Houston Wells, Deputy Judge-Executive Tambra Harrod and City Manager Keith Parker.

The Humane Society representatives informed the local officials that the State Journal building was not financially viable for the location of the new shelter and that the Carpenter Farm site is preferred. The local officials expressed the view that the State Journal building should be pursued as work there could be started quicker. They also told the Humane Society's representatives that in their opinion \$750,000 each from the county and city would be the maximum they could get approved by their respective governing bodies. They also said they thought a \$25,000 increase in the annual service agreement with each of the city/county contracts could be approved by the local governments.

The letter/resolution drafted following the November 11, 2019, special board meeting was not delivered to the local officials as it was considered moot following their comments. There was no

response to a Humane Society question on whether the previous in-kind offer from local governments for site development at the Carpenter Farm location would still be on the table in addition to the \$750,000 support level from each government entity.

Following the meeting, Sam and Kerry concluded that the Humane Society should consider an alternative plan that reduces the scope of the project. Following a closer review, they determined that it would be possible to reduce the size of the shelter but the reduction would need to be made in areas other than where animals are sheltered or treated because that size estimate was based on the shelter's intake of animals. They reported that changes in the plan design would not be preferable but might be necessary. President Marcus also said he was not sure if reducing the size of the proposed shelter by 20 percent would achieve the cost goal.

It was noted that the \$750,000 figure put forth by the judge and city manager did not necessarily represent the conclusions of the county magistrates and city commissioners.

The subsequent board discussion included the following points:

- The Carpenter Farm site would provide more of what the Humane Society has preferred, with a shelter size footprint that would work.
- Could the proposal be scaled back to \$4 million with the Humane Society returning to local governments and requesting \$2 million (\$1 million each as opposed to \$750,000 each). The question is whether the local governments' offer is negotiable.
- The space of the current shelter, 8,600 square feet, makes operations challenging with the number of people who come to the shelter regularly.
- If a final cost figure is established, the consultants could be asked how much would be provided for that amount of money.
- The quicker the money is secured from local governments the better, given that the passage of time will result in increased costs and there could be changes in officeholders.
- Regarding a suggestion that the changes be phased in over time, there are certain services that would have to be suspended under that scenario. Also, once a "new" shelter is in place, it will become more difficult to raise funds for expansion or improvements.
- There are some concerns among local veterinarians that the Humane Society is installing low-cost treatment and surgery facilities, but that is not the case.
- It was suggested that the best route to use is to determine how much money we have to spend and what we can get for that. There already have been some cuts in the clinic size to save money.
- Issues regarding animal control vs. animal care were discussed regarding what the Humane Society can provide and what local governments feel is their responsibility.
- A town-hall type meeting with city commissioners and county magistrates could be helpful in providing the opportunity to share information and answer questions. Such a session has never been held about the new shelter proposal.
- The entire city commission and fiscal court should be briefed on the details and then a determination could be made whether the offer from the judge and city manager is the final offer.
- The opinion was raised that if the \$750,000 each plus \$25,000 operation costs increase is the local governments' final offer, why should the Humane Society take on the responsibilities without adequate government support? Local governments have had many years to pay their share for shelter operations and have failed to do so.
- There is strong support for moving out of the current shelter, but that must be accomplished in a financially responsible way with adequate funding for continued operations.
- There were differing opinions on seeking pledges as FCHS' fundraising efforts continue.
- The consultants should be asked to determine what is possible for what amount of money while the board simultaneously seeks a town hall meeting with local government representatives.

- FCHS could ask the Frankfort Plant Board to produce a documentary on the shelter, its history, increasing needs, etc.
- FCHS needs to be pro-active on outreach and communications to elected officials and the community about the shelter.

The board agreed to hold another meeting on Dec. 2, 2019, at which time more information will be available from the consultants on a plan with reduced costs as well as the possibility of private pledges. Due to length of the discussion during the regular meeting, the business session also will be held on that date.

The board went into executive session at 7:21 p.m. and concluded the executive session without taking action; the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.