

**Minutes of the Franklin County Humane Society Board
Zoom Meeting
March 25, 2021**

Board Members participating: Leslie Driskell, Matt Freire, John Hibbard, Brian Logan, Sam Marcus, Ray Smith

Board Members not participating: Fred Deaton, Leo Haggerty, Keeuna King, Rodney Williams

Officers participating: Cheryl Broyles, Diana Taylor

Staff participating: Kerry Lowary, Terri Lynn Smith

Volunteers/Guests participating: Bill Klier, Gae Broadwater

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

Shelter Manager's Report (Kerry Lowary)

- Shelter stats included as part of record.
- Flooding prompted an evacuation of the shelter on March 1; staff was able to return to the building on March 6 to begin the cleanup, which required most of the first week. Some dogs have been brought back but some are still at Tin Woof Inn and with Anderson County Humane. There is still extensive cleaning and restoration work to be done.
- Work is underway to find a suitable replacement for the cat building; insurance will cover that cost. All utilities are now on again at the shelter and leaks have been fixed.
- Groups that helped during the flood included Woodford County Humane, Anderson County Humane, Lexington Humane, Tin Woof Inn and the Franklin County Regional Jail. All cats were fostered, and a site remains open at the county park in case it is needed for processing. President Marcus noted that Tin Woof Inn will be recognized as a Grand Champion FCHS sponsor for its in-kind contributions and assistance.
- The new location for spay/neuter is working out well, and surgeries continue to be scheduled.
- One bright spot: Bear, a chow that had been in residence at the shelter, has been moved to a rescue group in Pennsylvania.
- FCHS has received notice of a filing from probate court of a bequest of an estimated \$8,322 from the estate of Joan Brooks Smith in Mercer County. A court date is set for May 7 with dispersal of the funds expected after that. There is no specific designation for the money; Shelter Manager Lowary recommended that it be earmarked for the new building fund. On a motion by President Marcus, seconded by Leslie Driskell, this was approved without discussion.
- Shelter staff members continue to receive COVID vaccinations.
- FCHS is waiting to hear on several grants, including Dog Trust USA (a \$25,000 application was submitted on March 1) and Petco. Funds have been received from the Department of Agriculture for spay/neuter.
- February was a perfect month, with a 100% live release rate from the shelter for all animals.

New Leash on Life (Terri Lynn Smith)

- Report included as part of record.
- Receipts were down in February, when bad weather prompted the closure of the shop, but business is going well now.
- Resident kitty Blondie died in March, having lived at NLOL for nine years. A donation campaign began on March 13 to help Lionel raise money for a kennel at the new shelter that will be named for Blondie and Lionel. \$2,000 was raised in 10 days.
- A pet parade is planned at the Farmers Market on April 11 with prizes to be awarded; the shop also will be open that day (Sunday).
- Efforts are still underway to organize a local radio-a-thon to raise funds.
- Donations have been strong in recent weeks; the storage area is full. Wesbanco donated a large number of cafeteria items; appreciation was expressed to Matt Freier for his help with this.

President's Report (Sam Marcus)

- The February board meeting minutes were approved without objection on a motion by John Hibbard, seconded by Leslie Driskell.
- The FCHS contract with the city runs through June. President Marcus recommended and moved that the current contract be extended for another year. The motion was seconded by Ray Smith and approved without discussion.
- The State Journal has several new packages for advertising, one of which is similar to what FCHS is currently using in terms of price. Other packages would include more digital options while maintaining print ads. After discussion, the board approved a State Journal contract at a cost of \$6,500, with some of the expense being paid by the capital campaign for ads promoting the new building fund. The approval came on a motion by President Marcus, seconded by John Hibbard.

TNR (Gae Broadwater)

- There was no TNR in February, and clinic dates have been scheduled for the next several months.
- Several people have been helping raise money for TNR, and March Madness will exceed its \$2,000 goal. A Dine to Donate event will be held March 29 at Beef "O" Brady's and volunteers are signing up to participate in Trash for Cash on April 3.
- The new surgery space is working well overall.

Treasurer's Report (Cheryl Broyles)

- December and January reports included as part of the record.
- The New Building Fund looks very good.
- Total FCHS assets are now \$2,511,826.54.
- President Marcus noted that although general donations have been down, expenses also have been down, making the balance sheet even as of February.
- On a motion by John Hibbard, seconded by Ray Smith, the December and January treasurer's reports were approved without objection.

Capital Campaign (John Hibbard)

- Two recent donations included one of \$25,000 for stock and one of \$50,000 of mutual funds. Information has been distributed through the FCHS email blast about how people can donate and receive tax benefits.

- Last March, equities were practically in a free fall due to Covid and the investment strategy was changed accordingly. Today's balance in the new building fund is \$1,911,568.
- There are no specific levels that board members are being asked to commit to, but it is important for everyone to make a commitment at the level that works for them. In a community, board commitment to the goal sends the right message.
- The committee is exploring different ways to raise money. While last year was not a great time to ask for money, many businesses are back on their feet and now is the time to ask for support. Members were asked to forward names of people with questions to John Hibbard, Sam Marcus, or anyone on the committee.
- Discussions are underway with Kentucky distillers about putting together a bourbon raffle; these have raised an impressive amount of money for other groups. Other charities are being contacted for information on how they conducted their raffles.
- President Marcus reported on several developments:
 - A presentation was made to the local Rotary Club on March 10 and follow-up information was sent to all members regarding the flooding of the shelter.
 - A virtual meeting was held March 15 with the mayor, city manager, county judge and deputy county judge to discuss prioritizing the shelter project, emphasizing it in the community and assisting with efforts targeting business, industry and associations. A follow-up email regarding more specifics was sent to the officials.
 - Documentation is being gathered for local officials to share with FEMA about the possible use of funds from that source for relocation of the shelter.
 - A meeting has been held with Buffalo Trace regarding its charitable foundation (for Buffalo Trace and Sazerac), and there is some promise there. They are to be back in touch in a few weeks.
 - The local Chamber and KCDC have been asked to allow FCHS to meet with their boards, and President Marcus is to appear at the next Chamber board meeting.
 - Emails have been sent to city and county school superintendents asking them to consider a system-wide week of fundraising by schools for the new shelter.
 - A letter was shared from the shelter consultants outlining fees (which had previously been agreed to), the timeline and other matters. President Marcus recommended, with the concurrence of the capital committee, approval of proceeding with design development in April. A set of drawings would be produced, and area contractors could then be asked about their interest and cost estimates. A discussion was held about how to encourage in-kind donations from contractors going forward. On a motion by Leslie Driskell, seconded by Ray Smith, the board approved proceeding with the design development phase.

Celebrity Waiters' Dinner (Sam Marcus, Diana Taylor)

- Planning continues for an online auction, which will be held June 9-15. Raffle tickets for the Sanibel Island condo will be sold again this year, beginning on April 15 at New Leash on Life. The April 16 email blast will announce this and the auction.
- Local advertising and public service announcements will be placed during May.
- Letters have been mailed to previous contributors seeking donations of auction items.
- Waiters' sponsorships are being sought to replace table sponsorships of the past.

Membership (Betsy Kennedy)

- Report included as part of the record.

Nominating

- Three members are eligible for renewed terms during the May election – Fred Deaton, Leslie Driskell and Rodney Williams. Fred Deaton and Leslie Driskell have said they would like to renew their service; Rodney Williams has decided to step away from the board, so there will be an additional vacancy.
- A notice seeking nominations will be included in the upcoming FCHS email blast.

On a motion by John Hibbard, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.