

**Minutes of the Franklin County Humane Society Board of Directors
Zoom Meeting
May 26, 2022**

Board Members participating: Keith Ballard, Fred Deaton, Leslie Driskell, Matt Freire, John Hibbard, Sam Marcus, Ray Smith

Board Members not participating: Miche' Branscum, Leo Haggerty, Keeuna King, Brian Logan

Officers participating: Cheryl Broyles, Diana Taylor

Staff participating: Kerry Lowary, Terri Lynn Smith, Jody Spaulding

Volunteers/Guests participating: Gae Broadwater, Barbara Hayes, Lori Macintire, Steve Middleton

The meeting convened at 5:35 p.m. EST.

Election of Board Members

In April, the nominating committee nominated three people for board membership – Barbara Hayes and Steven Middleton for three-year terms to begin July 1, 2022, and Keith Ballard to fill an unexpired term of two-plus years. Keith Ballard's service would begin immediately and continue until June 30, 2024. Brian Logan has agreed to continue serving and would have a new three-year term.

Sam Marcus moved to approve the election of Barbara Hayes, Brian Logan and Steven Middleton for three-year terms and Keith Ballard to complete the unexpired term. The motion was seconded by Ray Smith. All were elected without opposition.

Election of Officers

Nominating committee chair Fred Deaton moved that John Hibbard be elected president, Leslie Driskell be elected vice president, Cheryl Broyles be re-elected treasurer, and Diana Taylor be re-elected secretary. Ray Smith seconded the motion. There were no other nominations; the nominees were approved by acclamation.

John Hibbard thanked the board and expressed the hope that he could continue the good work of President Marcus. Fred Deaton echoed those remarks.

President's Report (Sam Marcus)

- The April and May regular and special meeting minutes were approved with a correction to the April meeting minutes on the theme and fundraising for the successful TNR March Madness campaign.
- Two owner/architect/contractor meetings were held about the new shelter on May 4 and May 18. Work is beginning to progress at the site, with walls now above head height. Camera access is now available. A hard hat is required for anyone in the construction area.
- Notes from a meeting with city manager Laura Hagg and planning director Eric Cockley were sent to the board, which decided in a special meeting to request an opportunity to appear on the City Commission's next meeting agenda regarding the access road issue. The City Manager will not recommend providing assistance to FCHS with the road or to honor the FCHS request to deed the property to the society when construction of the shelter is complete. The FCHS board does not accept this and will continue efforts to bring the issue before the City Commission and Mayor with the hope of reaching an agreeable arrangement.

- The board also discussed generating publicity about the issue. The editor of the State Journal was contacted and said she will assign a reporter to the story. Other efforts will focus on Lexington TV news coverage and the FPB Around 10 cable program.
- The cost of the State Journal advertising contract increased from \$4,680 to \$6,500 for the past year due to the need to advertise the capital campaign. After review, President Marcus and Vice President Hibbard proposed returning to the \$4,680 basic VIP contract since the capital campaign has closed. On a motion by Fred Deaton, seconded by John Hibbard, the basic VIP contract was approved.

Shelter Manager's Report (Kerry Lowary)

- Shelter stats included as part of the record.
- The current census is 151 animals. There has been a significant increase in the number of kittens. Of the 99 cats, 35 are kittens and moms or kittens in foster homes. There 52 dogs in the population -- a bit high for the shelter; several are puppies.
- Spay/neuter program continues to be busy. FCHS had done 583 surgeries through May 25 and is on track to conduct the same number as the last two years, approximately 1,200 to 1,600.
- All staff members have completed the race equality, diversity and inclusion webinar and have received certificates of completion.
- Dog adoptions have slowed significantly; the hope is that more people will come in once school lets out for the summer. Kitten adoptions are expected to increase in the next two weeks.
- Another Chewy truck with food and supplies for the community is expected in June.
- A county magistrate contacted FCHS about a situation with cats in the county; the goal is to do a wellness clinic specifically for that area in June.
- FCHS will work with the Humane Society of the United States and the sheriff's department on training on handling dogs in law enforcement encounters; the hope is to schedule that for July or August.

Program Manager's Report (Jody Spaulding)

- As her work gets underway she has participated in spay/neuter, a supply drive and numerous meetings.
- Every FCHS location has been visited – New Leash on Life, the shelter and work groups for the 10th Annual Gala.
- High praise for volunteers and staff was expressed.
- A meeting with Terri Smith about NLOL included brainstorming about the shop and ideas for future activities.

New Leash on Life (Terri Lynn Smith)

- Report included as part of record.
- A celebration was held for Lionel's 10th birthday, and all but \$300 was raised for a kennel in his name at the new shelter.
- There are 55 remaining raffle tickets to be sold before the June 15 drawing.
- Appreciation was expressed to Sam and his support for NLOL and its staff.

Treasurer's Report (Cheryl Broyles)

- Total assets in January were \$3,919,900.63. That compares to assets of \$2,511,826.54 in January 2021.
- Total assets in February were \$3,887,496.50, compared to \$2,521,495.92 in February 2021.
- All but \$5,000 of the proceeds from the bourbon raffle has been received (\$274,130.79).
- On a motion by John Hibbard, seconded by Leslie Driskell, the January and February treasurer's reports were approved without objection.

Capital Committee (John Hibbard)

- The reserve fund balance is \$140,022; the new building fund balance is \$2,004,494. Expenses of \$659,630 have been paid from the new building fund this year.
- Investments remain 90% cash, 10% stock.
- The Myrna Mitchell account has a balance of \$212,840 – money that hasn't been touched for years due to success in raising funds for spay/neuter operations through grounds and other sources.
- President Marcus reported that a finance committee meeting is needed to prepare a budget for the next fiscal year. President Marcus, John Hibbard, Keith Ballard, Cheryl Broyles and Jody Spaulding will serve on the committee.

Membership/Fundraising

- Membership report submitted by Betsy Kennedy included as part of the record.
- The online auction celebrating the 10th annual gala is set to begin on June 9, with preview beginning June 1 and in-person viewing day set for June 8.
- More than 130 baskets will be available for bidding.
- The auction concludes on June 15, which also is the date for the drawing of the winning raffle ticket for a week at a Sanibel Island, Fl., condo.
- A membership mailing is being developed for delivery in mid-June.

TNR (Gae Broadwater)

- Report included as part of the record.
- Background information for new members included the role of the 10-year-old TNR program in keeping cats out of the shelter by working with community members who report feral or stray colonies for spay/neuter surgeries. A trial ordinance with the city five years ago, allowing spayed/neutered/vaccinated cats to be returned to nature and not taken to a shelter, showed the program is of community benefit. It has now been incorporated into a permanent ordinance.

New Business (Sam Marcus)

- The June board meeting will be held June 23 in the pre-COVID location, 3rd floor conference room of government office building, 321 W. Main St. A Zoom option will be available.
- The annual meeting will be held 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. June 26 at the Franklin County Extension Office.

The board moved into executive session at 6:52 p.m. The session concluded at 6:55 p.m. with no action taken.

On a motion by John Hibbard, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.