

**Minutes of the Franklin County Humane Society Board  
Zoom Meeting  
August 26, 2021**

**Board Members participating:** Mike Ball, Fred Deaton, Leslie Driskell, John Hibbard, Brian Logan, Sam Marcus, Ray Smith

**Board Members not participating:** Miche' Branscum, Matt Freire, Leo Haggerty, Keeuna King

**Officers participating:** Cheryl Broyles, Diana Taylor

**Staff participating:** Kerry Lowary, Terri Lynn Smith

**Volunteers/Guests participating:** Gae Broadwater, Bill Klier

\*\*\*

The meeting convened via Zoom at 5:33 p.m.

**President's Report (Sam Marcus)**

- The June and July board meeting minutes were approved without objection on a motion by Fred Deaton, seconded by Mike Ball.
- The annual meeting minutes were approved in the same motion after being amended to reflect that Leslie Driskell was not an attendee at that meeting.
- Future board meetings will continue to be held via Zoom. There were no objections to this.
- Several budget meetings have been held concerning the new shelter – on July 26, 27, 30 and August 5. All were to fine-tune details, discuss updated estimates and determine bidding options before the construction documents were distributed. Based on those meetings, the construction bids were sent out and responses are due on August 27. Also, several local contractors were notified and encouraged to bid as subcontractors.
- A brief meeting with city officials and FCHS consultants centered on issues related to property adjoining the shelter property. The city has contracted with HMB to update the plat, and the meeting provided guidance for that work. The city wants FCHS consultants to finalize the design of the access road and the property to be occupied by the shelter. FCHS representatives did not agree to pay for that additional work but would allow it to move the project along; the payment will be part of further discussions.
- After the construction bids are compiled, which is expected by the middle of the next week, the status of the project will be clearer.

**Shelter Manager's Report (Kerry Lowary)**

- Shelter stats included as part of the record.
- Staff levels are slowly returning to normal. A staff member's positive Covid test led to quarantining for those not vaccinated for 10 days. That resulted in the shelter closing to the public for ten days. The shelter has been operating this week with fewer staff members.
- The shelter census is 85 cats, good for this time of year, and 63 dogs, which is above shelter capacity. Several dogs are being fostered.
- One surgery day was missed due to the Covid shutdown. More than 1,000 spay/neuter surgeries have been performed this year.
- FCHS has been approved to receive a \$2,100 grant from the KY Department of Agriculture; the money is expected to arrive in October.
- Three big events are coming up:
  - Sept. 5 the Empty Bowls event will be held at Broadway Clay; 100 dog and cat food bowls will be available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit FCHS.

- A tractor-trailer load of food and supplies is to arrive next week from Chewy. The criteria is that all of the supplies have to be distributed to community members.
- The vaccination clinic will be held from 1 pm to 3 pm on September 26 at Lakeview Park. Promotions will begin soon. The local health department also will be offering Covid vaccinations at the event.
- At President Marcus' suggestion, the board discussed issues related to requiring volunteers to be vaccinated. Shelter Manager Lowary pointed out that all TNR and spay/neuter volunteers are vaccinated, as are veterinarians. Masks are required at the shelter. Comments included:
  - If the staff has to be vaccinated, volunteers should be as well.
  - It is two different matters whether the staff and volunteers are vaccinated.
  - Whether someone is vaccinated or not, they can still get and transmit the Covid virus.
  - Since most active volunteers are apparently vaccinated, requiring it might be creating a problem where we don't have to.
  - We have an obligation to consider the volunteers and workers we have. We don't want to lose the volunteers we have (who might stop volunteering if they have to be around un-vaccinated people) to try to gain some that we may or may not get. People do have a personal choice and this is something that might need to be revisited later.
  - President Marcus moved, and Brian Logan seconded, that the FCHS policy for volunteers include vaccinations or an agreement to be vaccinated. The motion carried 5-2 on a show of hands.

#### **New Leash on Life (Terri Lynn Smith)**

- Report included as part of record.
- The inventory is overwhelming, so there will be no pickups until mid-October.
- The shop will be closed Sept. 3 – 13 for vacation. It will reopen with regular hours on Sept. 14.
- As of August 27, masks will be required for anyone entering the shop.

#### **Treasurer's Report (Cheryl Broyles)**

- May report included as part of the record.
- Assets totaled \$3,044,097.14 in May.
- There have been no expenses out of the ordinary and everyone has done well keeping them controlled.
- On a motion by Fred Deaton, seconded by Ray Smith, the treasurer's report was accepted.

#### **TNR (Gae Broadway)**

- Report included as part of the record.
- There is more activity than expected this time of year. TNR surgeries are booked through October.
- Spay/neuter and TNR procedures are in full operation; staff deserves appreciate for their support and cooperation.

#### **Membership (Betsy Kennedy)**

- Report included as part of the record.
- FCHS now has 543 members.

#### **Fundraising (Sam Marcus)**

- In addition to the Empty Bowls project, there will be a fundraising piano concert on September 26; more details will be available closer to the event.
- The virtual Trails for Tails 5K will be final on September 4.

**Capital Campaign (John Hibbard)**

- The investment account balance is currently \$2,300,947. Investment appreciation this year is \$74,940.
- The capital campaign has raised \$1,215,557 of the \$1.6 million goal.
- The bourbon raffle is expected to raise six figures. It is projected to end November 19.
- President Marcus reported that, based on the information that has arrived to date, the shelter construction cost is above what was expected, but nothing will be certain until the bids are returned. There is a possibility that not all the funds will be raised when the project is started this fall. Although there are no anticipated problems in raising the needed funds as we move forward, the issue is whether FCHS should have a backup plan to borrow money or have a line of credit to cover contingencies if needed to show contractors. That would allow the project to get underway. Comments reflected support for this idea. President Marcus will explore options and bring information to the September board meeting.

On a motion by Fred Deaton, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.