

**Minutes of the Franklin County Humane Society Board  
Zoom Meeting  
December 17, 2020**

**Board Members participating:** Fred Deaton, Leslie Driskell, Leo Haggerty, John Hibbard, Keeuna King, Sam Marcus, Ray Smith

**Board Members not participating:** Matt Freire, Brian Logan, Rodney Williams

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

**Staff participating:** Kerry Lowary, Terri Sorrel

**Volunteers participating:** Susan Preston, Bill Klier

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The meeting convened via Zoom at 5:41 p.m.

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

- A meeting was held on November 24 with the city manager, other city officials and Frankfort Plant Board staff, with Robert Hewitt representing the county.
  - A lease is the favored funding arrangement for the new shelter property. If the property is deeded to FCHS, the transfer would be subject to the planning and zoning process. While all standards would be met, the process adds expense and complications, so the lease arrangement will be maintained; the lease is for 50-plus years.
  - Regarding the boundaries of the shelter property, the road encroaches slightly on FPB property, and FPB prefers that the boundary be adjusted. Our opinion was expressed that that is not the responsibility of FCHS.
  - There was minimal discussion about the funding. The recent city work session included an agenda item on a budget amendment to provide funding for the shelter.
- There was a discussion after the meeting about having a ceremony to commemorate the commitment that the outgoing mayor and commissioners have made to the shelter. No plans have been finalized.
- Upon a motion by Fred Deaton, seconded by Ray Smith, the November meeting minutes were approved without objection.
- The president made the following comments about developments in 2020:
  - Shelter manager Kerry Lowary and staff have achieved a live release rate of 95%, the highest it has been in FCHS history. This is something to celebrate.
  - Animal intake is down, partly due to the pandemic, but a major contributor is the All the Cats program through which cats have been spayed/neutered free of charge. This has had a significant impact on intake and expense.
  - FCHS lost revenue during the year, as did many nonprofits and businesses. But expenses were also reduced, more than the revenue loss. FCHS is financially sound due to this accomplishment, a fact that is especially important during a capital campaign.
  - Staff members have stayed safe and healthy, and FCHS has provided well-deserved extra compensation.
  - Obtaining new space for spay/neuter procedures has been helpful.
  - FCHS obtained commitments from the city and county for new shelter funding. This huge step meant the capital campaign could begin, getting off to a good start but slowing somewhat lately.

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

- Shelter stats attached as part of record.
- To put the 95% live release rate in perspective, in 2019, FCHS took in 943 cats; 115 of those were euthanized for medical or behavioral reasons. In 2020, a total of 31 cats were euthanized; six were behavioral feral cats and 25 were for medical reasons. Cat intake was 596 as of the end of November.
- The All the Cats campaign has been a huge part of the difference. Through December 11, 589 community cat surgeries have been performed compared to 313 in 2019. The number will surpass 600 this year.
- Dog intakes are down about 200 from last year; about 800 dog surgeries have been performed.
- A total of 1,480 spay/neuter surgeries of shelter and community animals have been performed. That doesn't include 448 trap-neuter-return cats, which makes a total of 1,928 spay/neuter surgeries. That is almost 500 more surgeries than were performed last year.
- It is important not to let up on the All the Cats campaign in 2021. FCHS will receive \$20,000 from the Bluegrass ADD cat project (\$10,000 was received in 2020). In addition, \$2,500 is expected from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture after the first of the year; that will pay for 200 surgeries with matching money FCHS provides.
- The TNR cat program is holding steady at 400-450 cats; surgery dates have been set through April. The space is working well for surgeries. Another grant opportunity could help provide more funds for that facility.
- Of the 596 cats taken in this year, 501 were adopted; 36 were reclaimed by their owners.
- In April, FCHS took in 38 dogs from Adams Lane; seven remain at the shelter but the others have been adopted. Jeanine Sloan has focused on moving those dogs to other rescue programs.
- No staff members have tested positive for the virus. One veterinarian who works with FCHS did test positive but was not around any staff members.

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

- September report included as part of record.
- Investment funds were down in September, but that is when the stock market was down; they have moved back up in October and November.
- President Marcus pointed out that, even though income is less than budget, expenses are below the level budgeted. FCHS is seeing improved income this month resulting from donations but is behind in terms of general operating donations. That is something to monitor as the capital campaign continues. The bottom line is FCHS is ahead of budget so far.
- Total assets as of September are more than \$2 million.
- There was discussion about promoting Amazon Smile and Kroger Community Rewards programs as fundraising options.
- Ray Smith moved, and Fred Deaton seconded, to accept the treasurer's report, which was approved without objection.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Capital Campaign (John Hibbard)**

- \$410,898 has been raised to date.
- The Buffalo Trace Bourbon Barrel auction continues, with a top bid of \$12,200 at this point. Proceeds of the auction will benefit FCHS.
- The committee purchased some help with the capital campaign from Gail Perry Associates; this was a nominal cost for a program, including videos, that provides different ideas for generating support.
- Two \$25,000 checks have been recently received.

- Bill Klier, a capital campaign committee member, recommended that board members watch the videos that provide information on donations. Most capital campaign donations come from large donors; 90% of capital campaigns are from the top donors. Success in 2021 will be from contacting people directly and asking for donations. The board's help is needed with that. Personal relationships and personal requests, not social media, are the best way to seek donations.
- John Hibbard agreed that it will take the efforts of everyone and encouraged all board members to watch the videos.
- President Marcus suggested that a joint board-capital committee retreat after the first of the year could be helpful.

### **Membership**

- FCHS currently has 554 members.
- There have been renewals since the mailer went out in December.
- President Marcus expressed appreciation to Betsy Kennedy for her work on membership and also thanked volunteers who help with the mailings.

### **New Leash on Life (Terri Sorrel)**

- The report is included as part of the record.
- Receipts have declined a little due to the virus. Appointment-only shopping started this month, allowing four people in the shop at a time for one hour.
- Sales have totaled \$6,000 this month.
- The number of volunteers has declined significantly, but those still helping are working hard. Donations also have been received every day, including shelving units from the owner of the building that formerly housed Pic Pac.
- Shoppers are encouraged to give money to the new shelter fund and to support the Angel Tree.
- President Marcus noted that the city has extended the deadline for small business grants through the end of the year. These can be for up to \$10,000. The board consensus was to proceed with this.

### **Trap-Neuter-Return**

- President Marcus thanked Gae Broadwater and TNR volunteers for the great job they continue to do, particularly under the circumstances of the pandemic.

### **Nominating**

- President Marcus noted that a board vacancy exists. Recommendations should be sent to Fred Deaton, chair of the Nominating Committee.

### **General**

- President Marcus moved, and Ray Smith seconded, that FCHS continue the All the Cats program for 2021. This was approved without objection.
- Ray Smith noted that the FCHS charitable gaming license is due for renewal in January; he will work with President Marcus and Treasurer Broyles on this.

On a motion by Ray Smith, the board went into executive session at 6:51 p.m.

The executive session concluded at 6:58 p.m. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.