

Centre County PAWS, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
November 26, 2019, 5:45 – 7:00 pm
PAWS Adoption and Education Center

Board Members/Staff Attending: Dave Abler (presiding), Lisa Bahr, Mike Chilcot, Bob Conn, Brian Eppley, Chris Faust, Reenie Ferretti, Ginny Ishler, Ryan Macaluso, Ginny Newman, Heidi Petruzzi (recording), Yvonne Riley

PAWS Members and Guests Attending:
None

Dave Abler called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm.

Member Questions and Comments

None

Action Item - Approval of October 22, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes - Heidi Petruzzi

Ginny N. moved to approve the minutes. Yvonne seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Officer Reports

President Report - Dave Abler reported that the Board held a retreat on November 2 and that Monica would not be at the Board meeting.

Vice President Report – Virginia Ishler did not have a report.

Treasurer Report – Reenie Ferretti noted that the 2020 budget will be discussed later in the meeting. Vanguard has most of the necessary paperwork, but requires one more signature before PAWS can invest with the company.

Recording Secretary Report – Heidi Petruzzi did not have a report.

Staff and Committee Reports

Director of Operations Report – Lisa Bahr emailed her report. Cat adoption numbers are great, but dog adoptions numbers are not. After running some different reports in ASM, Lisa found that the dog adoption numbers are low due to the need for a foster for six to nine month old puppies. The new foster for puppies under six months old has made up for the “baby puppy” adoption numbers in a short period of time, but the “teen puppy” adoption numbers are lagging. Additionally, PAWS needs a larger supply of baby and teen puppies from Freedom Fences. Lisa and Kira will meet with Freedom Fences representatives at PAWS at the beginning of December to discuss future transports. Lisa feels that there now is a concrete reason and solution for the low dog adoption numbers.

There will be some minor changes to enrollment and price for the Summer Program in 2020.

Lisa distributed at handout describing a proposal for the PAWS Alternatives to Rehoming Program. PAWS gets daily requests for help with pet medical bills and for rehoming dogs that are not safe for PAWS to take in. Currently, PAWS is not able to help with these requests, but this proposal would offer more options and it aligns with the PAWS vision to be a “premier resource for companion animals and their caregivers.” The proposal covers current and additional ideas such as virtual rehoming, grants, food and supplies assistance, etc. The challenge is how to fund this program and how to integrate veterinarians.

Lisa and Pet Recovery of Centre County are meeting with the Commissioners to open a discussion about stray animals and partnering in their care.

The cat wait list is shorter this year due to changes in wait list management. Currently, the list is longer than previous months, but it usually sees a major spike when the temperatures dip below freezing and concerned residents call about strays that have been outside since the warmer months. The wait list manager is in contact with the owners on the list.

Lisa electronically distributed the facilities workbook for the Board’s reference; it indicates past and future projects.

Included in Lisa’s report is the final draft of the PAWS Mission, Vision, and Values statements. There were over 90 responses to the volunteer survey about the statements; the replies consisted of overall positive feedback and some useful, constructive criticism. Lisa would like to see the statements approved by early 2020 so that each subgroup can figure out how to implement and express these statements, especially during the yearlong PAWS 40th anniversary celebration.

The recent Facebook fundraising efforts brought in over \$2,000 for animal medical expenses.

Director of Finance Report - Brian Eppley emailed and distributed the finance report and the 2020 budget. Income is on schedule for 2019. Expenses are over budget. Medical and spay/neuter expenses are the two primary categories that are driving PAWS over budget. Also contributing to the high expenses were costs from a cat bite over the summer and the higher costs that come with the larger cat population due to the expansion. Payroll is under budget for the year so far.

In the proposed 2020 Budget, the separate pages are income, expenses, and detailed major expense subcategories. There is a very significant potential deficit for 2020 that will involve using a large amount from organizational/medical reserves. There were several specific purpose donations in 2019 for which the funds were used up to complete the targeted projects. However, general donations were down. Since PAWS is a grass roots organization, most of the donations are smaller amounts. The new tax laws probably will affect end-of-year donations in the mid-amount range. Making up the budget deficit through income is a challenge, but will be necessary over the next few years so as not to drain reserves. Increasing income will be a big part of the job for the new executive director. Meeting the needs of the community will require additional community support.

The proposed 2020 budget includes increases for medical and SNAP expenses as well as additional salary for full time staff and the executive director position; these are the major causes for the projected deficit.

Development and Marketing Report – Chris Faust emailed and distributed the development report. Comedy Club is the next special event; it will be held at Mountain View Country Club. Not included in the report is a surviving pet care restricted cash gift of \$12,500 for two cats. PAWS received an exceptional amount of publicity in the past month. The catered holiday party, with a basket raffle and a few bingo games, will be on December 12. The most recent Bingo had an enthusiastic crowd with good prizes that produced a typical income.

Nominating Committee Report – Joan Ritchie was not present.

Personnel Committee Report – Yvonne Riley did not have a report.

Executive Director Search Committee Report – Monica Wright was not present. Reenie noted that the Committee looked at all of the applicants and scored them based on qualifications. Currently, Committee members are planning phone or Skype interviews to screen the initial candidates and hope to conduct in-person interviews in January.

Yvonne moved to adjourn the meeting. Reenie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm, followed by an executive session.

The next PAWS Board Meeting is December 9, 2019.