

THS Board Meeting (#14)

Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 5:30 pm

By Teleconference

Present: Shelley Austin, Malcolm Bernstein, David Bronskill, Martin Buckle, Krista Bulmer, Mark Dilworth, Kathy McDonald, Bronwen Morgan, Peter Newell, Emily Pang, Dominique Rousselle, Angela Young

Regrets: Stephen Steele, Elaine Wong, Chris Wood

Staff: Jacques Messier, CEO; Phil Nichols, COO; Tegan Buckingham, Director, Integrated Marketing and Development; Claudette Turner, Manager, Executive Department (Recording Secretary)

Malcolm Bernstein called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

1. Regular Business

1.1 THAT the Agenda be approved.

Moved: Shelley Austin

Seconded: Bronwen Morgan

Carried.

1.2 THAT the Minutes of the September 29, 2020 meeting be approved as amended.

Moved: Emily Pang

Seconded: Angela Young

Carried.

2. Business Model

Jacques Messier reported that three sessions were held for discussion of the proposed business model. Over the next year, in keeping with the strategic plan, the goals will be to reduce the cost of operations while advancing and delivering on the Society's mission and vision, and to better utilize the shelter

facility. Jacques noted that a budget presentation would be sent to the Audit & Finance Committee in the days ahead.

The Board discussed various aspects of the new business model. Jacques responded to questions regarding staffing, animal housing, volunteers, and financial impact. A Board member requested further information relating to 2021, which Jacques will provide.

3. CEO Report

Jacques reviewed the financial position of the Society, which shows a surplus for October. He will focus on further controlling expenses to year-end. Jacques responded to the Board's questions. He updated the Board on operational matters, particularly in light of a second wave of the COVID-19 virus. As the Society did not move out of Stage 2, there hasn't been a need to make further adjustments. He outlined various ways that the Society is supporting staff through the pandemic.

In response to a query about model shelter values, Jacques responded that he has been working with Humane Canada to develop an accredited shelter program, but it has been slowed by the pandemic.

In response to a query about holiday events during the pandemic, Jacques advised that several alternatives are being discussed.

Jacques thanked the Board members who have kindly offered their assistance.

4. Committee Reports

Governance – Malcolm reported that a development committee was discussed for consideration in the new year. The Governance Committee has been focused on policy work. A risk register, to be based on the proposed business model and strategic plan for the Society, was discussed. Board orientation for new Board members will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Animal Welfare – Angela Young reported that the AWC met on October 14. Phil Nichols provided the Committee with a comprehensive analysis of the animal welfare related policies recommending an update of the Foster Policy and reviewing the Euthanasia Policy. A working committee consisting of Bronwen Morgan, Kathy McDonald, Emily Pang and staff has been working on the foster policy. Future areas for AWC consideration for new policies are research, humane education, client interaction, and service standards. The AWC would like to get more understanding re the steps leading to the final decision to euthanize an animal.

Volunteer – Martin Buckle noted the Volunteer Committee's interest in the shelter standards accreditation program. He advised that a foster survey has been completed and that most responses

were positive. The survey results will be reviewed with a view to identifying common themes. Angela requested that the AWC be looped in to responses from fosters, where appropriate, as the AWC is currently working on the Foster policy.

Advocacy – Martin Buckle reported that while Bill 156 has passed in Ontario, only the sections that deal with animal transport have been proclaimed. The regulations for the rest of Bill 156 are still being drafted. There has been no advancement of federal animal welfare legislation, which may be further delayed due to the pandemic.

Annual General Meeting – Krista Bulmer reported that the AGM materials are ready to go to print for the December 9, 2020 meeting. There will also be a Town Hall for members on November 25, 2020 (kindly hosted by David Bronskill) to highlight the Society’s accomplishments and to provide a platform for members to ask questions of the Board and senior management. Board members were encouraged to attend, and Board candidates will be invited.

5. Next Meetings

Board - Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 5:30 pm.

Members’ Town Hall – Wednesday, November 25, 2020, 5:30 pm

AGM – Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 6:00 pm

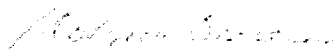
Board – Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 5:30 pm

6. In-camera

The Board moved *in camera* at 6:30 pm and rose at 7:25 pm.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.



Malcolm Bernstein, Chair

November 24, 2020

Date

Elaine Wong, Secretary

Date

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