

THS Board Meeting (#7)

Minutes

Thursday, January 12, 2017, 7:00 pm
11 River Street, Toronto, Ontario

Present: Shelley Austin, David Bronskill, Shannon Cameron, Amanda Frank, Lisa Gibbens, Kathy McDonald, Bronwen Morgan, Diana Pizzola, Andy Robling, Dominique Rousselle, Stephen Steele, Monika Sudds, Keren Troyna

By teleconference: Gillian Armstrong, Cathy Kinloch

Non-voting: Jacques Messier, Claudette Turner

1. Regular Business

David Bronskill convened the meeting at 7:15pm and wished the Board a happy New Year.

1.1 THAT the agenda be approved.

Moved: Kathy McDonald Seconded: Dominique Rousselle **Carried.**

1.2 THAT the memberships dated November 18, 2016 – January 12, 2017 and all timely renewals received in the past month are hereby approved.

Moved: Lisa Gibbens Seconded: Shelley Austin **Carried.**

1.3 THAT the minutes of the November 17, 2016 Board meeting be approved.

Moved: Shannon Cameron Seconded: Andy Robling **Carried.**

David Bronskill kindly offered to call and welcome the new members.

Several upcoming Board and Committee meetings were scheduled (all at 7:00pm):

- Strategic Planning Committee – January 24, 2017
- Animal Welfare Committee – January 26, 2017
- Board Meeting – February 9, 2017

2. CEO Report & Questions

Jacques Messier asked the Board to renew its Directors and Officers insurance, noting that the rate is the same as 2016 and that Chartis continues to provide excellent coverage.

- 2.1 THAT the Toronto Humane Society renew its Directors and Officers insurance with Chartis for 2017.

Moved: Stephen Steele

Seconded: Lisa Gibbens

Carried.

The Board discussed the number of dog walking volunteers and different colour level dogs presently in the shelter. It was referred to the next Animal Welfare Committee meeting for further discussion. As requested at the September meeting, the Board received an update on the barn program, learning that the five cats placed in the fall are all doing well.

3. Executive Committee

As a follow up to the discussion at the previous meeting, the Executive Committee discussed how the current Intake Policy works very well, and results in THS receiving many animals with medical and behavioural special needs. The unintended consequence, however, is that a significant majority of THS' population now has special needs. This impacts foster homes, veterinary resources, shelter capacity, average length of stay and adoptions. The Board agreed that, while we still want to help special needs animals, THS also needs to be able to help other animals – such as healthy animals facing euthanasia in high-kill shelters. It was suggested:

- 3.1 THAT given the success of the Toronto Humane Society in treating special needs animals and the increased number of such animals in the Toronto Humane Society foster program, notwithstanding the Intake Policy, the Board authorizes staff to take all appropriate actions to facilitate intake to increase the number of animals available for adoption in the shelter and directs staff to report at subsequent Board meetings on the impact of any actions taken, including cage/run occupancy and length of stay numbers.

Moved: David Bronskill

Seconded: Shannon Cameron

Carried.

Staff will continue to follow the Capacity for Care Policy, matching increased intake with increased adoptions and maintaining an acceptable average length of stay, to ensure we take proper care of *all* the animals in the shelter. The CEO indicated it will take about three months to implement and assess the impact, and agreed to report back to the Board in April.

The Board continued its discussion of how the animal welfare world is changing and ensuring THS is well positioned to meet these shifting needs. The Executive thanked the Board for their support and will continue to work on the vision development process, reporting back at the March Board meeting.

Bronwen Morgan reminded the Board of some of the learnings from the retreat and encouraged the Board to continue to enhance its effectiveness.

4. *Committee Business*

The Annual General Meeting Task Force took up a number of the recommendations from other Task Forces/Committees, implementing them in a series of by-law amendments. The amendments: add references to the Member Code of Conduct approved in September 2016, plus Membership and Governance Guidelines; shift deadlines from the by-laws to the Guidelines to give the Society more flexibility to accommodate things like postal disruptions; and capture the current scrutineer practices. The Governance Guidelines facilitate succession planning, describe the process for becoming a candidate, and protect the independence of the scrutineer. The Membership Guidelines enshrine the current membership requirements and specify acceptable payment methods.

4.1 THAT the by-law amendments be approved.

Moved: Lisa Gibbens Seconded: Stephen Steele **Carried.**

4.2 THAT the Governance and Membership Guidelines be approved.

Moved: Shelley Austin Seconded: Bronwen Morgan **Carried.**

The Task Force expressed their thanks to Peter Newell for his continued support and assistance.

The Governance Committee presented the CEO Review Policy to the Board, which incorporates external best practices while formalizing many of the current procedures for the annual CEO performance appraisal.

4.3 THAT the CEO Review Policy be approved.

Moved: Andy Robling Seconded: David Bronskill **Carried.**

The CEO will email the Strategic Plan to the Board; any questions should be addressed to Andy Robling. The Strategic Planning and Budget Committee will discuss the budget at its next meeting, with the goal of approving both the plan and the 2017 budget at the February Board meeting.

5. Other Business

Lisa Gibbens updated the Board on new dangerous dogs amendments to the City of Toronto Animals by-law, upcoming agenda items at the Licensing and Standards Committee, and animal-related budget items.

6. Adjournment

6.1 THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:58pm

Moved: Bronwen Morgan Seconded: Shannon Cameron **Carried.**

David Bronskill, Chair

Lisa Gibbens, Secretary

Date

Date