

THS Board Meeting (#7)
Minutes
Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 6:00 pm
By Teleconference

Present: Malcolm Bernstein, David Bronskill, Martin Buckle, Krista Bulmer, Damian Creber, Jennifer Dernek, Mark Dilworth, Yusef Hafez, Nicholas Kanhai, Charissa Lai, Bronwen Morgan, Josh Shanahan, Nabila Tisha, Angela Young

Regrets: Peter Newell

Staff: Jacques Messier, CEO, Phil Nichols, COO, Claudette Turner, Recording Secretary

Martin Buckle called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

1. Regular Business

1.1 THAT the Agenda be approved as amended.

Moved: Bronwen Morgan

Seconded: Josh Shanahan

... Carried.

1.2 THAT the new membership, and all timely renewal memberships be approved.

Moved: Martin Buckle

Seconded: Josh Shanahan

... Carried.

Josh Shanahan kindly volunteered to call the new member.

2. Financial Reporting

Charissa Lai provided an overview of the new financial reports and credited Board members and management who assisted in developing them. The

Board discussed the financial reporting structure, and Charissa and Phil Nichols will schedule a fact meeting to discuss further. Jacques will report on the Society's cash position at the end of the week.

3. AGM Update

Yussef Hafez provided a comprehensive presentation of this year's Board recruiting process. The Board discussed the skills and qualifications needed in the upcoming term. Yussef advised that draft candidate interview questions will be brought to the Governance Committee for review and invited Board members to participate in the process.

The following motions were proposed:

3.1 THAT Toronto Humane Society hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) virtually on September 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm and start work towards that, including necessary expense (e.g. technology and communications) related to the AGM.

THAT WeirFoulds be confirmed in the role of depository for paper proxies and that John Wilkinson of WeirFoulds be confirmed in the role of legal counsel.

THAT Ian Wintrip be appointed the scrutineer of paper proxies.

THAT the Board strike an AGM Committee and appoint a Chair thereof.

THAT the Board strike a Nominations Committee and appoint a Chair thereof.

Moved: David Bronskill Seconded: Krista Bulmer ...

Carried.

4. CEO Report

Jacques Messier reported that the Society's new orthopedic equipment has saved the Society more than its cost over the past six surgeries that were performed in-house rather than being outsourced.

Jacques reported that the employee feedback survey has been extended by a week.

He advised that the Society is expecting several generous bequests in the coming weeks and months.

Jacques noted that in the recently tabled federal budget, the Government proposes to ban cosmetic testing on animals. Humane Canada is attempting to schedule a meeting to promote this long-sought legislation.

Martin Buckle will reach out to MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith to maintain contact respecting animal welfare issues.

Jacques reported that the City of Toronto has banned the feeding of wild animals, with a few exceptions. Jacques will disseminate the information to Society supporters.

The Board asked Jacques to express its compliments to the social media staff representative for the excellent work being done in the social media program.

5. Committee Reports

Governance Committee – Malcolm Bernstein reported that the Committee had discussed the Board nominations process, the AGM and the strategic plan. A fall Board retreat had also been discussed briefly. A recommendation was made that a Board retreat agenda include training modules for various topics, e.g., finance and animal welfare.

Audit & Finance – Charissa Lai noted most financial items were covered earlier in the meeting. The annual audit has begun. Martin Buckle noted that the Audit & Finance Committee will be reviewing its terms of reference with a view to updating it and asked that other Committees do the same.

Animal Welfare – Krista Bulmer noted that the risk framework that had been developed by Angela Young and the Committee, and Phil Nichols, will serve

as a template to build outward. She expressed her appreciation for this invaluable tool.

Development – Nabila Tisha advised that fundraising is generally on target, with bequests doing very well. A great deal of analysis is conducted to determine which fundraising programs will be most successful. A golf tournament is scheduled for June 28, and Board members were invited to participate. A date for Paws in the Park will be announced soon. The Board discussed ways that it could contribute to the Society's financial well-being.

6. Next Meeting

April 25, 2023, 6:00 pm

7. In Camera

The Board moved in camera at 7:45 pm and rose at 8:25 pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Martin Buckle, Chair

**Nicholas Kanhai,
Secretary**

Date

Date

