

THS Board Meeting (#9) Minutes

Tuesday, May 31, 2022, 6:00 pm
By Teleconference

Present: David Bronskill, Martin Buckle, Krista Bulmer, Damian Creber, Mark Dilworth, Yussef Hafez, Charissa Lai, Kathy McDonald, Bronwen Morgan, Peter Newell, Josh Shanahan, Nabila Tisha, Angela Young

Regrets: Malcolm Bernstein, Nicholas Kanhai

Staff: Jacques Messier, CEO, Phil Nichols, COO, Carol Boulding, Director, People & Culture, Tousmo Abi-Djama, Administrative Assistant, 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.

Moved: Martin Buckle Seconded: Krista Bulmer **... Carried.**

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of the April 26, 2022 meeting was deferred until the next meeting.

1.3 THAT the memberships from April 27, 2022 through May 31, 2022 and all timely renewal memberships be approved.

Moved: Krista Bulmer Seconded: Martin Buckle **... Carried.**

Nabila Tisha kindly volunteered to call the new members.

2. PetSmart Charities Update

Phil Nichols reported on a PetSmart symposium he attended in late April. Toronto Humane Society has been the beneficiary of generous grants from PetSmart over the past decade. However, the company has decided to narrow its focus and in the future applications for grants will be more tightly competitive. Phil is optimistic that Toronto Humane Society will be a candidate for future grants as the Society's strategic plan and PetSmart's messaging are well aligned. Charissa Lai offered her assistance to support this effort.

3. Feline Alternative Placement Policy

Phil Nichols reviewed the proposed Feline Alternative Placement policy and he and Bronwen Morgan responded to the Board's questions.

3.1 THAT the proposed Feline Alternative Placement policy be approved as presented.

Moved: Kathy McDonald

Seconded: Peter Newell

... Carried.

The Board expressed its appreciation to all who assisted in developing this policy, which will improve the lives of the cats.

4. Report on Employee Engagement Survey

Carol Boulding reviewed the results of the fourth annual survey of staff and responded to the Board's questions.

The Board thanked Carol for her comprehensive presentation.

5. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Board discussed the status of AGM preparations.

The following motion was proposed:

5.1 THAT KPMG be recommended to the members as auditor for Toronto Humane Society for the financial year ending December 31, 2022.

Moved: Charissa Lai

Seconded: Martin Buckle

... Carried.

6. CEO Report

Jacques Messier outlined the results of an advocacy initiative to prioritize five animal welfare issues in the upcoming provincial election. The Board thanked Jacques for his leadership on this issue.

Jacques reviewed the Society's financial position. While revenue is below budget, it is above last year at this time. Operations revenue has suffered as a result of reduced operations consistent with pandemic requirements. Two large bequests are expected in the weeks ahead.

Open House Toronto was well attended and a good public relations endeavour.

Jacques responded to the Board's questions.

Action Item: Jacques will report to the next Board Meeting on the state of the Car Park

Action item: the Chair to reach out to contacts for advice on Animal Welfare Advocacy

7. Committee Reports

Audit & Finance – Charissa Lai reported that the Committee has been working on the annual audit. The Committee is focusing on mandates for the Committee. A meeting with the Society’s investment advisor is upcoming and Charissa will report to the Board in due course.

Animal Welfare – Bronwen Morgan reported that the Committee met on May 11 and received a presentation about the adoption process and how it works during the pandemic. Phil Nichols reported to the Committee on the PetSmart symposium. A subcommittee is being established to focus on strategic issues in conjunction with the Society’s strategic plan.

Development – Josh Shanahan noted that the 50-50 draw was not as successful as the previous draws. The Committee will be reviewing the membership program. The members’ Town Hall at Paws in the Park will be in person August 6th towards the end of the day, and Krista Bulmer will lead the Board representation.

Governance – The deadline for Board nominations is June 10. Yussef Hafez will communicate with Board candidates, and he, Josh Shanahan and Krista Bulmer will co-ordinate as needed.

8. *In Camera*

The Board moved in camera at 7:35 pm and rose at 8.06pm.

9. *Next Meeting*

Tuesday, June 28, 2022, 6:00 pm

10. *Adjournment*

The meeting adjourned at 8.06pm.

Martin Buckle, Chair

Nicholas Kanhai, Secretary

Date

Date