

# THS Board Meeting (#8)

## Minutes

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 6:00 pm  
By Teleconference and In-Person

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

Staff: Jacques Messier, CEO, Phil Nichols, COO, Larissa Nagelberg, Division Manager, Community Sheltering & Animal Transport, Foster, Rescue Transport, Claudette Turner, Recording Secretary

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Martin Buckle called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

### ***1. Regular Business***

1.1 THAT the Agenda be approved.

Moved: Josh Shanahan

Seconded: Peter Newell

... **Carried.**

1.2 THAT the Minutes of the February 28, 2023 and March 28, 2023 Board meetings be approved.

MOVED: Martin Buckle

Seconded: David Bronskill

... **Carried.**

### ***2. Volunteer Survey Presentation***

Larissa Nagelberg reviewed the results of the annual foster parent survey from 2022. Feedback indicated the volunteers are appreciative of the onboarding and training processes and online information and resources. Areas for further development are in the areas of foster placements and communication with foster parents. These issues are currently being addressed. Larissa responded to the Board's inquiries and offered to provide additional data as requested. The Board thanked Larissa for her excellent presentation.

### ***3. Financial Reporting Discussion***

The Board discussed the financial reporting format, cash flow, investments, and legacy income. Fundraising continues to be under budget, while legacy income is over budget. Legacy income will be columned separately in future financial reporting to the Board. The Board asked to be advised of any significant drawdowns from the Society's investment portfolio. It was recommended that financial reports flag the top three positive and negative issues affecting the Society's financial position in that month. Management expects to have the March and April figures in time for the May meeting.

### ***4. AGM Update***

Martin Buckle advised that Nick Kanhai will not be standing for re-election for another term. Martin confirmed the number of seats available, skill sets required, and the status of Board candidate interest to date. He proposed the following motions:

- 4.1 THAT Toronto Humane Society set the cut-off date for new members as June 16, 2023.
- 4.2 THAT all those members who renew their expired memberships in accordance with Article 44 of the Society's Bylaw #1-2022 are confirmed as members in good standing of the Society for purposes of the 2023 AGM.
- 4.3 THAT the deadline for Board nominations be June 9, 2023.
- 4.4 THAT the Open House for Board Candidates to meet members be held concurrently with Paws in the Park on August 12, 2023.

Moved: Martin Buckle

Seconded: Josh Shanahan

... **Carried**

The Board discussed various other details of the AGM.

### ***5. CEO Report***

Jacques reported the good news that Max, a dog that was abandoned in a park because his owner could no longer look after him, has now been adopted by new owners. Max's plight, and the Society's efforts to locate his original owner and offer the Society's help, garnered a good deal of media attention and promoted the Society's temporary urgent care foster program.

The Board discussed the challenges for pet owners in the current economic environment and how the Society can best assist owners who are facing unstable financial circumstances. Jacques was requested to provide additional information regarding returns and surrenders.

Peter Newell expressed his gratitude for the Society's outreach and provision of necessities for pets at a downtown site with limited resources.

## ***6. Committee Reports***

**Audit & Finance** – Charissa Lai noted most financial items were covered earlier in the meeting. An audit meeting is scheduled for later in the week.

**Animal Welfare** – Krista Bulmer advised that the AWC had met recently. The Committee would like more information and data to measure how best to help resolve challenges with placements, vet care, adoptions and surrenders. The Committee will work on this going forward.

**Development** – Nabila Tisha encouraged Board members to participate in the golf tournament on June 28, and noted that corporate sponsors are needed. More information on the golf tournament will be forthcoming. Paws in the Park will be held on August 12. David Bronskill advised that his law firm has designated Toronto Humane Society as a beneficiary of an appreciation event it holds annually.

**Governance Committee** – The AGM and financial items were discussed under Items 3 and 4 above.

## ***7. Next Meeting***

May 30, 2023, 6:00 pm

## ***8. In Camera***

The Board moved in camera at 7:55 pm and rose at 8:25 pm.

## ***9. Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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**Martin Buckle, Chair**

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**Nicholas Kanhai, Secretary**

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**Date**

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**Date**