

THS Board Meeting (#8)

Minutes

Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 6:00 pm
By Teleconference

Present: Julie Barac, Alexandra Bratton, Liz Everett, Charissa Lai, Adrienne Macdonald, Josh Shanahan, Marcie Somers, Nabila Tisha, Roxanne Yanofsky

Staff: Phil Nichols, CEO; Abu Nana, Director of Finance; Melissa Shupak, Director, Animal Sheltering; Claudette Turner, Recording Secretary

Regrets: David Bronskill, Damian Creber, Mark Dilworth, Gary Milakovic, Alexandre Rochtchine

Adrienne Macdonald called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. She noted that Gary Milakovic advised that Board biographies should be completed this week.

1. Regular Business

1.1 THAT the Agenda be approved.

MOVED: Liz Everett Seconded: Alexandra Bratton **... Carried.**

1.2 THAT the Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Board meeting be approved as amended.

MOVED: Marcie Somers Seconded: Josh Shanahan **...Carried.**

1.3 THAT the new memberships and all timely renewals be approved.

MOVED: Roxanne Yanofsky Seconded: Marcie Somers **... Carried.**

Roxanne Yanofsky kindly volunteered to call the new members.

2. Financial Update

Abu Nana reported that the audit is complete and is expected to be ready in early May.

He advised that finances are on track. Income from dentistry is expected to improve with increased staffing.

Abu reported on the status of the satellite clinic.

3. CEO Update

Phil Nichols reported that the Society is partnering, under the Society's umbrella, with a veterinarian who is very experienced in community service delivery.

He advised that the satellite clinic site will be available in early July. An RFP will be issued for the construction, which will proceed when the necessary permits are received. It is expected that this preventative/wellness clinic, primarily for dogs and cats, will be functional by year-end.

Phil responded to the Board's questions.

4. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ADOPTION POLICY

Melissa Shupak outlined the proposed revisions to the Adoption Policy, which have been approved by the Animal Welfare Committee. These updates include improved clarity and consistency, flexible, transparent and practical language, inclusive client-centred language, and alignment with current best practices. Melissa noted that these revisions support the ongoing evolution of the adoption process to be more responsive, inclusive, and aligned with current standards in animal welfare. The changes reflect a client-centered, progressive approach that prioritizes both animal outcomes and community engagement.

4.1 THAT the updated Adoption Policy be approved.

MOVED: Adrienne Macdonald Seconded: Liz Everett

... Carried.

5. Nominations Task Force

Julie Barac reported that Board nominations are now closed. The task force will review the applications, conduct interviews, and bring a recommended slate of candidates to the May Board meeting for approval.

6. Committee Terms of Reference

Adrienne advised that she, Gary Milakovic, Josh Shanahan and Phil Nichols will be meeting in the days ahead to review the Committee Terms of Reference to harmonize and streamline them. An update will be provided to the Board in the weeks ahead.

7. Committee Reports

Animal Welfare – Liz Everett reported that the Committee met and discussed puppy and kitten mills and would work on recommendations to enhance proposed legislation.

Audit & Finance – Roxanne Yanofsky advised that the Investment Policy is being reviewed. Other Committee matters were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Development – Nabila Tisha updated the Board on Fundraising programs. She advised that corporate revenue is slightly under budget and that Board support may be needed. Charissa Lai reviewed an analysis showing good support from the retail and finance sectors. Staff will meet with Board members in the weeks ahead to discuss how best to leverage the Board's Fundraising capabilities. Phil Nichols and Roxanne Yanofsky are helping to co-ordinate meetings with the Board. Paws in the Park will take place on August 16, and the Humane Open on September 25.

Facilities – The Committee had no updates at this time.

Governance – Adrienne Macdonald advised that Governance matters had been covered earlier in the meeting.

Human Resources – Julie Barac advised that the Committee had no updates at this time.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 6:00 pm

10. In Camera

The Board moved in camera at 6:59 pm and rose at 7:02 pm.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Adrienne Macdonald, Chair

Gary Milakovic, Secretary

Date

Date