

**Oregon Coast Humane Society**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 8, 2023**  
**Vintage House**

**Present:**

Mary Henry, President; Judy Thibault, Vice President; Shauna Robbers, Secretary; Sandy Davidson, Treasurer; Cynthia Beck, Board Member; Maire Testa, Board Member; Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Director.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by President Mary Henry at 12:01 p.m.

**Check-in/Opening Thoughts/Kudos:**

Mary thanked everyone for the support she received during her absence.

Cynthia is enamored with the puppies she is fostering who are now three weeks four days old.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Sandy requested that an item be added to Executive Session.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes were sent out prior to the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

**Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee:**

**Financial Report:**

Sandy stated that our 2022 financial books are not finalized but will be soon. We appear to have a bit over \$6,000 left at end of year. Cynthia will report January numbers next meeting.

**Investment Update:** Elizabeth stated that she received a call from Fidelity, and they needed another box checked which will be done tomorrow. Cynthia explained that we are In process of opening the account and inquired about funding the account. The Finance Committee will meet to determine their recommended allocation of funds.

**Community Outreach Committee:**

**Committee Status:** Maire heads the Community Outreach Committee. Mary Conley has joined the committee, still waiting to hear from invited members. They will be formulating the charter. Currently, she is working on the OCHS website to put out fires as they come up.

**Listening Circles:** There have been two listening circles held. The takeaways are that 80% of the suggestions made were already things we are working on. It was recommended that we have public board meetings.

**Estate Sales:** Shauna sent a report prior to meeting. The last sale just closed with a gross of almost \$24,000. This is split with the client. Team is just starting work on a furniture sale which will be our first by appointment only sale and the garage has Henredon and Stickley Furniture.

**A brief break** started at 1 p.m. and meeting was back in session by 1:05p.m.

### **Animal Welfare Committee (AWC):**

Cynthia sent the Charter for the AWC to the board prior to the meeting. It was recommended to change the word "oversight" to "guidance" in the Charter. With that change, the Charter was approved. The Committee spent time talking about euthanasia and best practices; also about providing increased support for foster families.

### **Nominations/Board Development Committee:**

Shauna stated that it is time to speak with interested members about running for the board. July 1, 2023, the new board takes effect. On June 11 ballots are counted. On May 1 ballots are mailed to members first class and are due back by June 1, 2023.

### **Executive Director's Report (copied and entered):**

#### **YEAR TO DATE ADOPTIONS: 67!**

**ANIMAL UPDATES:** As of today, we have 113 animals in our care.

**JANUARY INTAKE:** 3 clinic animals, 44 owner surrenders (6 more Yorkie/chihuahuas from Siletz, 6 rabbits, 1 mom w/11 puppies that Cynthia is fostering - THANK YOU! 2 local adults with their 6 puppies, and a few cats/kittens), 6 returned adoptions (3 dogs, 3 cats), 18 strays, 16 transfer in), 1 protective custody.

**OUTCOME:** 57 adoptions, 3 clinic out, 11 return to owners, 2 euthanasia (one senior cat and one senior dog both brought in as strays at end of life), 13 transfer out (Cat Adoption Team).

#### **EVENTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES:**

\*OCHS received a \$15,000 grant from Three Rivers Foundation for community pets' spay/neuter support.

\*New keyholder hired at the thrift store - Rebecca Dunkin - stop in and welcome her!

\*Valerie from the team is transitioning to Community Outreach Coordinator - will cover estate sales in Shauna's absence, volunteer recruitment and training, humane education, etc.

\*Microchip/rabies vaccine clinic scheduled at OCHS on Saturday, February 18th from 10am-3pm. Veterinarian Katrina Essoe will attend. Ad in newspaper this week and next, and press release being sent out to the usual 61 media contacts. Fliers will be hung around town, too. Appointments are 10 minutes long and the team is prepared to accommodate two appointments at a time as needed. LCAS will be here selling licenses also.

\*Lane County Animal Services contract is in the works - we have sent the data they need and they'll discuss next week during their meeting. ET will update when we know more.

\*Vintage House bid coming from first contractor. He should have numbers by next week. There will be two bids from him: one for dry rot repair and one for interior updates to prepare the house to be a rental.

\*Handbook update has come from Cascade Employers - does anyone have time to review it besides ET? I can email it if so.

\*First two listening circles went well and there were a lot of takeaways. From the first group I learned that all of our good work needs to be shared on a larger scale - lots of the suggestions from the attendees of things to strive towards are already in the works here. From the second group I learned that our members and supporters want more transparency - open board meetings, easier access to financials, and regular updates on our programs and successes. Thank you to Maire for attending!

\*I would like to discuss having a public board meeting once a quarter or three times a year please. Can we schedule one for March or April? It's important to me that our supporters feel heard and included in the process.

\*Possible discussion about updating our mission statement to move away from "no kill" terminology. This wording is divisive and can make open admission shelters feel shamed when difficult decisions need to be made through no fault of the staff in a shelter taking in so many animals.

\*Talked with another veterinarian this weekend about doing some spay/neuter clinics for community cats especially related to TNR. Stay tuned for PUPDATES!

**STORY TO SHARE:** A new family moved to town and the father posted about wanting to find a play pal for his golden doodle, Buddy. No one responded to his post, so he posted it again. This time there were several responses and the OCHS told him about our dogs going out on day visits. Next thing you know, he's at the shelter five days a week and Buddy has plenty of new play companions. Buddy's the absolute best host. He shares his toys, his bed, and his treats with his visiting canine pals.

**Planning/Culture of Learning:**

Sandy presented a map of the shelter and surrounding acreage. We now have leased 8.66 acres from the county. Long range plans show us removing brush and levelling areas for more parking. In the future, it would be desirable to have increased space for veterinary services, a covered outside area, and ensuring our facilities are ADA compliant. Sandy met with city employee who said that they have pre-application meetings to help people prepare for building projects and permits. Sandy and Elizabeth will attend one of the city's Wednesday preapplication meetings. Sandy was informed if we pay \$2500 for a global permit that it never expires and exact plans don't need to be presented at time of purchase.

**Closing Thoughts:**

**Our Mission Statement:** Our current mission statement needs to be reworked. Board members agreed to look at mission statements from across the US and UK and compile them.

**Reminder:** On March 1, the OHS veterinarians are coming to evaluate our shelter operations, especially to suggest any updates to our infectious disease protocols.

**Next Meeting** will be Thursday, March 9 at noon at the Vintage House.

**Goodbye Judy Thibault** who gave her letter of resignation as she moving to Auburn, WA. One and all commended Judy for her many contributions. OCHS is a better place because of her dedicated service.

**Bon Voyage Shauna Robbers** who is taking an approved three-month leave of absence to travel the country with her husband in their RV.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.** and Executive Session was opened immediately thereafter.

Respectfully submitted,  
As amended by Maire Testa for  
ShaunaRobbers, Board Secretary