

**Oregon Coast Humane Society**  
**Open Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 13, 2023**  
**Bromley Room, Siuslaw Public Library**

**Present:** Mary Henry, President; Cynthia Beck, Treasurer; Board Members Lisa Mullins, Jill Simpson, Maire Testa, Joe Zarate; Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Director. Shauna Robbers, Vice President, Secretary and Board Member Heidi White were excused.

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Mary Henry at 11 a.m.

**Check-in/Opening Thoughts/Kudos:** President Mary Henry welcomed everyone and gave kudos to OCHS staff and director. She shared the information that she and Elizabeth learned on their trip to the Association for Animal Welfare 3-day meeting in Portland. Mary also explained the committee structure and asked for volunteers. She also welcomed new OCHS Board member Joe Zarate.

**Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** A copy of the minutes of the regular meeting was sent out prior to this meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed, Cynthia Beck abstaining.

**Board Secretary:** A motion to approve Maire Testa as Board secretary was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Finance Committee - Cynthia Beck**

Treasurer Cynthia Beck emailed the financial information package and a copy of the Financial Committee charter for the board to review prior to the meeting.

- Charter: Cynthia explained the essence of the charter. A motion to accept the Finance Committee charter as submitted was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- Financials: Cynthia reported that we are on a very sound financial footing and that we've met our target goals throughout the year. The Thrift Store is 15% over expectations, even without the Christmas Store. Adoptions and Clinic income are much more than projected. Despite rising costs, with the exception of medical costs, we've managed to keep within our budget. Interest income on investments is over \$30,000.
- Finance Budget Committee: Finalized 2024 budget and it will be presented at the January meeting.

**Executive Director's Report (copied, entered, and added to) – Elizabeth Thompson:**

**YEAR TO DATE ADOPTIONS: 665!**

**YTD Animals seen in clinics: 612! Lost animals returned to owners: 124!**

**ANIMAL UPDATES:** As of today, we have 75 animals in our care.

**NOVEMBER INTAKE:** 75 clinic animals (microchip/vaccine clinics), 5 owner surrenders (including two Bichons!), 4 returned adoptions (2 cats, 2 dogs), 12 strays (6 cats, 6 dogs), 32 transfers in (6 Veneta cats from hoarding property, 3 Texas dogs, 16 Cali hoarding property dogs, 6 Saving Gizmo's Cali dogs, 1 standard doodle from Marion County Animal Services).

**OUTCOME:** 48 adoptions (24 cats, 24 dogs) including three large dogs (Rennen, Echo, Hemi), 75 clinic out (microchip/vaccine clinics), 10 return to owners, 1 medical euthanasia (stray lab Pearl), 2 transfers out (small biting history dogs to Oregon Humane Society's Second Chance Program).

**EVENTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES:**

- Donations from the Jack Sparrow appeal letter are still arriving! We've received 91 donations totaling \$11,640. Holiday appeal letter was sent out this week.
- FOUR surgery days next week! Dr. Jaime Thurk and Dr. Nicole Pupich will be spaying and neutering on Tuesday & Wednesday, December 19-20. Dr. Schaad will be performing multiple dental procedures and other surgeries on Thursday & Friday, December 21-22. We need volunteers to help recover the animals after surgeries, and also to provide lunch each day for the volunteers and medical team.
- Donation jars have raised \$8,545 this year! We should reach \$9,000 by year end.
- Shorewood nail trims this week on Thursday, December 14th. We'll hand out information about A Plan for My Pets to all pet owners, too.
- FUUF's Animal Ministry program has begun, with OCHS receiving support for projects from the group. Their first project is to enroll their congregation members in A Plan for My Pets, and then work to enroll our entire community so every animal has a plan if they outlive their human.
- Mary and ET attended The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement's Annual Conference November 15-17 in Portland. We learned a lot and built great connections to help more animals.
- The Christmas Store closed for the season on Sunday after raising over \$20k for the animals! Special thanks to the volunteers for their efforts throughout the year that make this beloved Florence tradition so successful!
- The 2021 travel trailer donated in memory of OCHS Board Member Ken Huettl sold for \$26,000.
- Pictures with Santa Paws end today with our third and final event at Mini Pet Mart. So far, the pictures have raised \$792. Thanks to Mini Pet Mart and Florence Shipping Solutions for hosting us during these events.
- Volunteer celebration taking place Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Vintage House
- Community Outreach Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup>
- Fundraising Gala to take place in September
- Listening Circles to begin next year

**Strategic Planning Committee – Lisa Mullins**

Chairperson Lisa Mullins announced that the committee will be formulating short- and long-term strategic plan to cover all areas of OCHS for one to six years. The committee has recognized five items deemed most important to work on: vet care; building; fundraising; community outreach; board development. The committee will be asking for input by sending out a questionnaire to the community, asking for input from staff and volunteers, to help establish future goals.

**Break at 11:57 a.m., called back to order at 12:07 p.m.**

### **Fundraising and Marketing**

Mary announced the division of the Community Outreach Committee to Community Outreach and Public Information. Community Outreach is now co-chaired by Heidi White and Joe Zarate.

### **Community Outreach – Joe Zarate**

New board member and committee co-chair Joe Zarate shared a bit of his background. He reported that his business (Florence Shipping Solutions) was the second business to host adoptable pets and 20 cats have been adopted because of this hosting. He also reported that the committee is meeting Friday. They do have several ideas that they will be discussing and moving forward with such as working on other businesses to host animals and Pet Adoption Day on the sidewalk from Shipping Solutions to City Lights Cinema.

### **Public Information – Maire Testa**

Committee chair Maire Testa outlined the purpose of the committee, that being the written word, including our website and newsletter. The committee will be working with OCHS outreach team. The goal is to educate the public on the shelter. Committee is being formed, currently has three members.

### **Animal Welfare Committee – Cynthia Beck**

Committee chair Cynthia Beck reflected on the past year. The biggest impact was a visit from Shelter Medicine Vets from Portland's Oregon Humane Society who performed an in-depth evaluation on our shelter practices. The in-depth report was mostly favorable. Policies put in place: under no circumstances does an animal leave the shelter without being spayed or neutered; all routine shots given to every animal when they come in. Future items include improving cat premises by separating eating, sleeping and litter boxes; improving our volunteer dog walking program and sitting and interacting with dogs; continuing to expand the TNR program for colony cat. The committee has discussed how to improve veterinary care both for the shelter and the community. Cynthia announced her resignation as chairperson since she is now Finance Committee chair, and that board member Jill Simpson is taking on the role of chair. Cynthia will still take on an active role in the committee.

**Closing thoughts:** President Mary Henry thanked those in attendance and asked anyone with questions, ideas, or concerns to contact her or any member of the board. She also spoke of gratitude for the members, adopters, volunteers, staff, the board, and especially Executive Director Elizabeth Thompson, who all help to carry this organization to new heights. Cynthia Beck thanked Mary Henry for her wonderful guidance as board president.

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Maire Testa, Secretary