

Oregon Coast Humane Society

Board Meeting, February 8, 2024

Offices of T.R. Hunter Real Estate

Minutes: Taken by Cynthia in Maire's absence.

Present: Mary Henry, President; Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Director; Cynthia Beck, Treasurer; Lisa Mullins, Jill Simpson, Heidi White, Board members;

Excused: Shauna Robbers, Vice President; Maire Testa, Secretary; Joe Zarate, Board member

Meeting called to order at 10.07 by Mary Henry.

Approval of agenda: Agenda submitted prior to meeting. Motion to accept proposed, seconded and carried.

Approval of minutes: A copy of the January minutes had been submitted prior to meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and carried with 5 approvals and one abstain (Cynthia had not been at prior meeting)

Treasurer's report: (Since completion of the budget the finance committee has not met.) Reporting of our financials is still a bit behind, but our bookkeeper, Todd is clearly making progress. He has been focusing on January books and has yet to catch up on November and December 2023, especially with respect to categorizing income. Cynthia took the position of looking at deposits to our checking account for those two months to demonstrate that we remain in a very good position financially and finished the year with a surplus of income over expenditures, not including over \$37000 in interest income. Jill asked what those uncategorized deposits consisted of. They would be across all categories except Endowments and Trusts and Grants. The year end statements for all of our accounts (Fidelity, LPL, and OPB) were presented for the board members to review. We have multiple accounts at OPB each carrying a balance. Only regular checking is in current use. The board decided that within the next 60 days we will review how each of these accounts should be operating and also give consideration to the LPL investment account, which has recovered substantially from the market-wide downturn.

It was noted that a CD is maturing in March. Mary moved that the treasurer does not need to seek approval from the board each time a CD matures to re-invest these funds in essentially the same vehicle, i.e. another CD. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Cynthia explained that in January two large deposits, one from WLCF as expected, and another a generous estate distribution had pushed up our checking account balance by over \$100,000. It was agreed to move \$100K to the Fidelity account into a Treasury money market fund.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Lisa reported that since there is a consensus that we should strive towards building a new shelter on a new site, much of the focus of the committee has been towards this long term goal, with an emphasis on brainstorming what should be in the shelter. They are going to draw up a rough draft of a plan, just to get a starting point. Lisa noted that shorter-term goals have yet to be worked into the committee

agenda. Also needed is a decision on when to loop the shelter staff in on the proposals and consensus on how it will be paid for. Mary noted that we were on track to bring on 2 part time admin staff when we have space to put them. The sense of the board is: We look forward to the new modular unit and the new staff in helping move the organization forward.

Community Outreach:

Heidi reported that she, co-chair Joe and the other members had enjoyed a productive lunch meeting. Their main focus is on the Gala which will be held in September. Joe is following up on an M/C . Some suggestions as to possibilities for this role were also made. Mary hoped the board members would each be able to sponsor a table. We are also hoping for business sponsorships, to our mutual benefit.

Public Information/ Communications:

Mary (In Maire's absence) explained that this committee is currently working on our annual report, figuring out the content and layout, to be mailed out in March. They are working on a new logo which will be trademarked to give some protection to our brand. Updating the website to improve its functionality is ongoing.

Mary has been working on her upcoming presentation for our significant new program, A Plan for Your Pets. To start with, the presentation will be made in conjunction with the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Care committee and Animal welfare ministry. It is open to members of the public. When implemented fully the program will expand to include other local groups, and dog and cat parents in our community who have enrolled in the program will have guarantees for pet care in the case of illness, disability or death.

Nominations

The board has been asked to consider what skill sets we would like to see represented on the board. We currently have 8 board members, and our charter allows up to twelve. Some examples would be a vet, lawyer, architect, educator. Proposed board members must be members of the OCHS for a minimum of 60 days up to the time of our AGM at the end of June. The board members agreed that whomever was nominated would ideally have a longer-term presence and history in the community as our current board members are mostly recent transplants. Candidate ideas should be given to Elizabeth for consideration.

Animal Welfare:

Jill reported that the cat portals which have been the subject of discussion for some time have been ordered, and Elizabeth confirmed that they have actually been delivered. Lisa asked what are cat portals and was given an explanation of how they expand and improve the individual housing of cats in the shelter.

A high volume mainly neuter, but also spay of community cats (named Snippity Doo Dah) is planned for March, provided our newest contracted vet Dr. Thurk, is available.

Jill also reported on the volunteer mentor program which will pair new dog walker volunteers with an experienced volunteer with the aim of making sure new volunteers feel valued, supported, know how to

get around the shelter and the trails, and also ensuring we provide consistent handling of our dogs while out walking.

Discussion:

Fur, Feathers, Animal Parts: A dilemma for our estate sales team and thrift store staff:

BACKGROUND:

Our thrift store and our estate sale team are presented with the option of receiving donations of items made of fur, feathers or other animal parts. As an organization dedicated to the prevention of cruelty to animals, this presents a dilemma. Shall we protect and empower everyone at OCHS with a clear policy to fall back on, especially when dealing with well-meaning members of the public? This is a thorny issue, requiring careful consideration, for example:

AGAINST ACCEPTING SUCH DONATIONS:

- ☐ Animals are raised in sometimes inhumane conditions and then killed specifically for the purpose of creating furs. By benefitting from the resale of these items we are contributing to public acceptance of this cruelty.
- ☐ Resale of parts and certain fur or feathers can result in violations of federal and international laws governing trade in endangered species.

FOR ACCEPTING SUCH DONATIONS:

- ☐ The animals whose pelts or parts are being resold are already dead. Doesn't it make sense to allow their remains to be used to benefit living animals? Some people suggest donating furs to humane organizations for this specific reason.
- ☐ Such a ban presents a complication in dealing with thrift store donors or prospective clients when contracting for an estate sale.

We are not the first nor the last to navigate this issue, but we are elected to serve as the voice of this community. Each of us comes from different backgrounds and experiences; together we can make an informed choice for our organization. For your consideration, here are two possible draft policies for us to discuss:

“With the exception of food, wool, or leather goods like shoes or belts from farm animals such as cows, pigs, chickens and sheep, neither OCHS nor our

representatives shall accept donations or resell on our behalf animal parts, including fur, feathers, hides, ivory or taxidermy. This policy governs all activities, including the Thrift Store, estate sales, online merchandising, and event auctions.”

OR

“When accepting fur, feathers, or other animal parts, we shall not place the items on display in our store or at our estate sale. Instead, we shall consign them to a specialty dealer who will sell the items on our behalf.”

Board members had a thoughtful discussion which, as anticipated, reflected our various backgrounds. It was agreed that there is a need for a clear policy. The easy part is that we cannot act in violation of federal and state laws – but team members need to know the law. There was general consensus that we should not be selling these sensitive items either at our estate sales or in the Thrift store or other outlet associated with OCHS. But what to actually do with donations that don’t violate any laws, is more nuanced. We need to give due consideration to the backgrounds of our donors, bearing in mind that some of these items may have been handed down through the generations. The board felt that the wording of such a policy should not be rushed, and so adoption of a policy was deferred until the April board meeting.

Executive directors report: Elizabeth Thompson.

Since we were running over time, and Elizabeth had sent everyone a copy of her comprehensive report before the meeting, the board accepted the report as read. Lisa asked about what appeared to be a higher than usual number of returns (five dogs, five cats) Elizabeth agreed that this was higher than usual and explained the issues involved with these pets. The report is included in full below.

Meeting adjourned 12.07 pm.

EDs report for OCHS BOARD MEETING 2-8-24

YEAR TO DATE ADOPTIONS: 44

ANIMAL UPDATES: As of today we have 77 animals in our care.

JANUARY INTAKE: 6 clinic animals (all OCHS small dogs who were adopted before receiving

their dental cleanings), 42 owner surrenders (12 cats, 30 dogs including a LOT of puppies), 10 returned adoptions (5 cats, 5 dogs), 11 strays (6 dogs and 5 cats), 8 transfers in (all Cali dogs sent by Saving Gizmo's Friends).

OUTCOME: 39 adoptions (22 cats, 17 dogs including Sugar Magnolia the almost feral mama dog who came from California and was transformed while in her foster home), 6 clinic out, 2 return to owners, 2 transfers out (1 dog swapped to Saving Grace in Roseburg, one stray from Lane County sent to Greenhill), 3 medical euthanasias (Jazzie, a dog actively dying when she arrived at EVH with 8 other dogs surrendered to OCHS; Ginger, a stray lab who was suffering upon arrival and rushed to Veneta but continued to decline; and Burkley, a small dog with tumors, a missing eye, and rotting jaws from lack of veterinary care in his lifetime).

EVENTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES:

*Vet updates: Dr. Schaad came for three clinic days in January and saw only OCHS animals - most requiring more critical care. Dr. Thurk from Bend is here for two days this week to perform cat spay/neuters of community cats.

*OCHS is now signed up for Hill's Food, Shelter and Love program where we receive Hill's pet food to feed to our shelter pets at an incredible discount - along with adoption bags of cat/dog food for new families, etc. This is going to allow us to feed high quality food at an affordable price!

*Holiday appeal letter featuring Echo and Joker has brought in 97 donations totaling \$10,635 so far.

*ET attended the Florentine Estates board work session on January 15th to discuss OCHS volunteers monitoring the gates for a community garage sale in the summer. An entry fee will be required at the gates, with all money raised going to the animals in our care.

*We held an all-team training on January 18th. We rolled out the new handbook, discussed policies and procedures, and covered DEI/bullying/harassment training. Thanks to Jill Simpson and volunteers for managing the shelter during our training event.

*Valerie and some incredible volunteers emptied a home in Florentine Estates with less than 48 hours notice in January. The home belonged to a woman whose dog received care at OCHS in 2021. We'll be hosting a sale at the Vintage House of her crafts supplies including tens of thousands of dollars worth of beads, yarn, and fabric. We filled an entire storage unit with her donations!

*Valerie and volunteers took adoptable animals to Business After Hours at Florence Shipping Solutions

on February 1st - great feedback from the community and at least one adoption because of the exposure - Stevie, the bulldog who'd been with us for a few months. Thanks to Joe and Shipping Solutions for hosting us!

*Estate sale happened at the Vintage House February 2-4. This was the partial contents from a Khlanee home (their gated community does not allow estate sales) and some vintage furniture from another family. Total sales: \$4,911.75. Khlanee estate raised \$3921.25 (there is a dump run and a shipping fee to deduct for their half of the proceeds), vintage furniture estate raised \$542.50, and OCHS merchandise raised \$503. Thrift store sales over that weekend were \$2984.67 - a really strong sales weekend for this time of year.

*Our next sale at the Vintage House will be a collection of vintage items from a home in Florentine Estates - hats, clothing, furniture, dishes, and more. That sale will be held the weekend of the Wine and Chowder Trail (February 16-18). This is being done before starting work on that home in Florentine for an estate sale there.

*Siuslaw News can no longer sponsor every Pet of the Week ad for OCHS. We are seeking sponsors for 2 weeks a month at \$45/issue. This is posted on Facebook and we will start contacting businesses to sponsor soon.

*THIS WEEK! A Plan for My Pets event is happening at FUUF (Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship) from 1-3pm. Mary Henry and attorney Scott Bailey will discuss this document, and Stanley and FUUF's Animal Ministry will share about how their mission aligns with this particular program. Thanks to KXCR for hosting Mary and Elizabeth for interviews, and to KLCC in Eugene for hosting Elizabeth for an interview. We are already seeing a great response - ET is mailing or emailing forms to anyone interested.

*Boys and Girls Club Fraudville fundraiser is March 1st. We have found a sponsor and will be presenting a lip synch band again.

*OCHS will be hosting a Business After Hours through the Florence Chamber on Thursday, March 7th at the thrift store. Valerie and the thrift store team are working on raffle prizes and fun events. We'll bring shelter pets, too. We need wine and food sponsors/donors also.

*Spring/Summer hours at the shelter and thrift store start on Sunday, March 10th. We will begin staying open until 5pm at that time, aside from Sundays at the thrift store when we'll continue to close at 4pm.

*Our next open board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13th at 11am in the Bromley Room at the Siuslaw Public Library.