

THS Board Meeting (#6)

Minutes

Thursday, November 17, 2016, 7:00 pm
11 River Street, Toronto, Ontario

Present: David Bronskill, Shannon Cameron, Amanda Frank, Lisa Gibbens, Cathy Kinloch, Kathy McDonald, Bronwen Morgan, Andy Robling, Dominique Rouselle, Stephen Steele, Monika Sudds

By teleconference: Gillian Armstrong, Shelley Austin, Diana Pizzola

Regrets: Keren Troyna

Non-voting: Jacques Messier, Tiffany Wong

1. Regular Business

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

1.1 THAT the agenda be approved.

Moved: Kathy McDonald Seconded: Dominique Rouselle **Carried.**

1.2 THAT the memberships dated October 6-November 17, 2016 and all timely renewals received in the past month are hereby approved.

Moved: Lisa Gibbens Seconded: Bronwen Morgan **Carried.**

1.3 THAT the minutes of the October 6, 2016 Board meeting be approved.

Moved: Andy Robling Seconded: Shelley Austin **Carried.**

Bronwen Morgan kindly offered to call and welcome the new members.

Several upcoming Board and Committee meetings were scheduled:

- Animal Welfare Committee – December 1, 2016
- Governance Committee – December 5, 2016
- Strategic Planning Committee – December 12, 2016
- Annual General Meeting Task Force – December 19, 2016
- Board meeting – January 12, 2017

2. CEO Report & Questions

The CEO updated the Board on a generous bequest from an individual who adopted from THS, and informed the Board of the launch of a new in-shelter program where school children read to the animals.

In response to a request from the Board, he also provided a briefing on the stray hold process vis-à-vis THS and TAS and answered some concerns about recent staffing changes in the intake and behaviour departments. The Board then discussed balancing operational and colony caretaker interests in the spay/neuter clinic.

3. Board Retreat

The Board again expressed its thanks to Malcolm Bernstein and Jacqueline Valmont for facilitating the Board retreat. A summary will be forthcoming shortly.

4. Committee Business

The Animal Welfare Committee presented the Foster Care Policy for the Board's approval. Discussion led to minor revisions referencing the current practice of giving foster parents access to food, litter and medications and clarifying the definition of a foster animal. The Board approved the policy with thanks to the Committee for their work.

4.1 THAT the Foster Care Policy be approved as amended.

Moved: Diana Pizzola

Seconded: Shannon Cameron

Carried.

The Animal Welfare Committee also noted that the current Intake Policy has resulted in special needs and behavioural animals being over-represented in THS' population, which places increased demand on veterinary and foster resources. And while there are hundreds of animals on foster, many of the cages in the shelter are empty. It was decided that the Board should discuss the changing animal welfare environment in Toronto – such as the shortage of easily adoptable dogs – and the implications and options for THS. The Board tasked the Executive Committee with developing an appropriate process to discuss this complex issue.

The Annual General Meeting Task Force informed the Board that it is working on the by-law amendments and related guidelines recommended by the Electoral Reform Task Force, with a goal to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of future AGMs.

The Governance Committee continues to look at key operational policies, to ensure we are compliant with legislative requirements such as accessibility and health & safety. February's Board meeting is expected to include significant briefings from staff on fundraising and on human resources. Simultaneously, the Committee is developing a formal CEO review policy and process, and is revisiting the information staff report to the Board, to reduce the volume of data while adding analysis and meaning. Both should come to the Board in the first quarter of 2017.

The Issues Oversight Committee is also reviewing what information it needs to work effectively, including data on long stay animals, euthanasias and barn placements.

The Strategic Planning Committee presented the high level strategic plan and budget assumptions for the Board's approval, on the premise that the Committee will continue to develop measureable goals and the 2017 budget for the Board's approval in January. The reserve fund continues to grow, and THS is in a much better financial position than five years ago, but THS' reliance on bequests for a significant portion of its funding still proves a challenge. As a result, while the strategic plan includes many projects, each project is only implemented when funding allows.

4.2 THAT the 2017-22 Strategic Plan and budget assumptions be approved in principle.

Moved: Andy Robling

Seconded: Stephen Steele

Carried.

5. *Adjournment*

5.1 THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:17pm

Moved: Andy Robling

Seconded: Dominique Rouselle

Carried.

David Bronskill, Chair

Lisa Gibbens, Secretary

Date

Date