

**The Dane County Humane Society
Board of Directors Meeting
January 17, 2007**

Board Attendees: Ellen Markey, Dr. Sara Orvick, Jan Viney, Cathy Holmes, Bridget Bush, Pam Tauscher Coshun, Ellyn Mohs, Gary Godding, John Bloodgood

Staff: Pam McCloud Smith

Call to order: 11:10 A.M.

Motion to accept the December 2006 board meeting minutes as amended by Bridget Bush. Seconded by Gary Godding. No discussion, motion carried.

Financial Update: Bridget Bush

- Donations came in higher than expected.
- Dividends are up.
- Memberships are above the projected amount.
- Legal fees are way up (Lowrey Pit Bull legal issues).
- Cruelty and neglect amounts high (Lowrey Pit Bull legal issues).
- There has been a significant savings in personnel expenditures.

Notes: It is clear that the Lowrey Pit Bull fallout has made our financial outlook worse as we are going to have to dip into our investments to pay our bills this month. Even given this exceptional event and this large cost, we still appear to be operating close to budget for the year.

Executive Director Update – Pam McCloud Smith

Angela Rhodes has been hired and is starting as Resource Manager at the end of January. Her first few weeks will involve getting to know the shelter and its operations and starting the list of things that have been waiting since the position was vacated. Pam looks forward to working with her on goal setting and introducing her to the staff who will be working under her leadership.

Since the last board meeting Pam has not had any correspondence from the Schuster family regarding the feral cat bite. We hope this issue has been resolved.

County Contract Changes – Pam has been working with an attorney specializing in employee law in regards to severances packages for the Humane Officers who will be losing their positions under DCHS because of the County Contract changes. This department continues to struggle with the change and Pam plans on meeting with them individually during this transition. DCHS plans on hiring a County Animal Resource Coordinator to help facilitate the new DCHS and County relationship.

DCHS has recently partnered with the Thompson Correctional Institute to bring inmates in the help with some of the daily activities (mostly cleaning) at a minimal cost. Starting in March DCHS is looking forward to the help of some of these inmates in training of dogs with behavior problems. We feel it is a win/win situation that will help dogs that are otherwise hard to place and will benefit the inmates as well.

Other items of note -

- There will be a seminar given by Peter Marsh through U.C. Davis (set up through Sandra Newbury) on Saturday February 10. The topic is "Solutions to Over Population of Pets".
- The incinerator is being fixed today (again).
- There is a new mural in the gift shop and new cages were donated by Cages by Design for the reptile area.
- Web Development – Pam met with someone who will do web development for us and is going to be put in contact with Bethany. Hopefully it will be done by April 1st.

County Contract

Cathy sent a handout to the board for cost estimates incurred for handling the stray animals. In the past, DCHS only budgeted for strays, it did not include impounds or E.M.S. services. Now the contract will reflect these.

Also, the Humane Officer contract extension will be signed and in effect through February 2007.

Lowrey Update – The Civil lawsuit trial begins on Tuesday January 23. We are hopeful that the result of this trial will be the surrender of the dogs or at the very least to get the bond.

Legislative Update – Ellen Markey

Ellen is continuing to work with a number of people who have shown interest on various legislative issues.

Finance Committee Update – Cathy Holmes

Audit will end today with the results to be reported in February.

Development Committee Update – Jan Viney

There is a Development Committee meeting on Friday with Amy Overby of the Madison Community Foundation and Tom Dott of Associated Bank.

Filling open Board Seats – Cathy Holmes

The Board had a discussion on the possibility of adding additional seats on the Board. To do this the bylaws will need to be changed and be approved at the Annual Meeting in June. Ellyn Mohs will try and draft the bylaws with some possible changes to be discussed at next month's meeting.

Action items for next month:

- *Discuss the board seats as referenced above. Come with questions.*
- *Everyone should come with their skill matrix (what each member brings to the board).*
- *Board goals should also be looked over and assessed. Be ready to talk about them.*

Respectfully Submitted By,

**Ellyn Mohs
DCHS Board Secretary**