

Animal Shelter Board Minutes- January 5, 2022

Present: Bobby Little, Warren Auxier, Ray Denning, Hannah Fagen, Sue Stack, Kathy Scroggins, and Lindsay Stultz (Animal Shelter Director).

Call to order: Bobby Little Called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Bobby Little asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2021, meeting. Warren Auxier made a motion, and Ray Denning second the motion. The motion was passed with unanimous board approval.

Election of Officers: Warren Auxier nominated Ray Denning as president. The nomination was seconded, and Ray was appointed president. Bobby Little was appointed vice president, and Hannah Fagen was appointed secretary.

New Business:

Animal Shelter Assistant Manager Update: Lindsay Stultz reported that cat numbers are significantly down, with only 25 cats in the shelter at this time. There are 22 dogs, with two pre-adopted. Lindsay shared that Joy Barron assisted in the care of the cats due to cases of upper respiratory infection, and since the treatment, there have not been any cases. She also shared that intake cats are now being separated and isolated for three days to prevent the spread of sickness.

Warren asked about the pre-adoption policy and whether we can encourage people to move forward with taking the cat home. Lindsay shared that the only cats remaining at the shelter that are pre-adopted are those adopted under the old policy. From now on, cats can be taken home immediately. Lindsay shared that those adopting cats that are not spayed/neutered can set up the appointment during the adoption process. Lindsay is following up to ensure these animals are fixed. Warren suggested moving forward with collecting the spay/neuter fee to incentivize people to move forward with that appointment.

Lindsay shared that the foster program is going well and that the four dogs that were fostered became foster fails (their fosters adopted them).

Lindsay shared that there are currently three full-time employees and one part-time employee, and she advertised for a part-time position.

Warren asked about a regular open schedule, and Lindsay shared that her goal is by the end of the month with a schedule of Closed Sunday and Monday or Monday and Tuesday.

Lindsay shared a situation with a woman hitting a stray, and she was under the impression that a shelter staff member would show up at her house to pick up the dog.

Lindsay shared that she will never send her staff to someone's home to pick up a dog/cat.

Old Business:

County Animal Control: Warren brought up a previous discussion of moving county animal control under the supervision of the shelter. Ray shared that the official capacity would have to be under an elected official, but the sheriff can assign him to be under the animal shelter director. Warren asked Lindsay her thought, and she shared that she was not confident that it would benefit her.

Work session: Hannah Fagen brought up past discussion of holding a work session to discuss shelter policy and procedures. Lindsay stated she would be open to having the board's assistance. She stated she could write policies and send them to the board or schedule a meeting. Warren stated he likes the idea of the policies originating from the director. The board agreed to have Lindsay work on policies and email them for review.

Trap Neuter Release Program: Hannah Fagen shared she has researched a trap neuter release program and has been in touch with an organization willing to partner with our city. The cost would be \$30 a cat and include all care needed. Hannah shared this program would be willing to talk with the board about this program. Hannah also shared that this program shared information on a grant we can apply for, the Maude Foundation Grant. Warren expressed concerns over these programs and expressed that this is not a way to care for animals.

Humane Society Funding: Hannah Fagen asked Warren when the Humane Society decided to pull the \$45 funding provided to the animal shelter to help offset the cost of cat adoptions. Warren shared that the board met in December but cannot remember the exact date. He shared that the Humane Society does not want to meet publicly or release their names. Tami Hagemier (member of the public) shared that the board comprises of donors, and if the public has concerns, they need to contact her. Hannah asked Warren why this decision would be made privately if the Humane Society is so concerned with the community cat population. Warren shared that the Humane Society has received numerous outside requests to assist with needs; he also shared that if the county has not used the total budget in the past, the Humane Society does not need support. Hannah made a plea to the public to be aware that the money given to the Humane Society is not going to support the local shelter and instead donate directly to the animal shelter because the board has stepped up and made changes. Lindsay has started a foster program, and the animals are being adopted very quickly. Tami requested Hannah meet with her in private rather than have a public conversation. Lindsay shared that we should all have the same goals in mind and that animals should always come first. She stated the Animal shelter and Humane Society should have the same ultimate goals in mind for the welfare of the animals. Tami stated the Humane Society could not have the same goals as the shelter, and the Humane Society serves a

different purpose. Tami stated that until changes occur at the shelter, the Humane Society will not help fund the shelter. Tami also stated that the animal shelter solicits funds to go to an unknown area at which Lindsay shared these are donation requests, not a solicitation. Tami reiterated that the Humane Society does not share the same goals as the shelter. Lindsay stated things are taken care of differently, but the ultimate goal should be the same. Warren stated that the Humane Society decision was made due to how the shelter has been run over the last two to three years. Warren shared issues with the lack of information given to the humane society. Hannah stated that she has concerns with the Humane Society making this decision before giving Lindsay a chance and that Warren, as a board member, knew that difficult decisions have been made and that the board is trying to turn around the shelter. Warren stated it's not this board's decision where the Humane Society's money goes.

Outdoor Kennels: Bobby Little shared that we now have 22 outdoor kennels but need another concrete slab poured. Lindsay asked about a perimeter fence, and Bobby shared this quote was \$9000 for a 6-foot fence, but we need to find the funding. Lindsay shared that she would like to put a roof on each kennel because some dogs jump.

Funding/New Building: Hannah stated that she wants Lindsay to work on a budget so that all shelter needs are met each budget year, and all extra's/donations can be applied to extra amenities. Ray stated he would work on this with Lindsay. Lindsay shared that she is still tracking down the paper trails.

Vet Care: Hannah asked about microchipping and vetting animals when they arrive/leave the shelter. Lindsay shared this is happening. Hannah asked about the partnership with other local vet clinics to help alleviate Joy Barron. Lindsay shared that she would like to work on this with a different vet coming to the shelter monthly, but we will need to find a way to compensate the vets. Warren shared that we have more reasonable pricing out of town in Carroll County. He also shared that the lack of after-hours vet care is not available. Warren suggested starting a program where vets are compensated to provide vet services at the shelter. Warren also shared that local vets do not favor low-cost spay and neuters because this takes away from their business. He stated they finally realized that the need is so high they are not losing business.

Lindsay shared some issues with the snip clinics because of unpaid bills, but these bills are now up to date. Lindsay shared that she would like to offer the snip clinic every other week or month due to traveling time. Warren suggested bringing a proposal to local vets to provide them an opportunity to provide their pricing.

Other old Business: Warren stated that the shelter is cluttered and needs to be cleaned up. Lindsay agreed and shared she would like to have a sterile medical room. She asked if we had a timeline for the possibility of the new building. Ray stated this had been a discussion for some time, and he would like to form a committee to get moving on a new building.

Hannah asked about volunteers. Lindsay stated she would love to have volunteers and will arrange for the training of volunteers. She stated Hanover College is sending four volunteers to help one day. Warren stated he would love to have the prisoners back, helping with the shelter.

Lindsay stated she would love to partner with Hanover College and their vet tech program.

Valerie shared that there have been issues with the internet and phone service preventing answering phones and posting on social media/updating the website. Lindsay shared two technicians have been out over the last month.

Warren and Tami again suggested collecting the fee for spay and neuter at the time of adoption, which Hannah agreed with. Lindsay agreed this is something she would be willing to do. Tami suggested calling and scheduling the appointment for the day after adoption. Lindsay stated this is something she has been doing, and those adopting the animals are picking the animals up directly from the vet office.

Hannah asked about rescue partnerships, and Lindsay shared that three dogs and one cat have been sent to a rescue. She stated she would contact rescues she used to work with as well.

Public Comment: A member of the public expressed concerns with the Humane Society pulling funding which has increased the cat adoption fee to \$80. She stated that she is fearful this will result in a decrease in adoption and asked that the Humane Society reconsider. Tami said the Humane Society will not. Lindsay stated if she can get vet costs down, she will decrease the cost of adoptions again. Tami suggested asking the county for additional funds to help with the cost of vet care.

Another member of the public asked about the animal shelter budget and why there is no oversight on the county side. Ray explained that Jenny proposed the budget approved by the county council. She also mentioned the loss of money to the county by not turning in receipts from the hoarding situation.

Future Meetings: Warren suggested moving the meeting time of board meetings to 6 or 5:30. The board agreed on 5:30.

Adjournment: Hannah Fagen made a motion to adjourn, and Ray denning made a second. The motion was passed with unanimous board approval, and the meeting was adjourned.