THS Board Meeting (#3)
Minutes

Monday, August 25, 2014, 7:00 pm
11 River Street, Toronto

Present: David Bronskill, Elizabeth Cabral, Lisa Gibbens, Carol Hroncek, Cathy Kinloch, James LaPlante, Dean Maher, Colette Miller, Bronwen Morgan, Peter Newell, Diana Pizzola, Wendy Strickland

Regrets: Jennifer Downe, Marcie Laking, Stephen Steele

Non-Voting: Jacques Messier

1. Regular Business

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

1.1 THAT the agenda be approved as written.

Moved: Bronwen Morgan Seconded: Peter Newell Carried.

1.2 THAT the minutes of July 28, 2014 be approved as amended.

Moved: Carol Hroncek Seconded: Dean Maher Carried.

1.3 THAT the memberships dated July 26 – August 25, 2014 and all timely renewals received in the past month are hereby approved.

Moved: Wendy Strickland Seconded: Bronwen Morgan Carried.

Wendy Strickland offered to call and welcome the new members.

2. CEO Report

Although the final dollar amounts were still being tallied, Paws in the Park saw more participants, more vendors and more sponsors than last year. The event went extremely well, with perfect weather and hundreds of cheerful volunteers and walkers. The Board thanked Cathy Kinloch for arranging many of the silent auction items, congratulated the many Directors who participated – five of whom were among the top 10 fundraisers – and lauded Kat Berington, for raising an outstanding $6,000.

2.1 THAT Kat Berington receive an honourary 2014-15 THS annual membership for outstanding fundraising at Paws in the Park.

Moved: Cathy Kinloch Seconded: David Bronskill Carried.
Working with its animal welfare and airline partners, THS brought in 19 Chihuahuas from California who are expected to be adopted extremely quickly. As the process went well, arrangements are being made for a second transfer in September. Similarly, in recognition of THS’ and volunteers Dominique and Luc Rousselle’s work rescuing Thai street dogs, treating their medical and behavioural needs and rehoming them in Toronto, Thailand’s Consul General presented THS with a cheque and their thanks.

The CEO updated the Board on some changes to shelter operations and staffing arrangements to enhance intake processing, behavioural programs, special species adoptions and the spay/neuter clinic.

A six-month review of progress against the strategic plan revealed that many tactics are well underway. The total number of animals helped is significantly above the target increase of 5% and although total revenue growth is currently below the 5% target, many of THS’ major fundraisers occur in the latter half of the year. Baseline measures of stakeholder satisfaction have yet to be determined, while total media reach is greater than the same time last year.

The Toronto Feral Cat Coalition and the feral cat recovery centre updated their terms of reference, including the geographic area and type of cats they serve, how delegates are selected and appropriate delegate conduct. All Coalition delegates must now be representatives of animal welfare agencies; THS remains a member of the Coalition, with staff representing and speaking for THS.

The CEO provided a brief update on the renovation progress at the Humane Society of Durham Region and that Durham’s Board was organizing a series of fundraising events to address their financial needs. They also hope to reduce external veterinary costs and strengthen animal care by hiring a full time veterinarian and technician. As the current mortgage is significantly lower than the property’s actual value, Durham’s Board could consider remortgaging the building should additional cash flow be required.

Toronto Animal Services has received a $250,000 grant from PetSmart Charities to purchase a mobile spay/neuter van and equipment. A pilot program will target Toronto’s priority neighbourhoods with free spay/neuters; THS is in conversations with TAS about sharing the van when it is not in use.

3. Committee Business

The Advocacy Committee updated the Board on proposed legislative changes in Mississauga, Ontario; New Brunswick and Quebec, plus THS’ recent communications with stakeholders, including:

- Congratulating the City of Waterloo for banning the sale of pets in pet stores. All animals (not just dogs and cats) must now come from a shelter, humane society or rescue group.

- Asking Toronto to keep THS informed on a request to the Licensing and Standards Committee about measures to control Toronto’s “exploding” raccoon population. THS received some media coverage on this item.
• Maintaining relationships with provincial decision makers by sending a congratulatory letter to Glen Murray on his re-election and appointment as Ontario’s Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. Glen Murray is the MPP for Toronto Centre, the riding where THS is located.

The Board briefly discussed the Fundraising Committee, which is on hiatus due to the departure of its staff liaison, and the various ways the committee could support THS’ fundraising initiatives.

4. **New Business**

The Board heard an update on one of THS’ “Barn Buddies” alternative adoption locations – a major horse racing stable. The facility is lovely, with heated barns, and the cats seemed well fed and content.

THS is also doing some research on the effects of using clicker training to get cats to engage with visitors and the impact on adoption rates/length of stay. The findings will be published and should benefit cats at THS and other shelters, as well as strengthening THS’ reputation for evidence-based practice.

The next two Board meetings will be held:

- Monday, September 29 at 7:00pm
- Tuesday, October 28 at 7:00pm

5. **Adjournment**

5.1 THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Moved: Dean Maher  Seconded: James LaPlante  Carried.