

Protectors of Animals, Inc.
Board Meeting – November 17, 2015
144 Main Street, Unit E
East Hartford, CT

Board Members Present: Jody Macrina, Stacey Doan, Zach Stewart, Ron Plante, Beth Smith, Jim Byrne, Mukesh Sharma, Jordan Price, JoAnn Azzara

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Member Present: John Thomas

Spring Event Planning Co-Chair: Bethany Allison

At 6:30 p.m., S. Doan introduced Bethany Allison to the Board. Bethany is Co-Chair of the Committee Planning the 2016 Spring Event. Bethany provided the Board with an update concerning the Event. The Committee has reserved the Irish American Home for April 2, 2016. The current plan is that the event would have 3 comedians and a cash bar for a cost of \$35 or \$45 per ticket. There will not be an advertising book or baskets for a silent auction. Guests would bring their own food. There was discussion concerning the form that a raffle could take, how to price the tickets (\$100 v. \$50), and potential tax and regulatory issues. Bethany is following up on these issues. Z. Stewart raised a concern that we could offer a price that would be greater than the sum of ticket sales, and discussion about that followed. B. Smith presented some fundraising ideas such as a money tree.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.
2. Consent Agenda: J. Macrina made a motion to approve the consent agenda. R. Plante seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report:
 - Z. Stewart noted that there have not been a lot of gifts in kind and inquired whether POA had received any, so that he could shift how those are being recorded.
 - The Board discussed whether to donate money to CT Votes for Animals. Z. Stewart made a motion that POA donate \$500 to CT Votes for Animals. S. Doan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - The Board had a robust discussion concerning which volunteers are permitted to authorize vet expenses, which could be a cause of higher vet expenses in 2015. J. Macrina noted that it appears that some volunteers are paying extra for services for the sake of convenience,

which is having a negative financial impact. J. Macrina noted that she is performing an analysis of vet expense data and will present conclusions and ideas at the December meeting.

4. Development Committee:

- R. Plante asked Board Members to complete their “thank you” calls to donors and the follow up paperwork by 12/8/15.
- The Development Committee is giving thought to how to structure a capital campaign for the proposed POA Spa/Neuter Clinic.
- The Development Committee has set up a Steering Committee to try to identify sources of additional fundraising.

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5. Executive Director’s Report:

- J. Thomas presented some of the items set forth in his monthly report.
- The Board discussed the merits of reducing vet expenses by reducing cat and dog intake, including fosters.
- J. Thomas noted that POA has a cap of 40 cats in the shelter but that there are an additional 70 cats in foster homes. He further noted that “any cat that comes in here has a medical cost.”
- It was decided that J. Thomas would meet with J. Macrina, J. Azzara, R. Plante, and Michelle on or about the 15th of each month to make a plan for the following month for a break even budget.

6. TD Bank:

- The Board had a follow up conversation concerning the presentation given at the October meeting by Francine Smith of TD Bank.
- There was a general consensus that POA should not keep account balances at a single bank above the FDIC limit and should move some of the funds to another bank.
- J. Byrne suggested that POA ought to take advantage of opportunities that Francine Smith had suggested for fundraising events even if POA were to move some of the POA funds to another bank.

- J. Byrne suggested that the Board consider other ways to treat POA's cash since bank accounts are paying terrible interest rates and there is not an immediate need for the funds.
- The discussion was tabled to the December meeting.

7. Pro Bono Partners:

S. Doan presented materials concerning Pro Bono Partners, which provides help to non-profits, such as financial advice and preparation of volunteer handbooks.

8. New Business: None

9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned to Executive Section as 8:25 p.m. (Motion: S. Doan; Second: J. Azzara; Vote: Unanimous)

Next Board Meeting: December 15, 2015.

Submitted by: Jim Byrne