

Green County Humane Society
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
DECEMBER 19, 2005

Roll Call: Shawn Grass (President), Traci Thompson (Vice-President), Sharon Blohowiak (Secretary), Marsha Stanek, Mike Jerge, Marci Hensel

Absent: Mila Stahl

Public: Tina Gilbert, Anita Disch (shelter manager)

Location: MHI, W5511 County Road DR, Monroe, WI 53566

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

A. Correction of Minutes

- a. Minutes from 11-16-05 meeting have not been completed. Minutes will be approved at January, 2006 meeting.

B. Treasurer's Report

- a. Shawn distributed the treasurer's reports from August, September, October and November 2005.
- b. Mike made a motion to only discuss only the November, 2005 report, dated 11-30-05.
- c. Our net assets stand at -\$32,000.
- d. We may be able to defer payment for veterinary services to Dr. Robin Douglas until unrestricted funds increase.
- e. The money in the Edward Jones account has not been added to the building fund yet.

C. Business to be Decided

- a. Response to articles in Monroe Times
 - i. Marsha has written a response. Email any suggestions to Marsha. She will email all the board members.
 - ii. The Rockows also want to respond.
 - iii. Marci read Marsha's response aloud to the board.
 - iv. Suggestions for the article:
 1. Should the focus of the response be to defend accusations or provide knowledge to the readers?
 2. Mike suggests that a journalist writes or reviews the response. This article should be an article and not a letter to the editor. Concerns that the editor of the Monroe Times will edit the article before publishing in paper. Mike will contact Jason McMahan who is a freelance journalist and ask him to review the response
 3. Shawn made the suggestion to add that one-third of our adopters are from Illinois.

4. Anita stated that some animals come in sick but are never added to the adoptable population until the animals are healthy. We should defend the health of our animals and don't adopt out sick animals.
 5. Shawn stated that our animals are as healthy as we can make them. Some animals are going to get sick. Emphasize that we need adopters.
 6. Anita wants readers of the paper to know that we did not initiate the articles.
 7. Anita suggested that more be added to explain the picture of the dog in a dirty kennel. The dogs are de-wormed which causes loose stool. The dog also has a towel and a blanket in the kennel. As well, not all dogs are house broken and will soil their kennel.
 8. Mike suggests that we address the issues without mentioning the Monroe Times articles.
- v. What is the timeline to get the article out? Should we get the article in the paper as soon as possible? Before the end of the year?
 - vi. WEKZ will also publish the response on their website.
 - vii. The solution is community involvement not criticism.
 - viii. Tina said that people know she volunteers at the shelter and have called her house. We definitely need a response so people do not get the wrong idea.
- b. Building update
- i. Building committee needs to meet soon to discuss fundraising. Should meet before next board meeting in January. During the meeting, the committee members should approve the advertising stand displays for the memorial tiles. They should also decide where to display the stands such as banks and local businesses.
 - ii. Mila is going to contact someone about setting up a trust for the building money. These donations will be untouchable and designated strictly for the building. If GCHS dissolves, an outside benefactor will receive the money, possibly another animal shelter.
 - iii. Mila is the chair of the fundraising committee and a member of the building committee.
 - iv. We need to organize fundraisers and deliver a message to the community.
 - v. The fundraising/building committees should set up a timeline or calendar for fundraisers and set a monetary goal for each.
 - vi. When will we break ground? Etc.
 - vii. We have two bids for the building. Wick Buildings and Cleary Buildings did not submit bids.
 - viii. Mike Jorgensen is on the building committee after the first of the year.
- c. Financial update
- i. We have used all the money in our nest egg over the last four years from the sale of the farm. This fund covered us when we were over budget. Now there is no money to fall back on to pay bills.
 - ii. December fundraising letter and donations usually cover January through March expenses when donations go down.

- iii. With backlash from Monroe Times articles, we may or may not break even. Currently, membership renewals and donations are down.
- iv. Now that we are out of money, how do we pay our bills?
- v. Dr. Robin Douglas will defer the payment of her veterinary service bills but our other creditors will need to be paid on schedule.
- vi. We can also reduce the hours of Sue, whose duties are non-animal related. Our biggest expense is payroll and we need to reduce that.
- vii. Mike asks if we can receive emergency funding from Green County.
- viii. What if we declare bankruptcy? This action will void all our contracts, lose the shelter building and require us to find a place for all the animals.
- ix. Legally, we have to hold all animals for seven days to allow time for people to redeem them.
 - x. Shawn stated that we need 6 months notice to get out of our contracts. If we get out of our county contract, the county would then take over the shelter. Mike speculates that the county will euthanize all the animals because there is no place to put the animals and no one to take care of them.
 - xi. Marsha suggested that we put an ad in the paper if we need to find homes for all the animals. Greyhounds no longer used at racing tracks have been adopted that way.
 - xii. Shawn stated that 2 years ago when he joined the board, the shelter was \$46,000 in debt. The county would not step in at that time.
 - xiii. We need to raise \$25,000 by January 15, 2006 in order to sustain us until the end of January.
 - xiv. Our county contract states that we have to take in any stray animal within county limits. This must be done through the police department.
 - xv. Currently, we have 153 cats and 36 dogs.
 - xvi. A community meeting has been scheduled to discuss GCHS situation. An editorial in the Monroe Times suggested the county become more involved in running the shelter.
 - xvii. Shawn has a meeting set up with Mike Doyle of the county board. The county board has been getting complaints about GCHS because of the articles. However, the county board has stated that they don't want to be involved and wants the GCHS to remain separate entity that only receives money from the county.
- d. Christmas member fundraising letter
 - i. Tina volunteered to put fundraising letter into shopper's bags at Shopko where she works.
- e. Policy changes
 - i. Volunteers will no longer be allowed into the trailer because of animals with ringworm. Only paid employees will be allowed in the trailer. Shawn made the motion; Traci seconded it. Motion carried.
 - ii. Marci suggested that the locks on the shelter be replaced. Anita will make new keys.

D. Business presented by the directors

E. Adjournment at 8:04 pm.