

GREEN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY, INC
Annual Membership Meeting

AGENDA

DATE: Wednesday May 17, 2006

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Ludlow Mansion (Monroe)

Roll Call: Shawn Grass (President), Traci Thompson (Vice-President), Sharon Blohowiak (Secretary), Marsha Stanek, Marci Hensel, Mike Jerge, Tina Gilbert, Sue Grib, Anita Disch (shelter manager), Robin Douglas

Absent: Mila Stahl, Judy Mack (treasurer)

- A. Call meeting to order.
 - 1. Meeting called to order at 6:39 pm.
 - 2. Announced that Sue Grib will be taking over as treasurer.

- B. President's Message (Shawn)
 - 1. 2005 was successful but challenging.
 - 2. We had public struggles dealing with not communicating but we are trying to correct these shortcomings.
 - 3. GCHS raised over \$200K but also spent over \$200K.
 - 4. GCHS helped >800 animals. At our highest population, we had 230 cats and 40 dogs.
 - 5. Currently, we have 5-6 mom cats. 27 cats are fostered. We have 30 dogs, including a lot of beagles.
 - 6. In 2006, we plan to provide the public with more information and to make our finances more stable.
 - 7. Shawn is resigning in June. He has enjoyed the challenging job as it has helped him to grow as person and be able to work with board, members and volunteers.

- C. Introduce new president: Tina Gilbert
The following is a transcript of Tina's speech:

"I want to thank Shawn, the board, Anita, the employees and our volunteers for all the hard work they do. I also want to say thanks for giving me the opportunity to take over as the President.

Who knew that when my son and I signed up to walk dogs that it would lead to such an adventure. I first got involved with GCHS 2 years ago because at that time my 12-year-old son wanted to have a dog but because we were renting we could not have pets. We decided to volunteer at the shelter so we could be around the animals. Soon after we started walking dogs 2 nights a week. My husband and 2 stepsons soon joined us and

has since become a weekend family event. We have also adopted 2 dogs and several cats from the shelter.

My family, friends and coworkers ask me if I am crazy for wanting to take on such a big challenge. I guess the answer to that question would be "Yes" but that is part of the reason I want to do this. I like a big challenge and this will definitely be the biggest one I have ever taken on.

The reason I want to do this is because I love the animals. It's not their fault they are at the shelter. I want people to be educated and realize this problem wouldn't be here if they would spay and neuter their pets. People also need to make sure they realize and accept the responsibility it takes and involves caring for an animal. It takes time, patience and money, It's kind of like raising a child except an animal can't tell you what they want or how they feel. Someone has to act on behalf of these lost and unwanted animals. That's where myself, the board, the employees, the volunteers and all of our wonderful supporters come in. There are so many people who have big hearts that we couldn't do it without everyone's help.

My biggest goal for the upcoming 3 years on the board is that we get in a new building as soon as we can. As most of you know our current shelter is falling apart, but we are still able to give our animals the love, care and treatment they need and deserve. Getting into a new building is not going to be an easy task but with the people who believe in us and support our NO KILL policy, I believe we can do this but it will take a lot of work and commitment.

My next goal is to continue to increase our membership. Shawn has done a great job getting our membership up and my hope is that we continue to increase and get as many as 800-900 members. This money is used for the day-to-day care and needs of our animals. This money goes along way in letting us maintain our animals at the shelter but as you know we are falling short in our revenue so anything we can do to increase our membership is appreciated.

I would also like to see an increase in public support and participation. This can include walking dogs, caring for our cats, fostering and adopting the animals, helping with fundraisers and newsletters, donating the needed cleaning and office supplies, our monthly sponsorship of animals and most of all money. We need all of these things in order for our animals to get the proper care they all deserve. Everyone has a different talent and what ever it is you can do to help is greatly appreciated.

No matter what we do we will never please everyone but I know we will continue doing the best we can to achieve our goals. We have come a long way since December. We have looked at our policies and are open to change if need be. We have information on our website people want to know, we have opened our meetings to the public and also met with several committees. We are trying to give the public and our members what they have asked for. As a result of this I hope people realize we need more support than ever in order for us to continue to keep our shelter open. This is not an easy task but we

have a lot of people in our community as well as the surrounding areas that if we all came together could make this a wonderful place that everyone could be proud of.

Despite all the challenges we have faced I would like to thank The Monroe Evening Times for putting in our pets of the week, keeping the public informed about our fundraisers, our monthly meetings and getting the information out there so our community is aware of our needs at the shelter. I hope they will continue to support us, as we want to keep the public informed.

With everyone's help I know we can make this a shelter where our animals are happy to be until they find the loving homes they deserve."

D. 2005 Accomplishments (Shawn)

1. Increased number of members, currently we have 770.
2. Sponsor program raised \$5371.
3. Decreased turnover, kept manager over a year.
4. Established and followed policies and procedures.
5. Building: approved plans and architect; we are moving slowly but need to prioritize the financial stability of the society first.
6. Helped over 808 animals.
7. SNAP program provided over 150 vouchers.

E. Board Elections (Shawn)

1. Ballots handed out at start of meeting to members.
2. Mike Jerge (term uncontested)
3. Sharon Blohowiak (term uncontested)
4. Gunhild Marcher (term uncontested):
 - a. We expanded the board to nine members. Our bylaws state that we can have 11. There is a new seat available.
 - b. Gunhild used to be president of the board and helped to establish our no-kill policy.
5. Question (Q): Why aren't there any nominations from the floor?
Answer (A): 20 days prior to the election, someone must show an interest in being a board member, obtain member's signatures, get their name on the ballot. No one signed up this year.
6. (Q): What is the process for selecting a new president?
(A): Board members select the president. Tina was elected 2 meetings ago. Every year there is vote on a new president.

F. New Building (Mike Jerge)

1. We have the plans but now our biggest concern is finances.
2. The law firm of Ewald, Voegeli & Bartholf will help us set a trust for money donated for specifically for the new shelter.
3. Steve Jacobsen has offered to do the electrical using volunteer labor and donated materials donation. We are still evaluating the electric plans.
4. Drafts of funding brochures for tile and brick fundraising are done.

5. Mike is working with a volunteer ad agency to design t-shirts for fundraising.
6. We need to be cautious, as more money should go to daily operations. We can build a great building but have no animals. We need to afford the operations would cost would rise in new building.
7. The architect's plans are done. The next steps are to submit the plans to the state, choose general contractor and then ground breaking.
8. We encourage anyone who wants to donate time, building materials, suggestions or ideas.
9. Some ideas submitted are a signed guitar from John Mellancamp, guitar, an Extreme Makeover: Home Edition submission.
10. Please contact any members with any ideas, but remember that not all ideas can be used. We need to put animals' lives first before building a new shelter.

G. Fundraising

1. Pedal for Paws (Sharon)
 - a. Saturday, July 8 at New Glarus.
 - b. There will be four routes. The \$4 trail fee has been waived.
 - c. There will be a chiropractor to give massages.
 - d. Working with Heartland Graphics to design t-shirt.
 - e. Swiss Colony donated printing of brochures.
 - f. Hope to raise over \$5000 this year.
2. Recent fundraisers:
 - a. Spring garage sale: \$1300
 - b. Spaghetti supper: greater than \$1000
3. Upcoming fundraisers:
 - a. We will be doing the county-wide fundraising letter this summer.
 - b. Dicks hot dog sales.
4. Mila Stahl has resigned as fundraising chair so will need a replacement.

H. Goals & Objectives for 2006

1. Provide more information to members.
2. Raise money for the new building.
3. Decrease animal numbers.
4. Be more financially secure.
 - a. We have depleted our nest egg.
 - b. Increase fundraisers.
 - c. Stay within budget. In 2006, we have kept expenses in budget but not revenue.
 - d. Our revenue has been constant but we had to give away cats or get donations for cats to reduce our numbers.
 - e. Our payroll is dropping.
5. We increased our cat fee to cover FIV, FeLV test. Fortunately most cats are negative.
6. Increase memberships to more than 800.
7. Establish new committees and increase membership of existing committees.

I. 2005 statements

1. Financial statements are included in the PowerPoint presentation.
2. Judy Mack is our current treasurer.
3. Shawn issues most checks.
4. \$20000 restricted (most funds are for the new building)
5. \$10000 grant from Maddie's fund grant.
6. All Orangeville veterinary costs are covered by Maddie's fund
7. (Q): Why do you pay a lot of insurance for just one vehicle?
(A): This is best we can do since this is a commercial vehicle with many different drivers.
8. Brought in-house vet services using the trailer. The trailer was purchased through previous board. This led to an increase vet supplies since we spay and neuter each animal.
9. The donation from of a farm sale in 1998 was our nest egg. With expenses, we started eating this nest egg and have used up most of this money.

J. Question & Answer session

1. (Q): What is the status of the anonymous donation for a new building?
(A): The donor may still consider giving us the money but the blanket donation is no longer there. The donor is not removing support. Mike stated that the trust idea was brought up before the donation was rescinded but the donor wasn't going to deposit it. The donor may give a portion of the donation but there are no guarantees.
2. (Q): Who will be updating website?
(A): We are going through a transition of a new website that will provide better and more information. Pictures of adoptable animals will change automatically.
3. (Q): Will the website provide minutes and financial information?
(A): The website will provide meeting minutes and financial statements. Shawn is still working on that section. You should expect 30-45 day delay on board meeting minutes since the board has to approve minutes as the next meeting.
4. (Q): Where are your meetings?
(A): Our meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at the Monroe parks and recreation department. The agenda is in the Monroe Times and provided on the website before the meeting.
5. (Q): Do have a full board of 9 members?
(A): Someone will take over as fundraising chair now that Mila has resigned that position. Gunhild's election will make 9 members. Mila is still on the board. The treasurer is not a board member. Sue Grib is taking over as treasurer from Judy Mack. We encourage everyone to attend board meetings if you are interested in becoming a part of the board.
6. (Q): I signed up for committees at the February meeting, why haven't I been contacted?
(A): Shawn will see that people who have signed up for committees will be contacted the chairs of the committee.

7. (Q): Your truck is a 1998 model?
(A): It won't last long. We want to replace it but don't have enough money.
8. (Q): What is the procedure to change or review bylaws of GCHS? I would like to have them reviewed and would like to help review. Is a board member responsible?
(A): Shawn suggests emailing us with changes. Members can review the bylaws. Ask to have this item put on our agenda. There is also time at the beginning of each meeting to have public comment. Mike asks if this should require some legal rewrite. Dan Bartholf states that this would require legal review. Board has to make changes and changes need to be ratified by members. We did changes to the bylaws in 1999 and 2001. The bylaws on the website are not current so Shawn will update them. Dan B asks to have the policies and procedures available as well.
9. (Q) Marci states that Kundred Oil gave us a discount for truck services.
- 10.(Q): Are you adopting to outside homes?
(A): Yes. A dog, Clarno, was just adopted to an outside home. Some dogs need to go to outside homes. Some cats are feral and need to go to outside homes.
- 11.(Q): You are testing for FIV, FeLV. How many animals are positive?
(A): 2 cats are FeLV positive and 2 cats are FIV positive. These cats are kept separate from other cats and their cages are well labeled. We are pleased that we are adopting out healthy animals.
- 12.(Q): These animals will not be put down?
(A) We want to find homes for them too. We are happy that few cats are positive. The positive cats already showed symptoms. We are receiving a 50% discount on tests.
- 13.(Q): Are there any other health issues?
(A): Robin states there not really any health issues. We are deworming animals and giving vaccinations. Some animals have the usual upper respiratory virus that is common at animal shelters. We did have ringworm in cats where we had 30 cats come down with ringworm at one time. We confined them and kept it under control and the animals are all clear now. The ringworm came in with an adopted cat that was returned to the shelter.
- 14.(Q): When will you set up the trust?
(A): Mike states that we are on the downhill side. We might have something in the next mass mailing which will not be meant for building money. We are close to having it done and have a separate mailing for trusts. Shawn states that our main concern is not bankrupting the shelter and not building a new shelter.
- 15.(Q): A comment about recent Monroe Times "Our View" editorial that reprimanded concerned citizens for not attending meetings. Much progress has been made since the February public meeting and GCHS has done a lot of things to correct the concerns.
- 16.(Q): A comment about a recent comment in the spring newsletter about the Monroe Times articles. I did not the comment stating that "we" did not like

the articles because it did not represent everyone's opinion.

K. Volunteer Presentation (Anita)

Volunteers do a lot of work for the shelter but sometimes don't come back. This volunteer comes back and helps a lot. She comes weekly and trim nails, spends a lot of time with the animals. She does the hard jobs that no else wants to do. She has shown a lot of dedication and has brought a lot of volunteers from the Freeport area.

We would like to honor and thank Joan Crawfoot

L. Adjournment @ 7:57 pm.