

**Oregon Coast Humane Society
Open Board Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2024
Bromley Room, Siuslaw Public Library**

Present: Mary Henry, President; Maire Testa, Secretary; Cynthia Beck, Treasurer; Lisa Mullins, Jill Simpson, Board Members; Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Director. Shauna Robbers, Vice President, Heidi White and Joe Zarate, Board Members were excused.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Mary Henry at 11 a.m.

Check-in/Opening Thoughts/Kudos: President Mary Henry welcomed everyone and had board members introduce themselves. Kudos went to OCHS Executive Director for her 3 years of service and acknowledged the positive difference she has made to the organization.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda was approved with the addition of a topic for discussion how the Rhododendron Improvement project will impact the shelter.

Approval of Minutes: A copy of the minutes of the regular meeting was sent out prior to this meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed, Maire Testa abstaining.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee - Cynthia Beck

Treasurer Cynthia Beck emailed the financial information for the board to review prior to the meeting. She explained the Budget to Actuals. She reported that we started the year off in great shape, exceeding our target goal, mostly due to endowments and trust distributions in January. February's donations are looking positive.

In her Statement of Financial Position, she reported the transfer of more funds to Fidelity, stating that the high interest rate is a boon to the organization at this time. We should be able to average 5% on our funds using safe investments.

Executive Director's Report (copied, entered, and added to) – Elizabeth Thompson:

2023: YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 YEAR INTAKES:

681 clinic, 286 owner surrenders, 81 returns (71 animals - some repeat offenders!), 13 seized/custody, 1 service in (owner medical), 319 strays (305 animals - also repeat offenders!), 157 transfer in - cats and dogs from our rescue partners in Oregon, 3 dogs from Texas, and lots of dog from California

2023 YEAR OUTCOMES:

712 adoptions, 684 clinic patients (we served only 26 community animals in 2022!), 17 died - mostly neonatal kittens, 17 euthanasia, 131 RTO (121 animals), 55 transfer out - OHS, Sanctuary 101, CAT, Bend Cat Rescue

OCHS VOUCHER PROGRAMS:

2023 Spay/Neuter Vouchers: 159 issued and \$23,398 invested in community animals.

2023 Senior Pet Program: 7 active participants with \$3,401 funded

2023 SARAH Fund Program: 22 vouchers providing \$3,674 in emergency medical care for community pets (61 vouchers totaling \$7,804 were issued, but some have not been used yet)

2023 Pet Food Bank Program: 7,734 pounds of food - and we "fixed" a ton of their pets!

2024 ANIMAL UPDATES: As of today, we have 54 animals in our care.

FEBRUARY 2024 INTAKE: 60 clinic animals (S/N clinic), 10 owner surrenders (2 dogs, 8 cats), 6 returned adoptions (3 health of owner, 1 housing issue, 2 not fitting with current pets), 2 protective custody, 20 strays, 8 transfers in (5 Cali dogs, 3 Saving Grace dogs).

FEBRUARY 2024 OUTCOME: 55 adoptions, 60 clinic out, 11 return to owners, 1 transfer out (small behavior dog to Oregon Humane Society's behavior program).

EVENTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES:

- The Plan for My Pets event at FUUF was a great success. Mary and ET had 3 radio interviews (including one with KLCC from Eugene), and the press release was featured in two newspapers. Approximately 40 people attended. I am meeting with individuals to prepare documents to enroll their pets in this program. Our next scheduled presentation will be at Rotary on June 18th, but we hope to hold meetings at some HOA's and other organizations before then.
- Staff and Board toured Greenhill Humane Society on February 12th. It was a great learning opportunity as we look ahead towards our future growth.
- A Very Vintage Estate Sale happened February 16-18 (same weekend as the Wine and Chowder Trail). The sale raised over \$10k (split with families and OCHS) and was featured on KEZI News and in two newspapers. Our next estate sale is happening in Greentrees on March 29-30, and then another specialty one featuring crafts/beads/fabrics/artwork will follow in April in the Vintage House next to the thrift store.
- Shelter Manager from Lincoln County Animal Services spent the day at OCHS on Feb. 28. We are looking to build a partnership and mentor their shelter through Best Friends to help them achieve a 90% or greater live release rate.
- Two K9 Veteran's Day events are happening this week with OCHS animals. Heceta Lighthouse's event is March 13th and the Military Museum's event is March 15th. Volunteers will take dogs to each event.
- Our Pet Grief Group will begin meeting again on March 20th after a short hiatus. The meetings are held at the library every Wednesday at 3:00pm and facilitated by Constance Castaneda. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- All About Olives, Raining Cats & Dogs, and Socks to a T on Bay Street are hosting an event for OCHS on March 20th. We'll have adoptable animals and an information table there. A portion of the sales during the event will be donated to OCHS animals.
- We are actively looking for a few key volunteers or sponsors:
 - One person or team to collect donation jars from local businesses (3 hrs/month).
 - One person for the receptionist shifts at the shelter on Wednesdays (3-5 hrs/week).
 - Volunteers to help bag recycles and take to Bottle Drop.
 - A sponsor for one Pet of the Week ad each month in the Siuslaw News for \$45. Thanks to Florence Shipping Solutions for sponsoring one, too. Siuslaw News sponsors the other two.
- Emeralds Baseball team has invited us back for three dates this season, including one where OCHS is the featured Community Spotlight. We'll get to toss the first pitch of the game! The dates are May 8, July 23, and June 29th (the Community Spotlight game).
- Florentine Estates' yard sale will be August 17th. OCHS volunteers will be at each gate collecting an entry fee as people enter. This should be a great fundraiser!
- September 20th is the tentative date for our OCHS gala. We are waiting to hear back from the casino about signing the contract.
- Kudos to Valerie Swensrud for coordinating all these events.

Strategic Planning Committee – Lisa Mullins

Chairperson Lisa Mullins thanked everyone for coming, stating that it is a good feeling knowing the community is looking out for us and is involved. She explained how the committee works, terms of members, and that they are formulating short- and long-term plans to cover all areas of OCHS for one to six years. They have identified top priorities for the short term – top priority being the acquisition of an on-site veterinarian and vet tech. The long-term goal is more space. Options are remodeling and expanding, moving to an existing building with more room, or building a new facility in a different location. Going forward they will be identifying more short-term projects that will help the shelter run more effectively.

Rhododendron Improvement Project Impact and Preparation (agenda addition) – Elizabeth Thompson-

Elizabeth met with the Project Manager and Onsite Manager. Their plan is that we will be alerted in advance about anything they will be doing. Right now, they are flagging. They will be closing one lane and limiting entry to Rhododendron from either 35th or 9th streets. Since we are next to the transfer station, we have access to our road so at no time will we not have entry access. There should be no problem getting the modular unit in when the time comes. We may have parking at the bottom of hill beneath the play yard is.

Fundraising and Marketing

Mary announced, with Valerie's permission, that the theme and name for the September Gala at Three Rivers Casino on September 20, is First Annual Wags and Whiskers Gala with the theme of Black Cat Ball

Public Information – Maire Testa

Committee chair Maire Testa sent a copy of the charter to the board for review prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the charter was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Maire asked for anyone who wants to be on the committee to contact the shelter. The main thrust is the website, and we are currently working on it. We're also working on the next newsletter, which will be the annual report, and a branding style guide.

Break at 12:10 p.m., called back to order at 12:20 p.m.

Nominating Committee – Mary Henry

Mary explained the process for electing new board members. Nomination forms are available by contacting Mary Henry or Elizabeth Thompson. Nominations are accepted through May 1, and ballots will be mailed out to members 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting next general meeting tentatively scheduled for June 22nd. The results of the mail-in ballots will be announced at that general meeting. She mentioned that we are looking for candidates that represent the community, and have the skillsets needed to guide the organization.

Animal Welfare Committee – Jill Simpson

Jill explained that the Animal Welfare Committee is made up of staff, volunteers, and community members that meet monthly. The goal is to be sure we are doing the best we can as an organization for the animals in our care; to support the staff and teams that do hands-on work. Currently the committee is working on ways to support the volunteers. There is a new Volunteer Mentor program in place where experienced and long-term volunteers are accompanying new volunteers to assist them, particularly with dog walking, to ensure consistency with language. Also setting up detailed orientation process for new volunteers for all positions. The other item of priority is "Snippity -Do-Dah" next month, which will be a spay/neuter clinic for cats before kitten season. Looking at other ways to support staff, volunteers, animals, and community.

President's Announcements and Closing Thoughts: Mary reported that she had regretfully accepted the resignation of board member Heidi White as she found that her business demands would not allow her to serve as fully as she wanted to. She will continue to serve on the Community Outreach committee. Mary also acknowledged the hard work of the new committees. She thanked those in the membership for their committee service and asked that anyone wanting to serve on a committee speak with the board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maire Testa, Secretary