

Elk Country Animal Shelter
Minutes of General Membership Meeting
March 12, 2009
Elk Country Animal Shelter
11484 Youngs Rd. Atlanta, MI 49709

PERSONS PRESENT: Pauline Hancock, Carol Young, Sarah Prince, Pat Crawford, Louise Williams, Trish Mowatt, Agnes Mowatt, Robin Smiley, Linda Ploe, Scott Ellis, Katie Schlect, Connie Danks, Dave Hancock, Mary Hubbard, Chuck Ruhl and Margaret Tatum

Board President Pauline Hancock calls the meeting to order at 7 P.M. thanking everyone for attending, hoping they liked the pre-meeting tour of the shelter.

Mission Statement read by Board Member and Youth Group Chair Sarah Prince:

The Elk Country Animal Shelter shall be committed to providing a caring shelter and eventual placement of adoptable animals; be advocates for companion animals; provide education on the proper care of animals and promote understanding of the need to control the population of unwanted animals.

Officer's Report

PRESIDENT: Pauline reports, "We're getting close to opening our doors— expect the veterinary inspection to happen next week; building being inspected tomorrow.

SECRETARY: Shelley Haeussler out of town; minutes approved and on the table and the website; Maggie Tatum taking minutes in absence of Shelley. Pauline points out we need to correct last month's minutes—net income correction to \$13, 708.42 not 17,708.42 as reported. Maggie makes motion to amend the net worth to \$13, 708.42 from \$17, 708.42 net incomes. Seconded by Pauline Hancock— motion approved.

TREASURER: Total Income+Interest Income for the month of February is \$2931.92. Total Expenses-\$3119.49. Net Income -187.57. The balance in the ECAS Medical Fund is \$2248. Balance in the ECAS Spay/Neuter Fund is \$380. Balance in ECAS education fund is \$221. Balance in ECAS appliance fund is \$0. Balance in ECAS Youth Group fund is \$2271. Mary explained the negative net income usually happens this time of year because ECAS purchases the four-wheeler for the raffle. We're not showing anything from Northwestern Bank loan yet though interest on loan is showing.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Maggie Tatum; Second: Carol Young.
Motion approved.

BLDG. COMMITTEE—Dave Hancock reports that Timm Construction foreman Steve is gone; and we miss having him here. Insulation and plumbing almost finished as well as the cat cages . . . waiting on the bldg inspector. Invoice for \$25,000 coming—\$24,000 left on loan as some of the project is yet to be completed. Lots of cleaning going on with the help of our volunteers.

ANIMAL WELFARE: Pauline reports that in February: 4 intakes; adoptions: 1 return to owner; 6 at kennel (-1); two puppies in foster— There was an incident last Wednesday at Sheriff’s kennel—Hogan, a yellow lab, had part of his tail fall off; so he was sent to the vet’s and some of the remaining tail was docked. Hogan’s recovery fund needs money.

During the kennel report someone made mention of the can in front of Pauline Hancock; she mentioned the “chatter box”—side bar meetings and interruptions; all your change goes into the can.

MEMBERSHIP: Pat Crawford reports 91 memberships, including the following:

- 51 Individuals
- 16 Families
- 2 Family/Pet
- 11 Seniors
- 1 Junior
- 1 Pet member
- 5 Member/Pet
- 4 Businesses

Pat also commented the membership brochures sent out in a mass mailing are “worth their weight in gold.” She particularly likes the brochure’s centralized theme—nothing more than membership information.

HUMANE EDUCATION: Nothing to report as Sharon Rickard is absent.

GRANT WRITING—Maggie reports nothing this month; pet photo contest for Spay Day should raise \$1000 for ECAS; next grant efforts will be for a crematorium grant; no word yet from PETCO, DJ&T; or Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan

SPAY AND NEUTER— Completely out of money for small dogs and low on funds for big dogs . . . currently vouchers out for March: 6 males, 5 females— approx. Total of \$920.00- with co-pays of \$225.00 leaving approximate cost of \$695.00. April: 6 females and 2 males—465.00. . . \$1160.00 total needed. Maggie mentioned Spay Day funds should help...Friends for Life may help us with large dogs—Cat Clinics April 18 and May 12. Middle of the week clinic trial. \$10.00 for male and female cats. Female cat appointments filling up. . . No word from DJ&T other than the preliminary acknowledgement of the application but no phone interview

CAPITAL FUND— Everything we do now goes into the building fund, so we need to get some more going. We had a good year with grants, and hopefully will continue.

FUNDRAISING— Thank you notes written for Christmas mailings went out and Carol wanted to thank those that helped with that. Volunteers still needed at Lewiston Dinner March 28. . . Robin Smiley and Carol Young to send out letters to people, such as business owners and other people who have donated things in the past, for the Hillman auction in November. Carol also reports she's working on garage sale. Early sale date this year...press release in first part of April. Next major fundraiser: Italian Dinner—Trish Mowatt, our auctioneer. Spotters needed: Sara, Dave volunteered . . . also more chairs needed for the auction.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE—when will info be ready asked attendees for the new Volunteer Manual—Dave Hancock has been preparing it, then we will schedule first orientation session followed by monthly sessions to orientate all volunteers in the new shelter.

PUBLICATIONS: Robin Smiley reported on the soon-to-be-mailed newsletter and whether we should provide it via the website. Maggie suggested putting the newsletter up after one month of being in circulation; Dave Hancock remarked there's a lot of info in the newsletter about the building the public needs; Chuck reported he distributed newsletters regularly to any interested citizens; Robin also reported we're giving them away at libraries; Carol suggested we wait a month to publish it online with others concurring. Robin concluded she would get the newsletter file compressed, sent to Maggie who will put it up around April 15. Wednesday the newsletter will go in mail. Invitations for Italian Dinner done – Sunday (March 15), and on March 16, they (Pat and Robin) will fold, tape, and prepare newsletters to be mailed.

YOUTH GROUP: Sarah Prince reported that Atlanta Schools has scholarship forms; need to email forms to Johannesburg-Lewiston and Hillman. They raised \$205.00 for the month of February for their matching funds opportunity; a very generous contributor will match up to \$250.00 per month for the Youth Group, so she will match the \$205.00. Youth Group will be at Italian Dinner selling t-shirts and Sarah Prince is decorating a chair for the auction - donated by Chuck Ruhl; Treasurer Hubbard emphasized the importance of keeping track what each chair raises in the auction so artists and people can know.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE—Dave Hancock: Nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS:

CHRISTMAS MAILING—Mary Hubbard: Donations are still coming in like they do every year. . . \$7874.00 from Christmas Mailing as of February 28, 2009; this compares to the following:

- 2008-- \$7903.00

- 2007--\$9162.00
- 2006--\$7406.00
- 2005—\$7275.00

DINNER—Volunteers can just come in and relieve people during the dinner . . . 4-7. Katie reports— ECAS must have a worker certified by the state health dept in the kitchen. Five chairs for silent auction coming with Robin. . . . Workers asked Mary Hubbard for lots of one-dollar bills for change, there was a discussion on cash box Change and dinner price.

PLANNING FOR GRAND OPENING— We have planned this for spring, after most of our supporters return from their winter homes.

FINAL BUSINESS AND COMMENTS:

ATV Raffle kick off at the March dinner \$5761.00—400 can-am 1 Up—good machine reports the Hancock's; tickets need to be ordered; goal —4000 tickets sold. Wags to Wiskers relied upon heavily for the raffle, but all members need to sell many single tickets.

Some areas that traditionally sold tickets didn't get them in 2008; they need tickets. We have a goal this year of four thousand tickets to be sold, Carol Young and Pauline Hancock motioned for approval for this number of raffle tickets. Maggie Tatum seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Tatum to put businesses on website where the tickets will be sold—model number needed for grill and license for raffle needed for tickets from State of Michigan. . . . will print 4000 tickets as soon as all info gathered. Bud Jones Insurance Agency cash donation to be second prize. . .

NEW BUSINESS: Hubbard reports a financial audit package costs \$2500.00; no need in 2009; 990s will be done by our accountants for 500.00 and will include financial reports

Pauline Hancock made motion to approve this action; Young seconded the motion; motion approved.

Mentioned made by Maggie Tatum of the ECAS Longaberger Basket sale to help the appliance fund which is at zero

Pauline also added due to the many refrigerator references made by board member Carol Young that the shelter's new freezer had been donated by Tom Young and we send him our thanks!

NEXT MTG: April 16. . .

Meeting closed at 7:55 P.M.