

Minutes
Iowa County Humane Society
Special Meeting
Board of Directors
Thursday September 4, 2008

Members Present: Mike Wagner, Mary Whitmar, Todd Novak
Others Present:: Cheri Phillmore, Theresa Duerst and Rhonda Marten

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by President Mike Wagner

This meeting was called in order to discuss the results of the public meeting held August 28, 2008 to help determine public support and the future of the ICHS as well as to appoint a new board member.

Motion was made by Todd Novak to appoint Rhonda Marten to fill the vacancy left by previous board member Robin Pharo who has resigned. Motion was seconded by Mary Whitmar. Motion carried. Rhonda will fill the position until the next elections at the annual board meeting.

Volunteer Jan Hoffman who has been doing the personal thank you writing to donors since 2003 has had to resign. The board would like to recognize her generous contribution of time and expense over the years. Given the current financial situation the shelter is facing it was decided that memorials will still receive a written thank you to be written by an in house staff person and that we will go to quarterly giving statements to meet the new legal requirements for donors tax purposes.

It was relayed to the board that Pay Pal is taking a percentage of donations and also charging the donors. Rhonda will check into how we can take credit card payments directly from our website to avoid these fees. She will check to see how Dane County is currently doing this.

Cheri and Theresa were invited to a discussion of comments and information received since the public meeting. Discussions were held to brainstorm ways to decrease employee hours through the use of volunteers or the use of prisoners to do the kennel cleaning, outside maintenance etc. Mike will look into the possibility of getting prison employee's through the Huber program.

Discussions were held to determine ways to improve customer service at the kennel. Among ideas discussed was the possibility of changing hours of operation to better suit the needs of the public. We will also be looking into adding a second phone line or voice mail to enable better response to incoming calls.

The board expressed changes we wish to make regarding how we relate to the kennel and its staff. It is the boards' intention to be more involved and improve communication with and support of the directors. We are striving to make improvements in all areas we can.

The response from the public has been overwhelmingly positive and we are very encouraged however we are still in financial distress and continue to look for other sources of income. We have been inundated with wonderful fundraising ideas and have some volunteers moving forward with projects. We are in great need of a volunteer coordinator to help organize and direct them.

There will be updates posted on the website and we will keep posting the financials so that the public can see where their donations are going.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
Mary Whitmar
ICHS Board Secretary