

**Minutes
Iowa County Humane Society
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, September 22, 2008**

Members Present: President: Mike Wagner, Treasurer: Todd Novak, Secretary: Mary Whitmar,
Rhonda Marten

Others Present: Cheri Phillmore, Carrie Baumhover

Board meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

The board would like to recognize and thank the citizens who were present and participated in the board meeting this evening.

Minutes

Board members received minutes from the last public meeting and the two special meetings via email for review prior to tonight's meeting. It was noted that the minutes from the September 4th meeting have been amended to read as follows:

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 or appointed volunteer and that we will go to annual giving statements to meet the new legal requirements for donors tax purposes.

Motion was made by Todd to accept the minutes as written and amended. Motion was seconded by Rhonda. Motion carried.

Appointment to the Board

Mary introduced Carrie Baumhover to the public. Carrie had agreed to accept the appointment to fill the last empty seat on the board vacated by Brittany Ogden.

Carrie brings with her several years of experience working with the shelter in a variety of capacities but largely in the area of fundraising.

Carrie is currently employed as a Project Manager at Lands' End and holds a Bachelor's Degree in both Business Management and Management Information Systems as well as a Master of Science Degree in Project Management. She is also a member of the Project Management Institute which is the national organization for project managers.

Motion was made by Mary to appoint Carrie to the board, Motion was seconded by Rhonda. Motion carried. The board welcomes Carrie and her experience!

The board would also like to note that there were a few other people who had expressed some interest in becoming board members. The board chose Carrie and Rhonda because of their history of involvement and experience with the ICHS. These terms are temporary and will be up for election in March at the annual meeting.

Outreach Director/Humane Officer Report

Report is as attached.

Cheri stated that a Fundraising Committee has been formed with some new and excited individuals participating and already they have many projects in the works. The next meeting of the committee will be on October 1st at 6:30 at the ICHS. Anyone interested in becoming involved with fundraising is welcome!

Upcoming events are listed on the report.

The board would like to recognize and thank the volunteers who organized and worked the booth at the Farmers Market at Lands' End on September 18th. They raised \$1253.30 in two days! This is phenomenal! Thank you!

Operations Director Report

Report is as attached.

In Theresa's absence Mike reviewed her report. It was noted that adoptions have been good. We have had great success with four of the 4-H dogs being adopted. Over the last two months several of the animals that have been highlighted on Channels 3 and 15 have been adopted.

Theresa was able to have two special needs surgeries performed through Shelter from the Storm. One dog needed a lump removed from her back and another needed an eye removed and to be spayed. Both dogs have since been adopted.

Theresa has been contacting other shelters to see what they have for hours of operation. In an effort to serve more of the public we are looking at changing our hours.

Public input tonight indicated that this is needed as well. The possibility of opening later and having evening hours one day a week and being open on Sunday were highly favored. This will go back to Theresa for consideration and will be addressed again at the next board meeting.

Financial Report

Reports are attached.

Todd stated that since our television coverage on August 20th we have received \$29,332 dollars in donations. With this we have been able to make three payrolls (\$18000) and pay off about \$15000 in old debt. Donations continue to come in daily and public support on all levels has been wonderful. ICBS received a \$5000 donation today from the Gary Comer family. THANK YOU!

The board would also like to acknowledge that following last months board meeting a member of the public stepped forward and paid the outstanding bill for Dodge Point Mobile Pet Vet, this was nearly \$4000. Again THANK YOU!

The support of the public has been overwhelming and at this point in time the board would like to go on record thanking everyone for their help and support in whatever form it has taken and to state that we are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to keep our doors open. That said however the only way this will happen is if we continue to have this support year round. We still need to rely heavily on the support of our communities, municipalities and the county.

A question regarding the matter of the estate was raised by the public. Todd was told that the executor of the estate was present at the last public board meeting. After the meeting during a discussion with the sheriff and others it was expressed that there is a contingency in the will stating that the shelter needs to be solvent in order to receive the benefit. What this means was subject of discussion but was pure conjecture at this point. Todd will attempt to reach the representative to make sure that ICBS is doing everything it can to meet the specifications of the will.

Todd also reported that the County budget negotiations are under way. The bad news is that they are planning to reduce their support of the Humane Officer position by \$5000. The county is providing a retired squad car and insurance for the Humane officer. We pay for gas and maintenance. We have a county gas account for this car so that we can save on the tax end. The county is using the car as justification for the cut. We are trying to work around this by requesting \$5000 more than last year's allotment of \$25,000 so that if they decrease it by \$5000 it would at least stay the same as last year. Negotiations are in the early stages so it is not too late to contact your county representative to express that they need to support this position at the highest level possible. Currently the Humane Officer is available to them 24/7 if they reduce the allotment the services provided would have to be cut as well from our end. Municipal contracts are under way as well so also contact your local agents to encourage them to continue and increase if possible their support as well.

Building Lease

The building lease for the shelter was up for renewal in July. When reviewed in June it was decided to sign a three month lease due to concerns of a previous board member. It is now due for renewal again. It is a standard one year lease, charging the ICBS \$5 per month rent. Motion was made by Todd to approve and sign the lease pending review and approval by an attorney. Motion was seconded by Mike. Motion carried. Motion was later amended with a motion by Todd to read...a standard two year lease. Motion seconded by Mike and carried.

Fundraising

Aside from the upcoming events discussed by Cheri, Carrie reported on the upcoming Silent Auction to be held on Sunday, November 9th at the Dodger Bowl in Dodgeville. Each year Nick Portzen has been greatly supportive, donating the space and in prior years also donating the refreshments. Carrie reports although getting a late start things are going well and we have a larger group of volunteers helping to solicit donations. We are still looking for business sponsors for the event. Business sponsorship levels are \$250, \$500 or \$1000. Anyone interested in becoming a business sponsor may contact Cheri at the ICBS. Monies are used largely for advertising expenses, radio, newspaper and potentially television ads as well as printing expenses etc.

A volunteer from the public offered to get donations from the Blanchardville and Hollandale areas. Rhonda reported on the fundraiser she is organizing at the Dodgeville Arts and Crafts Fair to be held on November 1st at the Dodgeville Schools. They have graciously donated a booth for ICBS in the elementary school. Rhonda and her crafting companions are busy at work making items for sale at the booth. All to be animal oriented. Walnut Hollow has donated a good supply of wooden items to be painted for sale at the event. Two craft days will be held at the Grace Lutheran Church one on September 28th and one on October 26th. Both from 2 to 4 pm. Bring your crafts or come and help make crafts or come and get crafting ideas!

Todd reports that the Calendar contest deadline is October 1st. We currently have about 50 photos that have come in. See the website for details on how to make your pet a star!

Comments from the Public

The floor was opened for comments from the public. Interaction was great! Several things were discussed among them looking at manufacturers for more help. For example pet food suppliers, pet equipment providers etc. The issue of cat litter, a constant need at the shelter was discussed. It is hard to find a way to get a price deal on litter. The idea of ordering in bulk quantities and sell the litter at the shelter was discussed. This will be looked into further. We will have Theresa investigate the possibilities and make sure there are no legal ramifications from selling for us. There was discussion about networking with other shelters on various levels. A lot of this has been done in the past with animals that have been slow to be adopted from our shelter being moved to Dane County or if Dane County is looking for a particular type of animal. The arrangement is that if the animal is not adopted they are returned to us. However there are policy changes which now prohibit Dane Co. from taking in animals from other counties. The fact that we are now at Pet Smart is helping us out a little. We will continue to explore any and all possibilities.

Cheri also talked about developing a program to educate and work with landlords and pet owners to try to increase the availability of rental space that allows pets.

Other Business

Todd relayed the disappointing news that FEMA has denied our request for assistance, stating that our need was not critical. The next step is to apply for a Small Business loan which they felt we would be denied because we have no assets. However, once the SBA denies us, then FEMA would grant us the assistance. None of this will be able to be resolved prior to next year.

Mike brought up the comment from the last meeting that the board and shelter were not visible enough in the public. The board members will make an effort to try to have someone at

fundraising events as often as is possible. A member of the public asked if we had shirts or some way of identifying ourselves. Due to finances we can not at this time afford to have shirts printed but prices were being looked into. A member of the public who works at Lands' End is going to inquire about it there. We would be interested in shirts that identify Staff, Volunteers and Board members. In the meantime Mary mentioned that she has located some pins with the ICHS logo that can be used for now.

Another question from the public regarded the use of people who need to have volunteer hours to complete requirements for school, public service etc. It was asked if we are on College websites or a list at the high school. We have had volunteers performing community service in the past and are looking into having prisoners come to clean kennels. This will be explored further.

The board has scheduled a special meeting to be held on October 16th. This will be closed meeting to discuss staff issues.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the Stonefield Village Meeting room.

Todd made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Rhonda. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Whitmar
ICHS Board Secretary