



Independent Cat Society
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
May 2, 2016, 6:00pm – 8: 20 pm
Purdue North Central Room LSF170A

I. Call to Order: 6: 10 pm

Roll Call- Board members Present: Staci Trekles, Joan Hildebrand, Jen Stall, Kay Vasquez, Jocelyn Vereb, Judy Dean, Natalie Cebulski, Diana Foster

Board Members Absent: Jason Petrovich

Committee Chairs Present: Carol Abshire, Chair, Health and Wellness Committee and Sponsor-a-Cat Program

Guests Present: Gail Freidan, Adoption counselor
Tom Grosser, ICS Volunteer

David Pendergast, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones, La Porte, IN

Welcome and President's remarks

II Consent Agenda

A. Approval of reports and minutes

4-4-16 Minutes were amended to read: TNR Report: Some receipts have been received by Natalie Cebulski.

*** Motion Passed & 2nd to approved amended Minutes as submitted.

B. Review of month of email motions and acceptance

1. none

C. New Business moved to accommodate two Visitors.

1. Presentation from Tom Grosser, New ICS Volunteer

- Tom wishes to improve promotion of ICS in Lake County. He shared a NW Indiana Times News Publication – Get Healthy where the last page is devoted to animal/pet care. He has contacted the Times about a series of articles to be submitted by ICS.
- He is willing to do promotions & make connections such as doing pamphlets in the neighborhood about animal health and safety – ala catsinternational.com ; NW Vet offices; rescue groups, Kiosks (Travel Center)
- Board members and others can submit potential titles/article to Tom as he will be the “Go-to” Person for ICS in Lake County.
- Potential article would take on the basic needs of animals such as rescue contacts; the ‘how to’s’ to introduce cats to other animals in the home; how to trim cat nails etc and then moving on to more complex alternative health methods if addressing various health related issues.
- Tom will join PR Committee and can be contacted at murphy9513@att.net, 219-972-0669.

2. Presentation by David Pendergast, Edward Jones Financial Advisor, La Porte, IN who has experience in establishing investments for Charities.

- ICS recently received a bequest of \$15,000 and subsequently contacted Mr. Pendergast, the Financial Planner for the owner of the donation, as a guest speaker to present a program/open discussion with the intent for the Board to become more knowledgeable about the nature of IRA's, investments and future ICS financial plans. Mr. Pendergast was a former member of the LA Porte City Parks Foundation, which has grown to over a Million Dollars.

• Discussion and Recommendations include the following:

a. Discussion:

1. The Board needs to become more familiar in how the dollars are used and ICS' commitment to the \$\$ on projects m after we have spent that money on the projects people have specified for their donations.

Discussion cont.....

2. For future-proofing and diversifying, ICS might consider a mutual fund for some of the savings account money, but maybe not all – consider whether ICS needs the money right now or for later on

3. **Unity Foundation** purpose and intent briefly described
 - a. ICS has a small dollar amount endowment with the Foundation
 - b. ICS does not receive back the principle as the principle collects interests
 - c. The Foundation gives out 4% income per year in the endowment, which can be withdrawn to spend by ICS
 - d. Sometimes, a 1:1 match is available at different times
 - e. Unrestricted funds are able to be pulled from the Unity endowment every quarter, which ICS has never done as the Fund, is small at this time and can be used to fund ongoing projects such as Bldg. maintenance or a specific program over time – the income from the fund comes in perpetuity (Infinity)
 - f. Donors can give to the Unity fund in perpetuity over time (i.e., memorials)
 - g. Potential Ideas for putting money aside for Endowment growth could include:
 - Membership Dues where a dividend could be used for Shelter improvements or Money toward a New Shelter.
 - Other large gifts could be done the same way (estate gifts, etc) or placed into the Unity endowment
 - h. Suggest contact Unity (Maggie Sparks) to guide ICS in various available Options.
 - i. **Many** donors want to give to “brick and mortar”, not as many for upkeep and maintenance.
 - j. Be transparent with the community and they will give more money

b. Recommendations

1. Liquidate the IRA account instead of holding it due to the specific nature of this type of IRA (Decedent IRA)
2. Develop two paths to follow:
 - a. Maintenance of current Shelter
 - b. New Shelter
3. Make current Unity Endowment part of ICS's plan to procure donor money
4. Contact Unity Foundation to determine the timing of this 1:1 Match & how ICS is to proceed with this action.
5. ICS needs to promote this option of placing money with the Unity Foundation to all current and potential donors.
6. Designate this in *ICS* Bylaws to donate certain types of donations to the Fund
7. Invite Maggie Sparks, Executive Director Unity Foundation to a future Board Meeting to help Board investigate how to take advantage of the ICS Fund, & how to distribute funds to different projects over time, etc.
8. Investigate other Local/State/National Foundations (i.e. la Porte Hospital) to determine criteria. This has yet to be determined.
9. Develop written Guidelines regarding Gifted Money to ICS to include but not limited to the following:
 - a. Process of how Money gifted to ICS is to be spent as determined by the Board
 - b. The Criteria for use of Interest Money

Recommendations Cont.....

- c. Specific options for Donations as some donors want their Gift used for future projects whereas other say for general use.
 - d. Stress Perpetuity of donations as that implies permanence
 - e. Other donors will give regardless of perpetuity. (This is a major selling point for an Endowment Fund.)
10. Develop relationships by taking your dream on the road and asking for \$\$
Use your story to develop that – passion comes first, the plan can come along with it. If the goal of the organization is to build a New Shelter, then we need to ask ourselves how many times ICS has really asked specifically about that.
11. Suggestions for the ICS building fund
- Fund has been deeded **only for new building** (Shelter)
 - ICS's best producing option to invest is the stock market, nothing is no-risk
 - 5-year plan is the minimum for a long-term investment plan, could be a viable option for building some income in that time
 - ICS could also use the Unity Foundation Fund and allow them to manage the fund for us – people will make donations directly to Unity fund but ICS we can take the money out in full with the interest after the X # of years
 - Having a quality-managed portfolio will produce a good amount of Money although not a guarantee as there are always risks
 - Real answer is Corporate Fundraising; find the contacts and the people who have money to donate
12. **Plan needs to be implemented NOW: Develop our Story and get it known that ICS is building a new Shelter**

III. Approval of Committee Reports

2. Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee Report (Natalie Cebulski)
3. PR and Communications (?)
4. Fundraising (Lori Hlinsky)
5. Health and Wellness (Carol Abshire/Paulette Gonzalez)
6. Volunteers (Judy Dean/Diana Foster)
7. Membership (Jocelyn Vereb)
8. Foster Care (Donna Daniel)
9. Adoptions (Joan Hildebrand/Roberta Jocius)
10. Admission (Paulette Gonzalez)
11. TNR (Connie Szawara)
12. Human Resources (Stephanie Bradsky)
13. Technology (Staci Trekles)
14. Sponsor-A-Cat (Carol Abshire)
15. Grants (Roberta Jocius)

Discussion: Reports not submitted: Grants, Human Resources, Technology, S-A-C

Membership Committee Judy Dean shared a Promo received from an animal rescue group which provided tear off "coupons" to donate with - \$10 will buy X for a kitty, \$20 for any donation, \$30 for so many rabies vaccination etc . Great for those individuals who like coupons and sales – marvelous mind game strategy. Info given to Jocelyn Vereb for review

3. Announcements and items for information

- a. None

IV Action Agenda

1. Old business

- a. Building committee update, Board discussion of future plans in light of letter from Roberta Jocius to the Board of Directors: Use of Building Funds is again stated that the monies in that Fund are allocated only for the New Shelter. Any update or maintenance issues will be funded by the ICS General Fund. Information from tonight's presentation will be utilized by the Building Fund committee.
- b. Updates
 1. TNR reporting : Joint Meeting set up with Dr. Fehrs, Staci Trekles, Natalie Cebulski and Judy Dean on Monday May 9th at 1 pm at PNC Cafeteria.
 2. Advertising on WE FM Michigan City radio community showcase: Judy Dean related that the Information sent to the Radio Station was never received. Will begin the process again.
 3. Volunteer shifts and surveys – Friday not Tuesday. Volunteer who offered to cover 1st Friday of each month is no longer available. A replacement will be sought by the three volunteers currently covering the other Fridays – Gail Freidan, Judy Dean and Kay Vasquez
 4. Commercial washer request: No information at this time

Open discussion:

1. Joan Hildegard related that the current Shed needs to be replaced ASAP. She estimates that the cost will be approximately \$5000.00. Joan is to provide a quote to the Board for any options she wishes to pursue. The Costs will be taken from general fund – not the building project. Dave Dean will help Joan.
2. Gift shop rehab – no further ideas discussed in meeting but there is still concern about a designated isolation area for sick kitties/incoming; is there the possibility of creating an isolation area within our existing space?
3. Hot water heater needs to be replaced as it is not providing hot water for the washing machine. A commercial appliance vs a residential one is requested. Heater ICS needs commercial vs residential heater; current heater is a 50 Gallon residential heater and is only 4 years old. We are being told it needs replacing after only 4 years of service. Cost is approx. \$1000-3200 depending on size and type. Judy Dean suggested purchase of an Energy Efficient Water Heater and contacting NIPSCO for their energy discount.
4. Joan asked Diana Foster if her husband Bill would be interested in taking over/develop a maintenance Committee as he has spent so many hours improving the outside campus grounds.
4. 6 dead trees plus the Walnut Trees need to be removed. Diane Foster to ask her husband Bill if he will mark designated trees with an orange X. Judy Dean offered her husband's time in calling for estimates.

Adjournment: 8: 20 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Judy Dean

Judy Dean, ICS Board Secretary

Next mtg: Monday June 4, 2016

6 – 8 pm

Purdue North Central Rm: LSF 170A (Cafeteria Mtg Rm – 1st Floor)

US 421 Westville, IN 46391

All ICS Volunteers – you are cordially invited to attend if you can

