

GREYHOUND FRIENDS OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date/Location: July 20, 2014 at Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library, 1420 Price Park Drive, Greensboro, NC

Board Members Present: Amy Reynard, Sandy Lucas, Linda Landry, Janice Opalinski, Desta Hudgens, Rick Montgomery, Carolina Brown, Ducky McComas, Malay Shah, Totty Roberts, and Marsha Sigmon

Board Members Absent: Barbara Brooks

Other Attendees: Blanche Fedor, Lynda Montgomery, Caitie & James Witherspoon, and Melissa Cormican via Skype

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS:

The following Board Members were elected/re-elected: Amy Reynard, Sandy Lucas, Linda Landry, Janice Opalinski, Desta Hudgens, Rick Montgomery, Carolina Brown, Ducky McComas, Malay Shah, Totty Roberts, Marsha Sigmon and Barbara Brooks

The following Board Members were elected/re-elected as Officers: Amy Reynard – President, Malay Shah – Vice President, Sandy Lucas – Treasurer, and Janice Opalinski – Secretary

After the elections, Amy Reynard called the meeting to order. She asked all Board Members to read the GFNC By-Laws and bring any suggested changes or concerns to her attention.

Focus areas of participation were assigned to each Board Member as follows:

- Organization oversight and administration – Amy Reynard
- Charlotte Satellite and Mountain Hounds – Rick Montgomery
- Wilmington Satellite – Barbara Brooks
- Grants – Carolina Brown with help from Amy Reynard and Malay Shah
- IT and Inventory – Malay Shah
- Kennel Operations & Staff and Treasurer Functions – Sandy Lucas
- Kennel Tasks and Special Projects – Janice Opalinski
- Website and Adoption Updates, Donation Receipts, Open House, and Electronic Newsletters – Linda Landry
- Auctions (Silent and On-Line) and Marketing – Desta Hudgens

- Fundraising and Meet N Greet Events – Marsha Sigmon, Totty Roberts, Desta Hudgens, and Ducky McComas
- Creative Ideas and Medical Cards – Ducky McComas
- Writing and Creative Specialty Topics (including Ren Fest) – Totty Roberts

President Amy Reynard welcomed the guests. Brief introductions were made of board members to the guests.

OLD BUSINESS

The 10th Annual Mountain Hounds was again a huge success and broke previous records for attendance and fundraising. Planning for the 2015 event has already started including the addition of 2 new vendors.

Malay is working with the kennel staff to replace the existing credit card machine with the use of a cube and iPad. It will give us more accurate sales transactions, calculate tax, and produce valuable reports about Inventory sales. The goal is to have all personnel trained by the end of August.

The response by many generous donors to our plea for funds for the new HVAC system was once again outstanding and allowed us to cover the costs. We have already seen savings from the new system in lower utility bills.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sandy Lucas, Treasurer, presented the financial status of GFNC, and stated that at the present time we remain financially sound. Our goal with adoptions has always been to break even on the income versus costs, and lately she noted that the cost of our vetting procedures has exceeded our adoption fee. We need to be able to cover unexpected costs such as additional vet procedures, illnesses, and injuries. The prospect of increasing our adoption fee was vetoed, and it was suggested that we promote more vigorously the Sponsor A Hound program or use the GO FUND ME form of social media to raise funds.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE - (submitted by Sally Barbour, Volunteer Coordinator)

Turnout coverage report: Currently, weekends are covered for turnout shifts. We need more volunteers for Monday nights and also for Saturday afternoons (a shift without a turnout scheduled).

Total kennel volunteer hours recorded through May 2014 were 1,285. Sally thanked all our volunteers for their time and support.

We would like to get ideas (preferably low cost) as to how we can show our appreciation to all volunteers. If you have any, please contact Sally or Amy.

SATELLITE UPDATES

Asheville – No reports

Wilmington - Barbara Brooks reported 4 adoptions and 1 returned dog. She will keep working on Meet N Greets in the area.

Charlotte – Rick & Lynda Montgomery. Rick mentioned that they need cat-safe Greyhounds for their foster participants. They will continue to participate in Meet N Greets in the Charlotte area. Some upcoming Fundraising events include Santa Photos and a September event with a Great Danes Group. Rick stated that we need to come up with product to sell at Beach Bound Hounds in September; he and Lynda will work with Ducky on possible T-shirt designs.

FUNDRAISING:

The on-line auction will run from August 3rd – August 11th.

The suggestion was made to hold “mini-auctions” on Facebook where 4 or 5 items at a time are featured.

Several volunteers will help vend at Beach Bound Hounds in late September.

GRANT UPDATES:

Carolina reported that she is actively working on several grants. She asked everyone to use the on-line Drop Box to collect and share necessary documents with her and others. A few grant checks have already been received as a result of Carolina's and Amy's efforts.

OTHER BUSINESS:

We discussed the need to better plan when to get dogs in the kennel since our capacity has been cut nearly in half with the new kennel/crate system. Amy is working directly with Wayne on this issue.

We also need to find ways to reduce the vet costs for our Greys when they get adopted. Rick cited that we should ask breeders and kennels from which we get dogs to contribute towards these costs. We also talked about the ability and desirability to get dogs that have already been spayed/neutered prior to arriving at GFNC (of course, the matter of dental cleaning, heartworm tests, vaccinations, and microchip implanting would probably not be done prior to arrival which presents another problem in regards to Greys going under anesthesia). If we do get dogs that have been pre-vetted, we would most likely have to pay a transport fee to get them delivered to us.

Janice has been investigating other providers of veterinary services to see if we can save money on the vetting procedures.

We discussed the need for a Vendor and Volunteer Code of Conduct policy because of past instances of questionable behavior by a few individuals. It was suggested that a written policy be prepared and agreed to by signature for Vendors at GFNC sponsored events. This policy will cover such issues as expected behavior, attitude, tasks to be performed, maintaining a position of neutrality toward Greyhound racing, and being a proponent of Greyhound adoption (not rescue). Vendors will be expected to refrain from smoking and exhibit a courteous and professional manor towards all people at the event. It will be acceptable to ask someone to leave the event if the consensus is their actions are not meeting stated expectations. Resulting consequences beyond having been asked to leave include not being able to participate in future events.

Janice brought up the topic of finding a professional trainer to work with “problem” dogs and align with our organization. We cannot pay for training services although we could provide free advertising for them on our website. We could also offer such perks as a free tent/table at Open House and/or seminar opportunities at Mountain Hounds.

Blanche reinforced that we need to keep and communicate our position on Greyhound racing as neutral. As the volume of dogs decreases in the industry, groups that are either pro-racing or racing-neutral will be given higher priorities of getting dogs over groups that are deemed to be anti-racing.

Our next board meeting will be scheduled in November. The exact date and location will be communicated soon.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Submitted by Janice Opalinski, Secretary of GFNC Board