

TDV Board Meeting Minutes from February 29th 2024

In attendance: Colleen Sauve (President), Evan Stainman (Vice President), Dede LaRow (Treasurer), Valerie Smith, Michele Shepard (Secretary), Craig Deslaurier, Clare Early

Call Meeting to Order: 1804

Crisis Response Update:

There have been two full meetings. Michele Shepard and Nancy Yannett elected Co-directors of CRP. 3 sub committees have been established. 1 for brand identification and certification, 1 for marketing and 1 for communications. The committee currently meets the 1st Wednesday of every month and then sub committees are asked to meet at least once in between on their own.

The marketing committee is working on a “old fashioned Letter” to be sent out to current membership informing them of the CRP and an email will go out as well, leading to an informational zoom meeting.

It has been decided to have Craig be the Primary contact for the CRP line, currently member services is the first call after the answering company.

Valerie made a motion to have all CRP related items handled by CRP Evan seconded the motion and the motion passed unopposed,

For the Letter the board determined Craig could use the access he has to member addresses to provide that to CRP for the purposes of sending their letter.

Leadership Update:

Deb and Elyn requested that an article they worked on regarding Bringing therapy dogs to work be added to the website, the board mentioned that this should become a part of the TDV guidelines teams must sign off that they have read prior to testing. Possibly also have current teams attest to understanding at renewal time. The board would like to see this article on both the public ad private sections of the website, perhaps with more detail on the member side.

Certifications and Clinics have moved to the Rec zone in Williston at a cost of \$600 per year

The Board voted to approve the request of the Leadership team \$100-\$200 for a certification team get together, \$100 to \$200 for evaluator training, etc

The Board approved the leadership teams request for videography project.

The board has decided to table the discussion on the Leaderships request for a Part Time Volunteer coordinator until a member of their team can Join the board in a discussion of why they need this, the only evidence provided to the board was and AI generated job description. Craig did suggest that maybe hiring an executive director would be more appropriate. The concern was they would be responsible for fund raising to maintain their own position.

As a side conversation the Board suggested exploring a membership program, the board also had several questions for the Leadership team, that will be compiled and sent to them.

Craig advised as the facilities coordinator we're lacking membership and visits in the southern portion of the state, Brattleboro, Bennington, South of Addison County and south of Windsor Counties

Board Members:

Colleen made a motion to Vote on Evan to have a second term on the board, Valerie seconded the motion and it was passed unopposed. Suggestions for new Board Members as Valeries term is up at the end of April.

Evan mentioned reaching back out to Parker Halloway to see if he was at a point in his studies that he would feel comfortable returning to the board.

The board decided to send letter to the members to ask if anyone is interested joining the board, Craig will draft the letter and Evan and Valerie offered to edit it, and then submit to member services to send.

Deb had some ideas for potential board members, none submitted for this meeting.

On a separate note related to the Board and website

Craig advised we need to update the "Meet our Board" section of the website as currently none of us are on there.

We also need resume posting agendas and minutes to the website.

Talking Points for the Media and Events:

There have been a few instances where members have been interviewed for news articles and while the interviews were overall fine, the board would like a more standardized way for members to answer questions from the media.

There is a "press package" on the website. Craig and Clare were going to take a look at current language and see what needed to be updated.

Scholarship Fund: for Certifications and renewals

Should TDV offer a scholarship to waive the fees for testing, I.E if someone sends a message stating they would like to certify but cannot afford the cost, is this something we should set aside funds for.

Questioned that were raised: if they cannot afford TDV certification fees are their dogs receiving proper vaccinations and veterinary visits? If TDV waives the certifications fees will the teams be able to commit to evaluations that are all volunteer and who have had issues with people not showing up recently.

Michele suggested that possibly a scholarship for a high school junior/senior who demonstrates a strong volunteer history and passion for animals, ultimately this discussion was tabled for a future date.

Personalized Business Cards:

The board decided for all board members, certification team, evaluators yes but regular members could have generic cards.

Dog trading cards are a thing that some other agencies do that might be worth looking into as an option to offer members either at cost of 10% above cost.

The trading cards were requested by a 3rd grade class from another state.

New Membership Category:

This discussion was tabled for a future date. This was suggested by Deb Helfrich, she will be invited to the next meeting to explain the category and need for it.

Webpage:

Our page is out of date/broken and needs to be update, leadership wants to host a workshop to address the needs and wants. Will there be a virtual option to attend? The Board would like Craig to be the representative at this workshop if they can provide a virtual option.

Loudest Bork Competition Update:

Dede and Zander will be applying and Zander has all the testimonials he may or may not need. Zander consented to his picture being taken. Dede shared the competition to our members Facebook page and Evan will share it to the public page.

Meeting adjourned:2000 hours

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Shepard

Secretary