

TDV Board Meeting Minutes from June 7th 2024

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

Call Meeting to Order: 1802

Approve Treasurers Report: Valerie made a motion to approve Craig seconded the motion, all in favor, Approved unanimously

Approve Minutes from February 29th meeting and the March 29th electronic vote of the Budget: Colleen motioned to approved 2/29 Minutes, Valerie seconded the motion, all in approval, approved unanimously. Evan made a motion to approve the March 29th electronic vote of the budget, Craig seconded the motion , all in approval , approved unanimously.

Agenda Items.

Annual Meeting Planning:

- Possibly host at a hotel VS the armory, might be more appealing for members to attend, all-inclusive with food, extra rooms for sessions, less stress for board members day of.
- Still host in the central Vermont area possibly, Colleen will look in to options in the area, possibly contact the Vermont Chamber of Commerce for assistance
- Possible Classes...suggestions the board had but board also liked soliciting feed back from members on what they would like to see for educational sessions,
 - Healing touch for animals – Valerie (could host)
 - Do we need Crisis Response, the CRP Committee discussed having an information table set up.
 - Session on Grief and loss of losing a pet
- Last year Customer TDV leashes were gifted to members, this year Michele also the co-director of the CRP committee suggested Bandanas that slip over the collar, the CRP are having some custom made and thinks they would be great for regular members as we often get feedback that that bandanas are not great quality.
- Possibly also gift water bottle / dog bowl combination with chocolate

Amendment to the Bylaws

- The board while seeking new directors have two directors' terms coming due within the next year. As to not go below required amount directors the board votes to add an amendment, to add a temporary extension to a directors second term. That would extend then term up to 1 year.

Board Member Appeal

- Anyone we know who might be interested?

- Janet Dooley?

Work Place Handler Violations

- Craig updated the board on some violations that are Crisis response teams noted while visiting CVU high school in April after a tragic loss to their committee. Craig is working with Katherine Riley, (next Principle) regarding the teams, he sent them emails to the teams on the emails listed with TDV. As of this meeting he has not received a response from either team, next step will be to resend the email CC'ing their work emails.

Member Violations

- On the TDV members Facebook page an issue was identified with a team posting photos that appear to show Patients in a hospital (no photo release on file) as well as appear to show patients holding the leash for the dog while wearing their TDV insignia. There was one team noted and several photos that appear to violate the TDV rules and regulations. The one Member identified with initials J.R. Evan will reach out to and address the issues,

Crisis Response Update

There have been two information sessions with decent attendance and a lot of interest. A good majority of the teams are still within their first year of membership. WE have received one letter of intent to date.

- Branding – Crisis response color is Aqua, we have leashes and bandanas being made, the bandanas are over the collar and will have our new Crisis response Logo on them. The logo is the same as TDV just with Unleash a Smile replaced with Crisis Response Team.
- The activation protocol has been extensively updated by the respective subcommittee they're currently working on making a quick reference sheet for teams that can be laminated and brought with them.
- A new sub committee has been formed for interview purposes they are meeting Tuesday June 18th for the first time
- The Marketing sub-committee has been working mainly on internal marketing to increase our number of teams. However, they will begin to transition to external marketing to promote the program.

Insurance Concerns

- There have concerns and a lot of questions lately regarding the insurance coverage, and when does it actually kick in.
- Colleen advised a member/potential member reached out when she spoke with her homeowner's insurance and stated that she was planning to be a Therapy dog team and her insurance company threatened to drop her coverage. It was determined that TDVS would kick in first.

- Colleen looking into the insurance coverage that another Therapy Dog Organization (Alliance of therapy dogs) has and they offered to insure us through them but would not disclose in depth details about who their coverage is through and would not allow a secondary policy and we would be bound by their rules.
- Colleen is seeking advice of a lawyer, (information provided by VT Bar association) as with the determination from our insurance policy is primary but people are reading that their homeowners is first. The Lawyer fee is \$25 for a zoom call. Colleen is having a difficult time contacting him, Evan has worked with this lawyer before, he advised that email proved to be a better method of contact in the past.
- Goal to speak with the Lawyer prior to the June 20th meeting. Colleen and Evan will get together and Evan will Try to reach out to the lawyer

Affiliation Agreement with Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital - Berlin

- They wanted a three (3) year agreement, wanted a guarantee that members (humans) had health insurance, stated they would not be liable for anything that happened at the hospital during visits. There were a lot of other terms that go against TDV.
- Colleen advised them that we were not going to be signing the agreement, advised that the person she emailed back stated he “didn’t blame her” and then his boss reached out and requested to talk, Colleen advised him that they would need to get rid of the agreement. Another person that they have been communicating with claimed it was a requirement of the State of Vermont.

Adjourn meeting: 1933