

Bowie CLAW General Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2014 7:30 pm
Bowie Community Center, 3209 Stonybrook Drive

1) Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm

2) New member Stephanie was introduced and welcomed.

3) Additions to Agenda:

- a. Laurel temporary feral cat care requested- move to Open Forum
- b. Grant opportunities- add to New Business
- c. National Night Out – add to Future Events
- d. Introduction of New Officers: Tara Kelly-Baker, President

Michael Semeniuk, Vice President

Virginia Jones, Secretary

Lauren Semeniuk, Treasurer

The Board of Directors includes L. Lisa Hughes, Paul Nadler, Karen Garretson, and Hana Mayer in addition to the officers named.

4) Approval of May 13th minutes: add introduction of new member Jim. Motion to approve and seconded.

5) Committee Reports

- a. **Finance** no report. Becky Neilson was not in attendance and Laurel Semeniuk had not yet assumed Treasurer duties from Becky.
- b. **Membership** no report. L. Lisa Hughes, Membership Chairperson, was not in attendance.
- c. **Media** no report. Hana Mayer was not present at the time of reporting.
- d. **Web Site/Facebook** A supporter has requested that we post minutes of the General Meetings on the web site. We agreed to do so, and will attempt to retrieve the past 6 meetings' minutes for posting.
- e. **Hospitality** no report. Cindy Huitt was not in attendance. Jim and Gloria volunteered to assist Cindy with hospitality responsibilities.
- f. **PAS** Karen Garretson reported that we are serving 31 families with 35 cats and 41 dogs!

6) Old Business

- a. Tara received a response from City Manager David Deutsch. Our letter of offer is under discussion and he expects to be able to respond to us shortly. Dennis Brady read a request he received from David Deutsch to meet with CLAW once the costs are computed, but before permits are applied for.
- b. Virginia reported that the Board of Directors has appropriated \$1000 annually to provide urgently needed items for the Prince George's Animal Facility on a monthly basis. In June, CLAW provided a baby scale that was requested by the Kennel Manager, since none of those currently at the shelter were accurate. A photo of the gift will be submitted to Chris and Denise for posting on the web site. The Kennel Manager and her staff were very appreciative of the scale, and immediately upon delivery carried it to the Intake office for weighing kittens and puppies that are brought to the shelter. They have already requested a quantity of kitty litter pans as a July contribution. We have delivered to the shelter two van loads of various supplies that have been donated to CLAW in June.

7. New Business

- a. **MD Dept. of Agriculture Spay/Neuter Grant** deadline is Aug. 6. We discussed how we could tie our PAS program and educational mission into a grant application. Volunteers to write this application were requested, and as no one volunteered, Virginia and Karen agreed to work on it. (Subsequently, Michael Semeniuk offered to work on it as well.)

It was pointed out that at the Bowie licensing office there are no Spay Spot flyers available to the public

offering low cost spay and neuter procedures. Virginia will look into the possibility of getting a supply of flyers to that office.

- b. **AmazonSmile** is a feature on Amazon.com whereby organizations can register and receive back 10% of purchases made under AmazonSmile. Denise Martin will register CLAW and put this information on the Web site and Facebook.

8. Events

- a. **Memorial Day Parade** – a success by all accounts, and lots of fun. We hope next year to have a float so that more members and friends can participate.
- b. **Bowie Fest** – outstanding display and activities such as dog contest and balloon animals. We received contribution of \$122.00. Hana and Paul suggested that we send a welcoming invitation to those who visited our booth and add them to our members and supporters e-mail list.
- c. **Foster Meeting** – Sheri Lunsford of the Prince George's Animal Programs Office presented an introduction to the fostering program at the shelter and answered questions from the audience. One of our members has applied and has had their "house check" already. Tara reminded members that it is not necessary to make a long-term commitment: one can foster as a respite for other fosters who need to be away for a short time. Tara mentioned that it might be good to host another foster presentation in the near future.
- d. **Purple Barn** - Paul represented CLAW at this first-time (for us) event, and recruited a few interested parties. Although its focus was mainly equestrian, we were invited to participate and were able to accept thanks to Paul.
- e. **Future Meet and Greet** – Virginia will discuss at the next Volunteer Staff Meeting at the shelter and determine the level of interest in continuing this event.
- f. **Blanket Drive** – Karen will organize this highly successful and important event, but the date is to be determined later.
- g. **Microchip Clinic** – in order to offer this service again, we will need to obtain a secure location and a trained technician to inject the chips.
- h. **National Night Out** – August 5, 6-8 pm at Allen Pond. Paul Nadler will lead in the set-up for this event and we will focus on the Safety theme in our presentation. We discussed several items to be included, including possibly window decals for homes to alert to the presence of animals. Karen, Lauren, and Tara will help with this event.
- i. **Duncan's Fund Yard Sale** – although this event is not being sponsored by Bowie CLAW, it is a big event that benefits a crisis medical fund at the Prince George's shelter. The Yard Sale will be held on July 19 from 10 am – 4 pm at the shelter, with entertainment and food as well. Sponsored by Connie and Terri 4 Animals, it is worthy of our participation. Donations may also be made directly to Duncan's Fund.

9. Open Forum

Karen brought a number of light leashes which she had distributed at a previous meeting, and wanted to give to anyone who needs one to carry in their car should they come upon a stray animal. She also has some small crates to share.

Tara reported that we were asked if anyone could care for a feral cat colony in West Laurel while the regular caretaker is hospitalized. See Tara if able to assist.

Gaye Williams announce the BIG event in Annapolis on July 26 for used books.

Our next General Meeting will be Tuesday, September 9 at 7:30 pm at the Bowie Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.