



Bowie CLAW General Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2015 7:30 pm
Bowie Community Center, 3209 Stonybrook Drive

- 1) **Meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Tara Kelly-Baker**
- 2) **Megan was welcomed as a visitor who is interested in membership.**
- 3) **Additions to Agenda: None**
- 4) **Approval of November 11 minutes:** Motion to approve and seconded.
- 5) **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Finance** Lauren Semeniuk distributed a current Treasurer's report. One correction was made to show a carryover balance in the County Shelter Restricted Fund of \$200 from 2014 to reflect no expenditure in November and December. A question was raised as to when we might expect to receive payment from iGive; Denise will look into the parameters for iGive.
 - b. **Membership** Virginia Jones reminded the group that it is time to renew membership for 2015. This was included in the meeting notification, but a separate notice with the membership form attached will be sent out in the immediate future.
 - c. **Media** Hanna Mayer was unable to be present at this meeting.
 - d. **Web Site/Facebook** : Denise reported on the successful campaign to garner new "Likes" for our Facebook page, resulting in \$84 to be added to the restricted fund for the County Shelter
 - e. **Hospitality** - Virginia reported that 19 Christmas cards were sent to our sponsors and City contacts, and acknowledgments of cash donations received through Pay Pal at the end of the year were mailed, as well as one card to Rhoda.
 - f. **PAS** -Karen reported that PAS has spayed one cat and neutered two cats. A very large donation was received from Crunchies, and a group known as OPRC Equitarians made a substantial donation to PAS as well. Virginia will send letters of appreciation to these two sponsors.
- 6) **Old Business**
 - a. **County Update.** Virginia reminded members that a request was made for specialty cat feeding dishes by Management in November, and the members agreed on it. However, the agreed upon dish became unavailable, and due to a number of circumstances in December, none were purchased before the end of the year. Virginia has now located a supplier of USA-made stainless steel dishes, of which 24 could be purchased with the funds now available. A majority of members agreed to purchase these dishes now.
 - b. **City Shelter Update.** Although it was intended to be complete by Jan. 1, the holding area is almost complete, according to a message to Michael from City Manager David Deutsch. Interviews by City staff of volunteers have begun.
 - c. **Bowie CLAW Mission and Objectives.** Chris Martin composed a first draft of a new Mission Statement, which engendered some discussion about how specific the statements of objectives should be, particularly in the area of support of community cats. Because this is a controversial topic, our objective must be nebulous enough to be supportive of City policy without excluding opponents of community cat support.

With this input, further discussion and editing will be attempted by the Board of Directors for presentation at the March Membership meeting.

7. New Business

a. Efforts to Support Community Cats

Board members were invited to a presentation by Laurel Cats recently. Tara reported as a conclusion that such a program requires enormous time and resources. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of an intentional program, and how it fits into our perceived purpose as an organization. Again, an attempt will be made to state our objective in such a way that will support members who are involved in such efforts while not overcommitting CLAW and the entire membership.

8. Events

- a. Meet and Greet** – Virginia reported that Bowie Towne Center is available April 12, 19, and 26, and the County staff are eager to assist us in an event on any of these dates. We decided on April 26, and Virginia will make the necessary arrangements with Simon Co. and Animal Management and recruit volunteers.
- b. Microchip Clinic** We still need a qualified technician in order to hold this event. Gaye reported that CLAW may use the Bowie Lions Den in exchange for promoting their fundraising campaign on our Facebook page. The membership was in agreement with that provision.
- c. Pet Food Drive** Denise proposed waiting until June to hold this drive where she works.
- d. Pet Photo Contest.** Guest Megan Martineau of Honey Bee Photography presented a Powerpoint for a fundraiser that was successful for her previously for another animal welfare organization. We discussed possible venues for the photography sessions and display for the contest, and agreed to plan this event for the winter holiday later this year. Many volunteers will be needed to carry off this quality event.

9. Open Forum - none

- 10.** Our next General Meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 pm at the Bowie Community Center.