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ACC Board Meeting

1/26/21

Via WebEx

In attendance

Patrick Nolan, Chair  
Denise Incandela, Co-chair  
Dr. Jay Kuhlman, Secretary  
David Glicksman, Treasurer  
Neil Abramson  
Yonaton Aronoff  
Sarah Aucoin  
Jessica Corey  
Caren Fleit  
Dr. Dennis Gross  
Elaine Keane  
Corinne Schiff

The meeting commenced at 9:37am.

Chairman Patrick Nolan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that despite the pandemic there have been positive developments alongside the many challenges faced by ACC. He commended President and CEO Risa Weinstock and the leadership team for ensuring that ACC remained true to its mission and a source of hope and comfort for people and pets across the five boroughs, while focusing on the health and safety of the staff. Patrick also commended the entire ACC staff for their dedication during these difficult and challenging times.

Patrick also noted ACC's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion which is very vital to the mission of the organization.

Board member Jessica Corey and NYPD representative reminded everyone that NYPD officers also offer help and protection to animals throughout the city every day. She noted that many of the animals are adopted by the same officer who rescue them. Jessica encouraged everyone to look at their Twitter feed for regular rescue stories by NYPD officers.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded and the June 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

**Help us in our mission to end animal homelessness in NYC**

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## Officers and Committees

The Board agreed to continue with the same slate of officers who served in 2020. The officers are Patrick Nolan, Chair; Denise Incandela, Vice Chair; Dr. Jay Kuhlman, Secretary and David Glicksman, Treasurer. There was a motion to approve the officers. The motion was seconded and the officers were approved in their positions.

Members will continue to serve on the committees as follows:

### Executive Committee

Patrick Nolan, Chair; Denise Incandela; Yonaton Aronoff; Caren Fleit; Elaine Keane; Corinne Schiff

### Nominating Committee

Denise Incandela, Chair; Dr. Jay Kuhlman; Corrine Schiff; Neil Abramson; Sarah Aucoin

### Audit Committee

David Glicksman, Chair; Yonaton Aronoff; Elaine Keane; Denise Incandela

### Development Committee

Linda Chinn, Chair; Dennis Gross, Co-Chair; Patrick Nolan; David Glicksman

### Contract Negotiating Committee

Yonaton Aronoff, Chair, Patrick Nolan; Neil Abramson; Corrine Schiff

### Queens Capital Improvement Committee

Yonaton Aronoff, Chair; Patrick Nolan; David Glicksman

Next, the Board thanked Joe Belan and the BTQ staff for their years of service to ACC and wished them all the best on behalf. Jeff Hauser of Kiwi Partners, a third-party finance and accounting firm retained by ACC presented the financial report for FY21.

For the first six months of FY21 there was an increase in net assets from a combination of shelter operation and long-term development funds. This increase is lower than budget. There was a decrease in unrestricted revenue by 9% and net event revenue was also down. DOHMH revenue reflected a decrease due to the voucher approval reimbursement system. ACC implemented cost controls to help reduce expenses including a rent abatement arrangement for its offices at 11 Park Place.

In response to a question regarding a decrease in shelter revenue, Risa explained that there was a decline in the volume of certain essential services provided and the budget, which was prepared a year prior to the pandemic and approved by DOH and the Board, anticipated higher revenue based on prior year results.

Regarding a question about personnel Risa advised that the budget was created in anticipation of receiving a one-time enhancement amount of \$3million from NYC DOHMH. Due to the city's financial setback, it was noted that the enhancement was not available to ACC and so the vacant positions were not filled.

Jeff discussed the preliminary unaudited balance sheet as of June 30, 2020. He noted that the line of credit balance from FY20 was repaid in the first quarter but ACC had to draw again while awaiting funding of outstanding FY20 invoices.

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## Development

Jennifer DiClemente, Director of Development presented the Development report. She noted that despite the overall challenges in development income over the past months due to the pandemic, there was a 30% increase in online giving for the first six months of FY21 compared to FY20.

New foundational funders and matching donations from corporations have made a significant impact in funding while the ASPCA continues to be a top supporter. ACC held its first virtual gala in October. The event netted half of the revenue realized in FY20 at our live event (pre-pandemic).

The development team continues to seek revenue for FY21 with the following: Spring Fling 21 event (likely virtual); increasing number of submissions for grant proposals; corporate matching donations; community-based grant funders.

Patrick thanked the Development team and the board members for their efforts in raising funds through sponsorship for the virtual Gala, matching gifts and contributions.

## ACC Operational Report

President and CEO, Risa Weinstock expressed her appreciation to the ACC staff for their incredible commitment, care and compassion exhibited during the pandemic. She noted that the health and safety of the staff remain the main priority especially as the team has been working throughout the pandemic, having been deemed essential workers from the start when NYC went into lockdown in March 2020. ACC and the board are committed to pursuing efforts to move ACC staff to the priority list for a Covid-19 vaccine.

## Health and Safety Protocols

ACC created its own Covid-19 task force and is following all guidelines to protect and ensure the health and safety of staff and clients. ACC has also implemented the available local, state and federal leave policies to ensure that anyone with issues related to Covid-19 are given protection and leave.

## Intake

Intake is down by 39% mainly driven by a decrease in kittens brought to the care centers. Some rescue groups notably, Brooklyn Bridge Animal Welfare Coalition took kittens in directly from the source which helped to avert the increase at the shelters. ACC also believes that the citywide implemented freeze on tenant evictions has also led to a decline in intake. As part of its intake, ACC's Field Team rescued over 2,000 animals directly from homes, a necessary service during the pandemic since people were not leaving their homes.

## Surrender prevention

ACC was able to help over 3,600 pets remain with families through its surrender prevention counseling. The Animal Planning Task Force comprised of many organizations and agencies, including the Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare (Christine Kim), the ASPCA, Jenny Coffey, Bideawee, OEM also added great support for pet retention and surrender services.

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## Placement

Adoptions totaled 4,465 and were accomplished through a virtual process and by appointments only to help maintain social distancing. Forty rescue partners were added to ACC's list of over 200 New Hope partners.

In response to a question about adoptions, Ellen Curtis, Vice President, Chief Programs Officer noted that nationally adoptions are up. ACC does not receive as many puppies and kittens that most new adopters seek, and this proved to be a challenge for ACC's placement. She also emphasized the dedication of ACC staff who were instrumental in providing resources to enable animals remain at home with families, which contributed to less shelter intake.

## Foster Program

In 2020, ACC placed a total 2,278 animals with fosters; of this total, 691 pets were adopted by a foster parent. ACC provided telemedicine and dedicated veterinary staff for fosters.

## Volunteers

In-shelter volunteering was suspended between April and June due to the pandemic which resulted in a decline from 2019. However, many volunteers continued to help once the restriction was lifted and continue to help ensure ACC's service to the community. Between January and March there were 751 student virtual tours and virtual presentations for students of all ages.

## Community Pets

There were regular food clinics at the Bronx Resource Center and deliveries to Queens community housing complex. Plans are underway with some City Council Members to have food pop-ups in the communities where there is a dire need. ACC's community pets program was able to hold a few vaccine clinics prior to the pandemic.

## Capital Projects Update

Jennifer Piibe, ACC General Counsel, presented an update on the Queens Animal Care Center project. Work is in progress and the facility is on track to open in summer of 2022.

Christine Kim, Senior Community Liaison, Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare, presented an overview of the capital projects managed by the city. She noted that \$115.7M was dedicated for animal shelter development and renovation for a full-service shelter in each borough. The city proudly reported that the artist retained for the façade and interior space of the new Brooklyn Care Center (Olalekan Jeyifous) was awarded an Excellence in Design recognition for his work, "Colorful Companions." The work is a project of the Department of Cultural Affairs' Percent for Art Program, the Department of Design and Construction, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Phase 2 construction on the Staten Island shelter continued over the last several months and completion is projected for summer 2021. There is no date as to when the pandemic-caused pause on the other capital projects will be lifted.

Patrick thanked Christine on behalf of the Board members for her support to ACC especially during the pandemic.

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Public comments began at 11:18am and ended at 11:57am.

Patrick thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged them to become engaged in any way that they can to help ACC and the animals in its care.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting ended at 12 noon.