



ACC Board Meeting
6/16/2021
Via WebEx

In attendance

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

The meeting commenced at 9:35am.

Chair Patrick Nolan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the executive committee members for their focus on the governance of the board. Patrick also commended ACC staff for their dedication during the pandemic and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Approval of Minutes.

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded and the January 26, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

Audited Financial Report

Gina Manente of Rosenberg and Manante presented the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2020 which was in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The statement reflected a variance in total assets and total liabilities. The variance in total assets was due to the development of 1906 Flushing Avenue and accounts receivable from NYC DOHMH. The variance in total liabilities was as a result of the construction cost associated with 1906 Flushing Avenue and an increase in the Line of Credit.

There was a motion to approve the audited financials. The motion was seconded and the financials were approved.

Financial Report for YTD May 2021 and Introduction to FY22 Budget

Jeff Hauser of Kiwi Partners presented the preliminary unaudited Statement of Activities for YTD May 2021 and introduced the FY22 operating budget.

The Statement of Activities summary reflected a variance versus budget in total revenue and total expenses. Jeff reviewed the reasons for various line item variances, including those that were impacted by the challenging environment in fiscal 2021. A discussion ensued regarding what was included under certain line items and a request was made for future financial reports to include a comparison versus prior year.

Jennifer DiClemente, Director of Development, presented an update on development and fundraising results through May 2021, followed by a review of the FY22 development strategy.

The Board requested that the format of the FY22 operating budget be revised to reflect a comparison to previous years and a rollup of expenses similar to the Statement of Activities. It was then proposed that the Board meet in a special session in the future to review the report further before approving the FY22 operating budget.

ACC Report

Risa Weinstock, CEO and President began her presentation by expressing her thanks to ACC staff for their commitment during the Covid-19 crisis. She also acknowledged Christine Kim of the Mayor's Office for her tremendous support throughout the pandemic. The Board expressed gratitude to Risa, the leadership team and staff of ACC for remaining steadfast over the past eighteen months of uncertainty.

Trends in Animal Welfare Nationally

ACC has not seen a spike in surrender of animals that were adopted during the pandemic; this pattern is consistent with the national data on animal surrender. However ACC is experiencing a seasonal increase in intake, similar to the pattern of intake before the pandemic during the summer months. This trend is also consistent with the national data showing a seasonal increase in intake.

Live Intake

ACC data shows that stray and owner surrender numbers have decreased significantly in 2020 and for the first five months of 2021. While this decline is driven by the pandemic, the data also shows a steady increase in kitten intake approaching intake levels similar to those pre-pandemic. ACC anticipates an increase in owner surrender especially because of economic hardship after the pandemic. ACC's surrender prevention program has strategically been focusing on this possibility and is developing a pool of resources to continue providing the necessary services that will help clients avoid or defer surrender. The data presented also shows a steady and significant increase in intake of Guinea Pigs. ACC plans to work with the new members of city council and the mayor's office to address retail sales of guinea pigs to reduce the rapidly rising intake numbers.

Placement

The placement of dogs for January through May 2021 is 94% and 91.3% for cats. The data also showed the continual and steady need for ACC as a resource for End of Life Services, formerly referred to as owner-requested euthanasia. EOL entails a thoughtful process with clients who make such requests and the ACC team that assesses EOL are professionals and careful about each and every animal that is brought to ACC for humane euthanasia at the request of their family member. ACC made clear that healthy animals are not euthanized nor does ACC euthanize for space.

Companion Animal Placement

Ellen Curtis, Vice President and Chief Program Officer noted that because of the pandemic many changes had to be made, some of which impacted operations in a positive way and will be taken into consideration for implementation. Many animals were adopted by foster parents while New Hope Partners were responsible for 2,148 animals leaving the Care Centers. An additional 15 New Hope Partners since January were added for a total of over 300 partners. Browsing appointments for cats have increased and the mobile adoption events with cats will restart in July.

Foster Program

The Foster Program increased by 673 new parents from January through May 2021. The benefits of this program are notable, as some animals that would have stayed in the shelter for a longer period or would not have been adopted, now have a greater chance of placement.

Placement Department

Adopets, a pet adoption management system was launched on April 1, 2021. This system integrates with ACC Shelter Buddy Software and includes features to enhance the adoption process.

ACC entered into a pilot program with DogsTrust UK for their Dog School program which offers training for adopters to help keep their pets. The training is four sessions and the ASPCA has offered to help with funding to enable low income individuals to participate. ACC is also in partnership with DogsTrust UK to train staff in animal behavior which will add to the health and well being of the dogs housed at ACC's care centers.

Community Pets

Over 89,000 lbs. of pet food were distributed to food pantries and homebound clients. ACC in partnership with the ASPCA donated 13,000 lbs. of food to pantries throughout NYC. There were also spay/neuter clinics and dog training sessions on a modified schedule during the last 5 months due to pandemic restrictions and health concerns.

Road to Recovery

ACC is optimistic about rising from the challenges and risks presented by the pandemic. The staff have been very collaborative, working together with each other and our clients to achieve the best outcome for the most animals under these circumstances. Part of ACC's road to recovery in the next few months include: the addition of more vaccine clinics, mobile spay/neuter and pet food pantry events, mobile adoptions, increased in-person browsing at the care centers and a gradual return of additional volunteers inside the care centers.

Queens Shelter Update

Jennifer Piibe, General Counsel presented a report on the full-service, state-of-the-art shelter. Construction completion is scheduled for Summer of 2022.

Capital Projects Update

Christine Kim, Director, Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare presented an overview of the ACC Capital Projects.

The City dedicated \$115.7M toward the development and renovation of the ACC Staten Island, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Bronx and Queens shelters. Staten Island and Brooklyn are subject to total renovation while Bronx and Queens will be new facilities. There will be a new adoption center in Manhattan.

Christine advised that the pause on construction was lifted on January 28, 2021. There was no pause on the work at the Staten Island facility since work was already in progress.

The Brooklyn design was completed on March 3, 2021 and is in the construction procurement phase. The anticipated move-in is Winter of 2025.

Phase 2 construction is ongoing on the Staten Island shelter. This includes the main adoption entrance , parking lot and dog run and the roofing and masonry block installation are in progress. The projected phase 2 completion is Fall 2021

The design completion of the Bronx is projected for Spring 2022 and construction for Winter 2023. Anticipated move-in is Spring 2025.

There was a ground-breaking ceremony on June 2, 2021 for the Manhattan Pet Adoption Center. The building was emptied and turned over to DDC to begin construction. Completion is projected for January 2023.

The Board thanked Christine for her dedication to ACC. The board also thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their continued support.

Public comments began at 11:30am and ended at 11:57am.

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