



Animal Care Centers of NYC
11 Park Place
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New York, NY 10007
(212) 788-4000

ACC Board Meeting
June 24, 2020
Via WebEx

In attendance:

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

The meeting commenced at 9:37am.

Chair Patrick Nolan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted ACC's role as an essential service provider to NYC, committed to ending animal homelessness in NYC and remaining open during the Covid-19 pandemic at great risk to serve the animals and the community. Patrick also stated that ACC and the Board are committed to the health and safety of the employees. The board also stated its commitment to address the issue of systemic racism and expressed strong support for Black Lives Matter. The executive committee met specifically to discuss racism, social justice and creating an environment that respects these important issues within the organization and the communities it serves. ACC President and CEO, Risa Weinstock reiterated ACC's commitment to take action through education, engagement with a subject expert and analysis of the organization.

Patrick reminded members of the public about the comment session and noted the rules that applied, and asked that individuals use the chat function in WebEx to sign up. He also suggested that those individuals who weren't able to use the chat function, submit their comments through the ACC info account indicating in the subject line that it's for Board review.

Help us in our mission to end animal homelessness in NYC
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Approval of Minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The January meeting minutes were approved.

Financials

Gina Manente of Rosenberg and Manente presented a summary of the financial report for the year ended June 30, 2019. The report was considered fair as there were no material weaknesses identified. There was a motion to approve the financials and they were approved.

FY '20 Forecast and Budget FY'21

Joe Belan of BTQ Financial presented the FY'20 forecast and the FY'21 budget. ACC is projected to end FY'20 with a surplus of \$137K due to additional funding received from DOHMH.

Although revenue was lower than budget, BTQ and the Board acknowledged that the FY20 goal was not met primarily because it was set high as an aspiration. However, there was an increase in contributions over FY19. Other areas that contributed to the shortfall in revenues were income from shelter services and the cancellation due to Covid-19 of Spring Fling, which traditionally generates over \$70,000.

Expenses were lower than budget because of OTPS price negotiations, efficiencies, reduced need for certain medical supplies and savings in software and tech and service support. Joe discussed the FY'21 proposed budget which is projected to be a break-even bottom line on revenues.

There was a motion to approve the FY'21 budget. The budget was approved.

ACC Report

President and CEO Risa Weinstock presented the report.

There was a significant decline in live intake during April 2020 which is a definite reflection of the stay at home order issued in March as well as the Covid-19 pandemic.

While being mindful of the health and safety of the public and staff, ACC remained open for emergency services and implemented social distancing of staff and the public through non-emergency services by appointment only. In May the population began to increase, primarily due to ACC following up on surrender/intake appointments that made in the prior month and allowed ACC to defer intakes temporarily for the health and safety of staff and the public. ACC also had to implement changes in procedures relating to staffing, veterinary services, admissions, placement and field services. Risa stated that ACC is following all the health and safety protocols provided by the CDC, state and local authorities to ensure the health and safety of staff and clients. During the pandemic 721 pets were adopted, 1,434 were placed with New Hope partners and 598 went to foster homes. Risa thanked the City for the support provided, the New Hope partners and all the individuals who showed up to support ACC through adoption, foster as well as financial support and donations of masks and other PPE.

Vice President, Animal Health & Welfare, Dr. Robin Brennen discussed the protocol changes in veterinary services as a result of the pandemic. She noted that from the onset ACC was involved in communications at the national level with experts in shelter medicine to come up with strategies to cope with the effects of Covid-19 on the shelter system. It was important that the human health care system remained intact by following all necessary precautions including social distancing and reducing

consumption of PPE. The biggest risk was spay/neuter so the health care professionals agreed on a temporary suspension for this elective procedure. The veterinary team is working on a plan to handle the backlog and will also seek assistance from the veterinary community. A system was also set up to provide health information to clients, fosters and adopters without having them come into the care centers. Another major concern was those animals that would be coming from Covid-19 infected homes so to manage this, ACC established a quarantine system in the care centers and in pet owner's homes with guidelines from the CDC. Dr. Brennen discussed her interview with the New York Times on The Pets Left Behind by Covid-19. The Field Team at great personal risks, rescued many pets left behind. This was not an easy task but nevertheless, a necessary undertaking to save those pets. Vice President, Chief Program Officer, Ellen Curtis discussed how ACC is approaching its commitment to provide animal welfare services to the community. A telephone hotline created out of the NYC Animal Planning Task Force was launched on April 20th and every call related to the pandemic is directed to ACC. Ellen explained how ACC managed some of these challenging situations by visiting hospitals to obtain keys to gain access to apartments and contacting relatives in another state to get information about pets left behind in homes. Many clients were able to rehome their pets because of their response to request for information about their pets and with the resources that ACC made available to them. ACC's local vaccine clinics, free dog behavior and food pantry programs had to be halted due to the pandemic and instead ACC began delivering foods and hosting pop-up pantries. Although the development goal that was set for fiscal 2020 was not met, there was an increase in contributions and grants over fiscal 2019 enabling ACC to end the year on budget. The goal for FY'21 is \$4M. ACC Director of Development, Jennifer DiClemente, noted the strategies that address the pandemic and its impact on giving, especially with respect to holding events virtually beginning with an alternate for Spring Fling that was canceled in May and our upcoming 25th anniversary gala scheduled for November 2020.

In closing, Risa emphasized ACC's commitment to provide the best service possible while focusing on keeping the staff safe and healthy. The collaboration among the entire welfare community, nationally and locally, played a very significant role in strategizing during this very challenging period. Risa noted how important it was that ACC had established these relationships prior to the pandemic. On behalf of the Board, Patrick Nolan and Denise Incandela thanked Risa and her team for the leadership, commitment and dedication in support of the animals in the community.

Update on Animal Shelter Capital Projects

ACC reported that work did not cease on the Queens site during the pandemic and the expected opening is still scheduled for summer of 2020.

Senior Community Liaison, Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare, Christine Kim, thanked Risa and staff on behalf of the Mayor's Office and the City of New York for the extraordinary commitment shown during the pandemic.

All Department of Design and Construction projects were put on hold as of the end of March 2020 and this affected the Manhattan, Bronx and Brooklyn developments.

SIACC construction was already in progress when NYC was put on pause so this project was reviewed and designated as essential. Work continued and is expected to be completed by fall 2020.

Public comments

Public comments were heard from 11:06 am until 11:42 am.

Patrick thanked everyone for attending and asked for their continued support.

There was a motion to move to executive session and the motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:44am.