

MINUTES
ACC Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Queens Animal Care Center
1906 Flushing Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Attendees: Patrick Nolan, Chair
Dr. Jay Kuhlman, Secretary
Jason Power, Treasurer
Neil Abramson
Surey Miranda-Alarcón
Adrian Ashby
Sarah Aucoin
Corinne Schiff
Aleah Simpson

The meeting commenced at 9:35am. Chair, Patrick Nolan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Patrick announced the resignation of board member Yonaton Aronoff and expressed on behalf of the Board his great appreciation for Yonaton's service over the years. The board members in attendance introduced themselves to the public.

Board business was conducted:

Approval of the Minutes -- There was a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2024 meeting. The motion was approved and the minutes were approved.

Elections of Officers -- The board agreed to reappoint the following officers: Patrick Nolan, Chair; Dr. Jay Kuhlman, Secretary; and Jason Power, Treasurer. A motion to approve the officers was made, seconded and approved. It was noted the Vice Chair position was open.

Board Committees – the board members affirmed their committee assignments:

Executive

Patrick Nolan - Chair; Christine Kim; Elaine Keane; Corrine Schiff; Neil Abramson;
Dr. Jay Kuhlman

Audit

Jason Power - Chair; Elaine Keane; Patrick Nolan

Nominating

Patrick Nolan - Chair; Neil Abramson; Sarah Aucoin; Corrine Schiff; Christine Kim;
Aleah Simpson

Development

Dr. Dennis Gross - Chair; Patrick Nolan; Dr. Jay Kuhlman, Jason Power

Queens

Christine Kim – Chair; Patrick Nolan; Sarah Aucoin; Elaine Keane

Bronx (New Committee)

Surey Miranda-Alarcón - Chair; Patrick Nolan; Sarah Aucoin; Aleah Simpson

Finance – FY25 Year-to-Date (December 2024) Report:

Jeff Hauser of Kiwi Partners presented preliminary financial results covering 6 months ending December 2024. Total net assets increased by \$4.6M of which unrestricted net assets related to Shelter Operations increased by \$1.2M. Shelter revenue, giving, and event revenue totaled \$1.68m which was less than budget and prior year although there are expectations this will be made up in the second half of the year with the addition of a gala and other fundraising opportunities. Cash on hand at the end of December 2024 was \$11.7m of which \$3.2m is subject to temporary restrictions. All DOH invoices are being handled expeditiously.

President and CEO Risa Weinstock introduced Ashley Massulo, Director of Development who presented the FY25 revenue analysis of ACC's fundraising. She introduced the Development Department staff, explained their roles and noted that the department is moving toward a strong fiscal end of year. Institutional giving continues to be strong and on target to meet or exceed the FY25 budget. The development department will focus the remaining half of the fiscal year on the Gala in early June; strengthening individual giving; and expanding the Campaign for the Future.

Capital Improvement

Alexandra Silver, Director, Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare/Community Affairs Unit, presented an update on the City-Managed Capital Projects in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn as follows:

- There was a ribbon cutting ceremony in October 2024 to mark the opening of Manhattan Pet Adoption Center.
- The installation of the concrete floor at the Bronx site is completed with the mechanical, electrical and plumbing piping in progress. The stormwater detention system is also in progress. Substantial completion is expected by Fall 2025 and expected opening to the public is Spring 2026.
- Demolition of the Brooklyn ACC location began in January 2025 and the city anticipates substantial completion of the construction by Summer 2026 followed by ACC moving in animals and equipment in the Fall.

ACC Operational Report

Risa Weinstock, President and CEO began her presentation with emphasis on the importance of the Foster Program which plays a very vital role in the placement of animals. Risa noted that many animals are in the shelters for hundreds of days and encouraged fostering. She highlighted the dog on the cover of her presentation, who has been in the shelter's care for over 389 days and in foster for 266. (Update: Casper was adopted two weeks following the board meeting by a member of the public.)

The board was shown a short video taken on the day ACC moved its entire Brooklyn Animal Care Center operations to Queens. Risa expressed her heartfelt thanks to the ACC staff and also to the ASPCA for their collaboration, perseverance and support during the move.

The presentation continued with ACC's monthly data based on the calendar year 2024:

Intake by Source - The data reflected that overall intake for CY24 compared to CY23 was 400 animals less. A decrease of guinea pig intake by 300 mainly accounted for this drop, otherwise intake this CY was relatively flat from the last 2 calendar years

Intake by Month – During the months of May and August there was a significant increase in the intake of cats, and the intake of dogs was also the highest in those two months.

Placement Rate - The 89% rate for dogs remained the same as 2023 while the 92% placement rate for cats reflects a 2% increase from the year prior.

Daily Population – Ellen Curtis, VP and Chief Programs Officer reported on the average daily population. She noted that length of stay has increased significantly (many dogs in particular in care over 50 days; some nearly one year). Increased lengths of stay present challenges across the entire organization and every team in operations and vet services are analyzing areas of improvement to quality of shelter life for the animals.

New Hope Program – There are 349 active New Hope Partners who have helped with the placement of 6,954 animals, the majority being cats. A total of 42 partners were added this year.

Foster Program – There were 1,655 animals placed in foster during 2024 and 1,331 new fosters were added from 31 orientations. ACC has also partnered with Lyft to provide 329 free rides for fosters and their pets and with Heart of Chelsea Veterinary Group to provide dental services to 34 of our animals in foster.

Community Resources – This department covers many areas of need in the community. This year the department received 12,350 surrender requests; concluded 3,813 surrender preventions and interventions; distributed over 43,000 lbs. of food; in addition to ongoing vaccine clinics, spay/neuter events, individual training sessions and assisting 211 animals through our special cases program.

An extension of ACC's community resources programs will include the veterinary clinic/medical center at the Queens Animal Care Center. ACC's Sr. VP Animal Health & Welfare, Dr. Robin Brennen, explained the operations and ACC's goal to help families who would have exhausted their funds in an attempt to obtain treatment for their pet. Clients to the clinic would be on a referral basis from a veterinarian as the clinic rolls out its first phase of operation in 2025.

Volunteer Program – Volunteer hours increased 16% to 37,319 this year, and added another 203 volunteers in 2024.

ACC continues to reach the community through its Community Kids program, with 118 presentations at NYC schools and Community Affairs team participating in 55 outreach and other community events.

Patrick Nolan spoke on behalf of board member and Chair of the Queens Committee Christine Kim, who was unable to attend the board meeting. In an effort to bring awareness of ACC's presence in the neighborhood, Christine arranged the Woodward Avenue Stroll during a very busy holiday weekend. The event engaged small businesses in the community, encouraged residents to visit ACC, and fielded interests from individuals about volunteering.

Public comments were heard from 11:03 am to 11:34 am.

There was a motion to adjourn to executive session. This motion was approved and the meeting moved into executive session at 11:35am.