

PrairieLand Visiting Animals Association

May 10, 2021

The PVAA meeting was called to order by Karen Simecka, president, @ 6:30 pm. Members present via Zoom: Karen Simecka, Judy Knoll, Denise Moore, Diana Zimmerman & Sharon Fricke.

Minutes: Judy Knoll

- Minutes from 3-8-21 were reviewed & approved.

Treasury Report: Diana Zimmerman

- We paid \$194.55 for the website. Part of that is for three years and part is annual; we'll remove the "yearly fee" from the report. We need to get a receipt for this payment.
- Since the report was prepared, we received two more checks and one PayPal payment for dues. Only seven have not paid.
- Ending balance: \$1,886.50, That includes the Reading Program Fund: \$302.42 and \$1,584.08 in the general fund. Approved. Report filed with Diana.

Chairperson's Report: Karen Simecka

- Since the last meeting we have three new members: Tom Misilo with a Golden named Belle, Orissa Metzger with a Golden named Emmie and Laura Tomason with a Westie named Jack.
- Thanks, Tim, for organizing National Therapy Animal Day with Sarah at Stormont – Sharon, Carolyn, Kathy, Michelle & Judy and their dogs participated. Also had a Stress Relief day on April 28th at Washburn. Tim has met with Lincoln, a young boy deathly afraid of dogs.

Public Education Coordinator: Sharon Fricke

- Sharon talks about therapy dogs every day of her life. They do so much. Have evaluations in May at Prince of Peace: 6 dogs on Saturday the 22nd (9:30-2:30) and 2 dogs on Friday night the 21st (6:00 pm). There will be another one on July 10th (if Carolyn can get the church). We have a lot on the wait list to be evaluated. Bitsy Patton & Jessie need to be evaluated before the end of June.

Social Media: Diana Zimmerman

- Trying to post 1-2 times a week. Has a lot of content because of National Pet Therapy Animal day. Need people to send pictures, be sure to include name, pet's name and gender, where it was taken. Send to Diana's email. Consider sharing to your own FB account, also "like" the ones posted.

Old Business:

- Dues report – we have 35 members paid, 5 unpaid. The paid includes 3 lifetime members. Seven have cancelled. We're down a little but the new evaluations should pick it back up. Should we cancel those 5?
- Petty Cash – we've had \$23.91 for years. Thought it didn't make the transfer between Carolyn and Diana but found the envelope. Will deposit it to the checking account in the General fund.
- READ program at the library – Sundays from Sept 5-26, although may skip the 5th because of the holiday. In that case we'll have 3 in September and one in October.
- Annual Picnic - September 18th at 5:30 at Prince of Peace, lower level. The dogs can be off leash in the

children's fenced in area. PVAA will supply chicken and tableware, Sharon will bring plates and glasses, Denise will supply tablecloths. Others bring a dish to share. Carlie used to coordinate – Sharon & Denise will take care of this year. Sign-up in advance. Will have four tables (4x8).

- New Member form on-line – There is a google form for this, but the challenge is uploading the picture, which you can't do without paying. Will just have them email the picture to Diana. We're asking everyone to do this since many current members don't have pictures or their info is outdated.
- 501(c)(3) – There is a \$275 one-time-only fee. We are nonprofit but not tax exempt. If we file for this status, contributions are tax deductible. On the application we must prove we're a public charity (public donations, dues & evaluations) and that we support other public charities (schools, hospitals...) There are more stringent recordkeeping of activities and need to keep a file of all the paperwork. There are annual forms to complete, everything must fit our purpose (nothing political). The value is that we can raise money, accept donations from groups that want to support our cause. A motion was made, seconded and passed to proceed with applying for 501(c)(3) status.

New Business:

- Prince of Peace payment – We paid \$300 last year for facility use, but because of the pandemic, we only used it once for the February evaluations. In the past it has been \$50 per event. A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay them \$100 now and revisit later this year (November). Check should be made to Prince of Peace and noted as a donation from PVAA.
- Quarterly Newsletter – Tim will supply the content and Judy will help with the layout/template.
- Meetings – Because of conflicts with several members, we will change our meetings from Monday to Tuesday night. Karen will see if we can make it happen for the remainder of this year (since they're already scheduled with the library).
- Pet Therapy Prep Class with Tim starts July 18.
- Therapy team needs – HPHS, Social worker at Stormont for a dementia patient in Meriden that lost their furry friend
- Shared a message from Lincoln, the child that Tim visited.
- Christmas Party – December 4th at Sharon Fricke's home.
- Suggestion to put a calendar on the member page

Other Business:

- Sharon mentioned they're looking for teams to visit the Juvie center. Start at 3:00 p.m. on Thursdays for one hour. She started the program several years ago. You have to pass a criminal background check. Kathy or Sharon will be with the visiting team (they've gone through additional checks).

Meeting adjourned @ 7:30 pm

Secretary,

Judy Knoll