

GREYHOUND FRIENDS OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

Minutes for Greyhound Friends of NC Board Meeting held January 31st, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.in Greensboro, NC.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Melissa Cormican, Desta Hudgens (Secretary), Linda Landry, Sandy Lucas (Treasurer), Rick Montgomery, Amy Reynard (President), Malay Shah (Vice President)

OTHER ATTENDEES

James Witherspoon, Lynda Montgomery, Bruce Lee, Patricia Cresswell, Shirley Skelton, Eileen Jeremics

OLD BUSINESS

Website Upgrade

Malay provided an update on the status of our new website. Prior to designing the site, a survey was done to poll volunteers for information regarding most popular pages, most important info, etc. Feedback has been positive on beta site. GFNC store on old web site will still be functional and will be linked to the new website.

Malay plans to have the first phase up in February. We will run the new site parallel with the old in the short term. The new link will be posted on the old website and it will be announced in a newsletter to the membership. Melissa will post an announcement to Facebook; Linda will send e-mail to the members.

Our previous webmaster will continue hosting our site for free; however, we will continue to pay a fee for the old store until the new one is rolled out. Malay asked for assistance to complete the 'previously adopted dog' information on the site. We'll be asking the membership and previous adopters to assist in this effort. Melissa will post something to Facebook to ask for stories.

Mountain Hounds

Rick Montgomery provided a Mountain Hounds planning update. Planning is underway, the food is lined up; we're working on recruiting additional volunteers as these are always needed. We still need to secure speakers, ideas welcome. Melissa will handle group e-mail communication again this year – feedback regarding the emails in 2015 was very positive.

Committee Reports:

Sandy Lucas provided a financial report. She stated that at the present time we are financially sound.

Fundraisers such as Santa Photos and the online auction were successful. Mini drop-ins, started in the fall, 2015 have proven to be successful. They require little overhead and provide excellent interactions with members and adopters. They bring a lot of exposure for the available dogs, sales increase for the Hound Boutique. Visitors enjoy these opportunities to visit with other owners and we will continue these events in 2016.

Sandy reported she's investigating a change in the company we use for our trash service. Current dumpster rental charge now due and the fees we pay are very high. Sandy will look into alternative garbage service.

The square has been fully operational at the kennel for some time, and the new square is in place - this square will accept cards with chips.

The last brick order has been filled and this fundraiser was concluded in December, 2015. The space for display of bricks is limited and will be replaced with plaques for the kennel doors. The gazebo has been selected to showcase the bricks and many bricks have already been displayed there. We've received positive feedback regarding the display. The remaining bricks currently displayed on the porch will be moved from the porch to the gazebo this spring.

Kennel Update

James Witherspoon, kennel manager, reported our recent inspection by the NC Department of Agriculture went well. One request for a process change will be implemented by the kennel team (an intake form will be signed by hauler for each dog delivered). James has been present for three successful inspections since being kennel manager, and our 2015 inspection resulted in high praise for GFNC being the best shelter in the county.

Foster Update

Triangle greys and GFNC have built a great partnership resulting in many adoptions and ongoing support from the group. TGS is a vital part of our success in meet and greets/events in the Triangle area. Charlotte area also has several fosters available at this time.

Volunteer Update

Sally provided an update for Amy to share. All shifts are covered at this time. Sunday morning shift may be available soon. 3,157 volunteer hours were recorded for 2015. This is only kennel volunteer time that is self-reported by volunteers at the kennel and does not include any other volunteer time for meet and greets, Mountain Hounds, fundraisers, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

Melissa proposed a schedule for 2016 events. We will look into additional advertising in other media sources. Our 2016 open house will be held in April to coincide with National Adopt a Greyhound month.

2016 Budget/Projects.

- Sandy provided an overview of the 2016 budget. We are budgeting 120 adoptions for this year. Most expenses remain flat.
- Our van needs some repair work done on it this year, James will address needs.
- Remodeling the old office/restroom/spa area is on the 'wish list' as one possible project for the year.
- New Generator is also on the 'wish list'. James to get an estimate, other ideas will be solicited regarding how to secure a generator for the kennel.

New Business:

Plaques for kennel doors - this new fundraiser is being finalized by the board. Details to come.

Bruce Lee presented a verbal proposal for a possible grant – Malay will head up discussions with Bruce regarding this proposal.

Three volunteers raised concerns with recent decisions that turned out to be based on incomplete or secondhand information. The conversation that followed cleared up several misunderstandings and highlighted the negative consequences of jumping to conclusions without knowledge of the full facts.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.