

## **Greyhound Friends of North Carolina, Inc.**

**Minutes** for Greyhound Friends of NC Board Meeting held July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Greensboro, NC.

12:00 p.m. Election of officers

1:00 p.m. Board meeting

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

None

The meeting was brought to order at 1 p.m., and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Current officers were unanimously re-elected. (See Board Members above)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Financial Update**

Sandy provided a review of our current expenses and income. We are on budget and in good financial standing at the current time.

Vet bills have increased over the years and on average we spend more than the \$295 adoption fee for typical veterinary treatment for each dog adopted. A motion was passed to raise the adoption fee to cover expenses. The new fee of \$325.00 was unanimously approved and will be effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. The microchip fee will remain at \$30.00

#### **Kennel Operations Update**

Prescription medication for dogs is kept on site, and we will review with James how medicine is distributed/secured to ensure we're compliant with veterinarian and state expectations.

We are expected to keep records as meds are administered to be in compliance and should keep expense down for the meds used. It is expected that, per the vet who provides the meds in bulk, we notify them when a dog is medicated. This ensures the file at the vet can be properly maintained in case a dog needs additional care.

James is not expected to be on call 24/7 yet he receives calls on his off hours on a regular basis. The group discussed after hours phone coverage/vacation coverage. Ideas were discussed, and James will be consulted to develop a protocol which works for all. Suggestions include:

- Ensure James changes the message on his voice mail to reflect his status if he is out of town.
- Change verbiage on website to provide additional emergency numbers in case he's not available. Sandy and Amy are ongoing emergency backup contacts.
- Consult with Sally to determine her role, regarding volunteer questions/concerns during off hours, and how to address non-emergent issues.

- Communicate emergent/non emergent issues and protocol for each. Share on website and post at kennel.
- When protocol is in place, communicate protocol with all volunteers via Sally.

Denise is expertly managing the collar sales and inventory, and the process is working very well. Most adopters purchase the upgraded collar when they adopt. The board expressed our appreciation for Denise's efforts and ongoing support.

Future goals include inventory of all items purchased/sold via the Hound Bouquet.

### **Mountain Hounds recap – Rick Montgomery**

Total money earned for the event was slightly down from last year but still substantial. We did not have pottery available for sale and this was a factor in reduced income. Faulty pottery was received at the event has been returned, and a stop payment has been placed on the check. Rick has addressed this with the vendor.

The Rotary Club cookout funds were left at the Sidney James for pick up but were stolen from the front desk. The Sidney James covered the money owed to the Rotary Club.

Since a new hotel is being built on the property we usually use for vending, we have received approval for vending at the park, and we will use tents & pavilion affording us plenty of space. An alternative indoor option may be available but is not a definite. Typically dogs are not allowed in indoor vending space per hotel policy but we'll continue to investigate the option.

Malay has begun working on redesigning the Mountain Hounds website. Now's the time to make any changes with event over and registration for next year closed. The new site will mirror the current GFNC site and will allow participants to register on line. It will also allow icontact emails to be sent automatically upon registration, as well as easy creation of badges.

Rick is looking at purchasing a device to install the fence posts to fence in the ball field. Volunteers are limited at setup time, and this will help to cut the time spent in putting in posts. One of our largest expenses is the truck rental.

If we can find someone to sponsor the truck we could increase our net funds raised. Board members will solicit sponsors.

On-site fundraising (by non GFNC groups) during Mountain Hounds will be reviewed prior to next year's event.

### **Red White and Rio review**

Melissa provided a brief review of Red/White/Rio fundraiser and reminded the group the campaign remains active until Labor Day. Because Beach Bound Hounds is after Labor day, GFNC will be able to sell remaining items at Beach Bound Hounds as follows:

- Bows & Flowers - \$9.00 (Amy will verify if Houndstown is selling at event, as we don't want to compete with the vendor on this item)
- Stickers - \$5, Tags - \$10

## **Social Media & Upcoming Events**

Melissa provided a brief review of activity from our recent Facebook posts. The posts containing photos/videos/stories get very good exposure/hits. The photo James posted of the new group of dogs was very well received.

Melissa suggested we feature 4 dogs per week via Facebook/iContact before drop-ins. This will help visitors to have an idea of who they would like see. Melissa will contact James to get info on the featured dogs prior to events and she will do the social media updates.

Malay provided a review of our website activity – we have high hit rates. Most visitors look at - greys available for adoption & application pages.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Spa Day - Sept. 18th**

The current state of our septic system raises concerns – it needs to be pumped and possibly replaced. Repairing/replacing this is property owner's responsibility – Amy will get in touch with the Arnold's to discuss the project. With high water usage, we'll need to be aware that this area will possibly flood on Spa day – we have to be prepared to take action to prevent overworking the system. As an alternative, we can use baby pools with outside hose for bathing if weather permits. This would help increase the number of dogs we can wash as well as reduce the water in the septic tank. We'll offer tooth brushes & tooth paste to give away – Melissa will inquire about donations for dental goodie bags. Jason Hancock and Blanche will do nail trimming. Melissa is working on a scheduling system for appointments to decrease wait times for folks who bring dogs to the kennel for services.

Amy will contact James about preparing a list of ideas for clean up and organizing, including talking to Denise about relocating her supplies. Amy will also talk with James about moving drinks and dog food into a climate controlled environment prior to clean up day.

Raffle baskets will be offered at Spa day. This includes Bath & Body Works and Godiva. Amy will head up this effort – she will contact Totty for donation of Godiva and BBW for donation.

### **Membership month – October, 2016**

Incentives have not yet been set for this campaign. Amy, Linda and Melissa will work on this and provide recommendations to the board.

### **Adoptions to date**

Linda Landry reported we have completed 92 adoptions this year through the month of July, compared to 102 total adoptions for all of 2015 and 131 adoptions in 2014. This is tremendous growth in number of adoptions. The new website launched in April, strong social media messaging, meet and greets, and steady population of dogs for adoption were all cited as likely reasons for this growth. The board is thrilled with our excellent progress this year and is confident we'll have nearly 200 adoptions this year.

## **Upcoming Events & Fundraising**

Amy Reynard & Amy Martin will be vending for GFNC at Beach Bound Hounds. Amy M. donates the cost of vendor registration for the kennel. Amy Reynard will be vending at Spa Day.

Desta is collecting pink items for a Pink Auction at end of August. This auction is in honor of three fawn females who have faced Osteosarcoma. The Pink auction will be done via Facebook - Desta will work with Melissa to set up and advertise the auction.

Our annual online auction will be held in October and Rick reported we'll work with the same vendor again - NO changes to vendor, no increased expense.

Amy reported volunteer Deb Martin submitted 2 grants and expects to hear back in December. We would like to find another person to help w/grant writing.

Amy reported on the Wilmington fundraising efforts, acknowledging the work Roy is doing with the Wilmington area events. He's scheduling meet and greets and play dates and sending donations from these events on a regular basis.

## **Kennel Honorary Plaques**

After some discussion, the group agreed the funds raised during this upcoming campaign will be earmarked for a new van. The current van is in good repair but a new one will be required in the future, and we'd like to be prepared for this large expense prior to an urgent need. Alternatively, we will pursue a grant to cover the expense. Linda Landry presented the samples of the plaques, and the group unanimously agreed to use the samples she shared. The sample will be shared at Spa Day and launched in September after Red White and Rio concludes.

- Space on kennel doors allows 4 plaques per kennel - they will be placed across top of each door in an effort to avoid blocking line of sight to adoptable hounds
- Kennel space allows for a limit of 88 plaques
- The charge will be \$250 per plaque
- Total goal: \$22,000
- This campaign will be run on a limited basis to encourage excitement and participation

## **Kennel Clean Up day (Sept. 3 - 9:00 am)**

The Hound Boutique will be the primary area of focus for the day. Amy will ask James to be present that day and to have volunteers or staff cover his work so he can participate. Also, the volunteers working will be asked to leave dogs at home this day to ensure dogs stay safe as items are moved out of the boutique.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.