

**THE CAT WELFARE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
DECEMBER 21, 2021**

**Maple Grove Methodist Church  
7 W Henderson Rd, Columbus, OH 43214**

## **MINUTES**

**In attendance:**

- Board members: Amy Borrer, Sue Godsey, Brenda Martin, Jay Mathew, Karen Ramey, Lisa Strickland, Katie Thomas
- Others: Helen DeSantis, Gail Harbert, Steve Hebenstreit

Outgoing President Karen Ramey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Election of Officers**

Board officers were elected as follows:

- President: Katie Thomas
- Vice President: Brenda Martin
- Recording Secretary, Amy Borrer

Outgoing President Karen Ramey turned the meeting over to newly elected President Katie Thomas.

Consent Agenda was approved.

**Shelter Report**

Executive Director Helen DeSantis provided the Board with the Shelter Report:

- Year-to-date adoptions are up nine percent from 2021, and at about 69 percent of pre-pandemic levels.
- 2022 calendars are selling well, at a rate above 2021 levels.
- The Association's trap-neuter-return (TNR) efforts are at an all-time high, with approximately 3,000 TNRs supported year-to-date.
- The manufacturer of the cat litter the shelter uses is going out of business. Helen DeSantis and Shelter Manager Gail Harbert are looking into alternatives that will be cost-efficient and provide a product that is manageable for shelter staff to use.
- The Association's Giving Tuesday fundraising effort was a success. On social media, the shelter requested \$10,000 in donations to replace a commercial dryer. The effort raised nearly \$25,000.

**Old Business**

- President Katie Thomas explained that the Association had previously surveyed outgoing Board members and learned that former Board members wished they had received additional training and orientation when they joined the Board. In response, Helen DeSantis and others have prepared a Board member orientation, some of which will be provided at the January 2022 meeting.
- President Katie Thomas explained that she hopes the Board will develop a three-year strategy to support the work of the shelter.

**New Business**

- A resolution was approved granting Steve Hebenstreit authority to act on behalf of The Cat Welfare Association concerning the estate and trust of James Henderson.
- Helen DeSantis provided Board members with a document, Board Meetings 101: A Quick Guide, and briefly reviewed the Board's previous committee structure.
- Sue Godsey requested that the Board discuss *ex officio* members at its January 2022 meeting.

Board President Katie Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Borrer  
Recording Secretary