

## **WRNC Board Meeting 6/24/2018**

Teleconference call

**Present:** Carla Johnson (president), Linda Bergman-Althouse (vice president), Ann Rogers (secretary), Jean Chamberlain (treasurer), Toni O'Neil, Mathias Engelmann, Amanda Falk, Elizabeth Chandler

**Excused:** Amy Akins, Amber McNamara, Kathy Lillard

Shortly before the meeting began, the Board received emails with resignations from Kelley Odell and Cathy Burns. Jean will change the Board password on the website, and Linda will change the Facebook password.

Carla called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. The roll was called and eight Board members were present.

### **Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting had been sent out, and several modifications had already been made. There was some discussion as to whether Kelley's comment about her intention to resign should have been included in the minutes. The previous minutes will be modified, and her resignation is now a matter of record in these minutes. Elizabeth also said the minutes should reflect that she will not be able to help at the symposium sales table this next year due to all her other duties there.

Carla moved that the minutes be approved as modified. Toni seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Membership**

There was a discussion of the membership schedule. We had previously agreed that the registration for the past symposium would include a \$7.50 half-year membership to end on June 30, 2018. In prior years, a \$15 membership renewal has been included with the symposium fee, and this was for the next calendar year, which was always a confusing issue. Many people did not know whether they were a member or not. If we change our membership year to a different schedule, it would make it easier on us, since we wouldn't be in the middle of symposium preparations during the membership drive. Our fiscal year is May 1 to April 30 since we need some time to finalize the symposium receipts with the vet school. Elizabeth moved that we change our membership year to coincide with our fiscal year. Mathias seconded the motion and it passed. Mathias will have an announcement in the newsletter to this effect and we will also send an email to the current membership about the renewal process. Payment should be by PayPal (preferably) or by check sent to our PO Box. We need to have reasons for encouraging people to join. Cage grants and scholarships are some of them. Linda will write this up for the newsletter. There needs to be discussion on what the discount for the symposium will be for members.

### **Raffle**

We are still at a loss as what happened to the list of raffle donors from the last symposium. Megan Vande Hei, who was helping Savannah, supposedly gave it to a Board member, but no one knows who that was. Mathias will resurrect the list we had on Google Drive, and we

should all update it with what we know. Toni will share the generic thank-you letter that she used in the past. Amanda has the left-overs from the raffle, and will look to see if that list is included with those.

### **By-laws**

There was a general agreement that our by-laws need revamping. Linda and Elizabeth will work on those.

### **Google Group**

Members were reminded that any replies to the Google Group will go to all members by default. If the reply should go to just one or a few people, you should change the "To" line. Ann has removed the recently-resigned members from the Google Group.

### **Board Duties**

There was a discussion of Board member duties. We do have a document with the responsibilities, duties and code of ethics. Linda and Elizabeth will revisit this along with the by-laws.

### **Insurance**

There was a discussion into insurance, both for liability and also Board insurance.

Elizabeth has already called Carla to tell her what she has found out. She has spoken with two companies, one of which is a local Durham company, and they are supposed to reply to her this week with a quote. They have recently written a policy for Our Wild Neighbors. She also talked to someone at Christian Baker who insures Possumwood Acres. They need a lot more information from us before they can give a quote. They had a hard time understanding that we don't have a physical location. A policy will cover us from lawsuits if someone in the public is injured under an activity with WRNC. The vet school has never asked us for liability insurance, but we have to sign a document releasing them from liability. With Christian Baker, we would need a physical location which has to be a Board member's home and not the vet school.

General liability coverage may have to mention the vet school as backup insurance. If someone has any kind of problem while being a WRNC representative, our general liability coverage would kick in. But our only physical contact with the public is at training classes which do not involve any animal handling.

Director liability insurance would cover lawsuits of directors from mismanagement. Fidelity bond insurance coverage would cover someone walking out with the money.

The local company cost would be about \$1100 : general liability about \$600, bond insurance about \$300, and directors & officers about \$250. The cost would be higher at Christian Baker, but they would need a physical address and be given our by-laws, financial forms, and a list of directors to give a quote.

Elizabeth will send us a summary when she gets more information.

## **Finances**

We have \$22,230.40 in our checking account and still have the \$10,600 CD. We made about \$10,000 profit on last year's symposium, mainly because we raised the registration price and also charged for meals. Jean felt that we got panicky last year since we lost money and then overreacted. We want to keep our registration reasonable. Volunteers for the budget committee are Elizabeth, Jean, Ann, and Carla. We need to revisit what we should use our money for, other than just putting on the symposium and offering scholarships. We should have an article in the next newsletter asking the members what they want from their organization.

As of now, we have no outstanding financial obligations. The end-of-year fiscal report will be sent out this week.

## **Cage Grants**

Those who missed the deadline for cage grants last year will automatically be considered for this year. Jean will update the website with the correct deadline date.

## **Grievance policy**

Carla took care of Tonya Weil's grievance and Linda also talked to her. Linda will see if she wants to help with Facebook. We may need to include something about grievances in our by-law revision. This may be discussed in the by-law review. Since we do not have regular meetings that members can attend, grievances should be sent in by mail or email and not posted on Facebook!

## **Future plans**

There was a discussion of RVS, since it is possible that the Wildlife Commission may allow rehabilitation with severe restrictions. We need to stay on top of this possibility and have a symposium session on RVS basics.

Should we offer any other types of grants: Maybe for rehab supplies? Could we work with vendors to give supply discounts or gift certificates?

## **New Board members**

We do have a Board Buddy program that apparently did not get used this year. Ann volunteered to be Amy's buddy, and Linda volunteered to work with Elizabeth.

Some members proposed having our by-laws restrict first-year Board members from holding office, but there were several objections. We have a small group of active members, and many new Board members have previously been members and are familiar with our operation. There may be times when we would recruit a new member for a specific purpose and need for them to be an officer right away. The policy of not having a new Board member holding office has been a tradition and we agreed not to put it into the by-laws.

Mathias proposed that we could have the current Board meet the candidates at the ice breaker. Any current member who lives near a candidate should reach out to them and become acquainted. It was proposed that have each candidate introduce him/herself at the banquet so that the members could know a little about them.

**Other**

Carla noted that a memorial service will be held for Elizabeth Hanrahan in the fall.

Carla moved that the meeting be adjourned and it was seconded by Linda. The motion was passed and the meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Minutes submitted by Ann Rogers, secretary.