

## **Minutes**

GHI Companion Animal Committee

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

7:30 p.m.

Online Meeting

**Attendees:** Kris White, Ellen Weiss, Midge Cruz, Liz Tobey, Ed James

**Excused Absences:** Laura Kressler, Eldo Brown, Debbie Cooley, Anne Marcus

1. Approval of Agenda – Agenda was amended to include 2022 Budget as item 7. Approved by consensus.
2. Approval of Minutes – Approved by consensus
3. Animal Complaints - One complaint about fence running and excessive barking.
4. Members and Visitors -Board Secretary Ed James sat in on the meeting.
5. CAC Report to the Board – the Board of Directors accepted the committee’s report.
6. Cat Project – Training is scheduled for October 26, 2021 at 7:30 PM. Kris White and Liz Tobey will work on a list of topics for Liz to research and share with the CAC and Dr. Ropski. Dr. Ropski will review the list and may add to it. This information will be used in community education efforts and as resources on our web page with some maybe being added to the Guide for GHI Members with Companion Animals.
7. 2022 Budget – Kris White submitted a draft budget for the committee to review and a written justification for the largest budget item, an online cat training for GHI members.
8. Dogs Must Be On Leash Signs – If Ellen Weiss can get permission from her neighbor to post sign on her neighbor’s fence at intersections of sidewalk where off-lead dogs are a problem, we will purchase a sign. If not, this item will be discussed again in 2022.
9. Chalk Board for Community Education –Heat Stroke message and other soundbites topics for 2022. As it is so late in the season, we are keeping the current message and developing a list of soundbites for winter and next year. We will submit the soundbite for winter to the Communication Committee. We did come up with a heat stroke soundbite for next spring: Heat Stroke in dogs can occur in 15 minutes. Know the signs. On average only 50% of dogs with heat stroke survive.
10. Meet and Greet – Need to decide date. -The meet and greet will be on September 29, 2021 with September 30, 2021 as the rain date. It will be held on common area behind the Greenbelt Museum. .
  - a. What will our focus be? Nuisance behaviors -particularly excessive barking and cleaning up after pets.
  - b. What materials do we want to make available? Our posters
  - c. Rain date? Decided
  - d. Warehouse Request Form - Kris White will submit the request 9/22/2021.
11. Article on When Your Companion Animal Bites a Human or Another Animal- Status – Final draft was submitted and approved by the CAC. Midge Cruz will perform a final copy edit.
12. New Business
  - a. Submit blurb to the e-News reminding members that dogs and cats must be on leash when outside their members’ yards. – Decided that this has stopped for the most part after a member complaint against the most egregious violator of the rule.
  - b. Review and update the Guide for Members with Companion Animals by January 2022. Kris White will take the lead on this task as there are new sections to be added to the

Guide: articles on animal bites, wildlife flow chart and article on why not to feed wildlife. Other committee members will review links and contact information included in the Guide. An advisory will be added on the section listing contact information for veterinarians to warn members about how much lead time is required to get an appointment. Our goal is to have the updated Guide to Member Services for some administrative assistance in January 2022. We also want to do a new cover design that will include our logo. Animal code references also will be checked for updates.

c. Discuss starting a lending library with animal-related books. This will be a topic for 2022.

Instead of holding a monthly meeting next month, the committee will attend the cat project training webinar on October 26, 2021 at 7:30 PM. The trainer is Dr. Meaghan Ropski.

**Kris White, Chair**

**Distribution:**

Committee Members: Kris White, Debbie Cooley, Midge Cruz, Laura Kressler, Eldo Brown, Irv Wartell, Ellen Weiss, Ann Markus, Elizabeth Jones, Elizabeth Tobey, Board of Directors, Audit Committee, Director of Member Services, General Manager, and Monica Johnson