

# 13 February 2023 Animal Companions of Las Cruces General Meeting via Zoom

Present: Dawn Duncan, chair; Nancy Sharp, vice chair; Miguel Marquez, treasurer and webmaster; Cheri Hudson-Brown, secretary; Julie Basile, director; Linda Mandel, director; Dara Parker, director; Connie Chapman; Cal Fette; Carrie Greer; Laura Simpson; Christa Slaton; Donna Sterling; Mona Trempe; Karen Welch; Geri Wheelis.

Dawn said our big news is that the Articles of Incorporation and Employer Identification Number have been approved by the Secretary of State and we are now a non-profit although we're still under the fiscal umbrella of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM).

## **Media, Communications and Outreach**--Our accomplishments included:

- working with State Rep. Joanne Ferrary and her staff to have a bill drafted to remove the noncompete clause for veterinarians. Dara pointed out that the Federal Trade Commission will be having a Zoom comment time to give evidence on its own hearings dealing nationally with the non-compete clause.
- Securing a table for the national convention of the American Veterinary Medical Association to be held in Denver in July
- Appearing in the digital monthly digests of veterinary schools at the University of Illinois, University of Florida, and Texas A. & M. The digest helps us promote Las Cruces and veterinary job openings.
- Responding to phone calls to Dawn by the public seeking emergency services for animals. As of November, Animal Hospital, now takes patients from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, according to Dawn.
- We are registered for New Mexico Giving Day which is in April.
- There have been articles in the *Las Cruces Sun-News*, *Grants4Animals* and *My Pets' View from Home*. The *Sun-News* article was on the front-page Dec. 26, 2022, and titled "Movers and Shakers: Animal Companions Builds an Emergency Animal Care Network".
- Miguel was responsible for our first cleanup of a city park, at Maag Park, East Las Cruces Avenue and North Hermosa. which will result in a sign reading "Keep Las Cruces Beautiful", and indicating "adopted by Animal Companions of Las Cruces".

## **Updates on Website and Finances**—Changes include:

- Board of Directors titles were changed to match function and bylaws in progress.
- We have added Mesquite Animal Vaccination Mobile Clinic to the list of Las Cruces Area Vets. The clinic offers dog, cat, and horse vaccinations; chipping; basic exams; home euthanasia; pet education.
- Our online auction Dec. 7-14 included 54 items brought in \$1,6662.57. Mesilla Valley Estate Sales waived their fee. Our only costs were \$51.42 for credit card processing and a one-month storage unit fee of \$91.91.
- Where we are financially: Donations for 2022 were \$72,829.12. We've received \$1, 984.57 thus far for fiscal year 2023. Our total operating expenses to date (13 months) have been \$4,077.26. CFSNM administration fees were \$837.75. The Foundation fees are 5 percent over a year NOT 5 percent monthly. Total net Income was \$69,908.68. For December and January there have not been administration fees taken out by CFSNM because they are still being calculated.

**New Fundraising Committee with Grants Task Force embedded & Volunteer Report**—Action happening in this area:

- Nancy gave a shout out to volunteers. We've added nine new volunteers, and as of January there have been 52 people who have filled out volunteer forms. Linda is going to be the new volunteer coordinator.
- The Grants Task Force will be headed by Nancy with Dawn as the ad hoc board member on the task force. There are eight members of the team including Christa and Mona. This was the first general meeting that Christa and Mona attended and their offer to help is greatly appreciated.
- Volunteer Hours---Dara said there were a total of 286 hours and 15 minutes of volunteer time reported in December. As of January (not all hours have been reported) there were 265 hours plus. Reporting hours will help with grant applications and in some cases where there are matching grants. We just started keeping track of hours in September and since then there have been almost 1600 volunteer hours reported.

**Action items**—As we move forward:

- The board will meet this Thursday to finalize our bylaws which Dara spent many hours helping to draft.
- We will be doing strategic planning and will be asking for help for various projects such as showing veterinarians appreciation or doing prevention education for pets by getting children involved.
- We are hoping for externships which will be for two weeks with veterinarians. We will need volunteers to house and to feed veterinary students.
- There will be planning for a big fund-raiser. MVES is willing to work with us again; perhaps there can be a film night and preview of auction items.

**Questions from meeting:**

Connie asked if we have a Bill number yet on the non-compete clause and Dawn said there's just a Draft. Mona said she's familiar with the legislative process having worked prior in Santa Fe.

Dawn said there had been discussion about maybe having a quarterly general meeting rather than a monthly one. Connie said unless there's something needed from the greater group, then we should cut back on meetings. We can just send emails. Mona suggested a newsletter, weighing how much time it takes to put together. Mona said she thought it would reach more people than a meeting at 5:30 p.m. on a Monday. Mona suggested a poll on whether people would prefer a newsletter, or monthly meeting or quarterly meeting.

Cal Fette said she'd be happy to help depending on the stage of organization we're in.

Dawn said people should consider ways they and their family, friends and co-workers can donate or help. She mentioned someone donated \$50 a month. Others could set lower or higher amounts. People should consider building AC of LC into their monthly or annual giving.