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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PSDP Board of Directors Minutes
6/9/17, 12:30 p.m. PT/3:30 p.m. ET

Attendees

Veronica, Elaine, Chanda, Brad, Linden, & Heather

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- List future
- Media
- Website
 - Links to site
 - 2017 & 2018 Conventions
- Fundraising
 - eBay listing
 - Convention sponsorships
 - Corporate sponsorship
 - Waggin' Trail Dog Walk
 - Pup'parel
 - Convention
- Advocacy
 - Massachusetts, etc.
 - Indiana legislation
 - Canada advisory panel draft
 - Question for airlines and DOT
 - HR 620
- Housing clarification
- Revision of emergency card
- 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- Treasury Report



This regular meeting was called by verbal agreement during the prior meeting, or by intermediate written reasonable notification made in good faith and agreed to by a majority of board members through email or phone, and was held through videoconferencing.

- Next regular meeting
Friday, July 7th at 12:30 PT/3:30 ET.

•List future

We are thinking ahead to what the list might look like in the future, as well as how we might address the needs of those for whom the list is not a good format. In this vein, we earlier brainstormed that we might expand our "Ask an Attorney" feature to "Ask an expert".

We also need to address Google's limits for listservs, as we have recently encountered a point at which the list becomes temporarily inoperable due to email volume. We are planning a "Spring cleaning", where we have a period in which list members will reply to stay on the list. This way we can eliminate abandoned email addresses.

We are also developing a guideline about trying to reply to multiple people in the same thread through a single email, rather than in individual emails.

- Media

Veronica still plans to submit herself as a TED talk candidate.

We turned our Wall Street Journal answers into a press release:

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/press-releases/wsj-flight-laws>

We also issued a press release related to the recent Delta incident wherein an ESA bit a passenger:

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/press-releases/delta-dog-bite>

This release received 224 hits in its initial 30 hours and led to an interview with a journalist from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

- Website

- Links to site

There are a lot of links from Pinterest to the memes on our site. We are planning to run another meme activity to make use of people's interest, when we have sufficient time.

- 2017 & 2018 Conventions

We plan to post pictures and video from our 2017 convention, plus a stub for our 2018 convention, as we are able.

- Fundraising

- eBay listing

There was an eBay listing where the seller was set up to donate some of the proceeds to PSDP. We plan to encourage other sellers to follow suit!

- Convention sponsorships

We had six sponsors for our 2017 convention: Banfield Pet Hospital of Rhonert Park, Courteous Canine, Earth Fare, Margie Cantwell, NAMI—Piedmont Tri-County, and VCA Sequoia Valley Animal Hospital. We continue to look into 2018 convention sponsors to help us create an amazing experience and shore up our ability to provide scholarships in the future.

- Corporate sponsorship

We plan to implement a tier-based sponsorship program to facilitate expansion through corporate sponsors.

- Waggin' Trail Dog Walk

On April 29th, we joined in a local event to help spread the word about and raise funds for PSDP. We were able to make significant connections with people, as well as recoup the cost of the resources the event participants consumed (though not the full cost of the remaining, reusable resources). This event is listed under the exhibitions on our Presentations page.

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/presentations>

The 2018 walk is planned for April 21, and we are considering whether to participate.

- Pup'parel

Our logo wear is available through Pup'parel, which graciously chooses to donate to PSDP. We are reaffirming that we do not have a "commercial co-venturer" relationship with Pup'parel.

- Advocacy

- Massachusetts, etc.

We're investigating some states' service dog legislation. We have been a little too busy lately to take on every piece of legislation that pops up, but we are doing our best to prioritize. We recently prioritized Canadian regulations, a UK legislative update, and Veterans Administration advocacy.

- Indiana legislation

Indiana has some legislation in the works that would limit its increased benefits to users of service dogs that have been specially certified by vets as healthy (for service dog work, presumably). We plan to inquire as to the nature and justification for this proposed increased burden, since it would be more than

a normal vet visit, and it's unclear what would be in the vets' "certification" form.

-Canada advisory panel draft

A formally convened stakeholder advisory panel has drafted an extraordinarily detailed document put forward for public comment. This document is intended to establish a nationwide standard for service animal use, and while not having the force of law itself, such official standards are often the basis of provincial or national laws in Canada.

This draft is worrisome due to its invasive overreach. It looks as if the panel went in with good intentions, but lost sight of the bigger picture and exploded a simpler matter into what reads like a service dog program's operator's manual. This paternalistic approach—especially if enshrined in law—has the foreseeable and severe consequence of disenfranchising a large number of (prospective) service dog users. In particular, this would most harm owner-trainers. Even the most responsible among them would have a difficult time conforming to the program-based standards.

We are focusing on this as our current advocacy priority, in association with Jenine Stanley through our United Service Animal Users, Supporters, and Advocates coalition. We have drafted and approved a comment and will be soliciting sign-ons from organizations, then supportive comments from individuals.

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards/notification/public-eng.html>

-Question for airlines and DOT

A community member asked an insightful question about the use of airline cabins' overhead luggage space for service dog users who buy the new "lowest class" tickets. These tickets do not (normally) allow a passenger to use the overhead bin space, yet the person would have the under-seat footspace for carryon luggage in non-bulkhead seats. The question is whether the overhead prohibition for this ticket would apply to a service dog user whose dog occupies the footspace, since the dog is a disability-mitigation device; would that person be entitled to overhead luggage space in lieu of the footspace the dog occupies?

We plan to ask our DOT contacts how they would enforce in such a situation. We may then also query some of our airline contacts.

-HR 620

There is a recurring business lobby effort to weaken the ADA. We are looking at getting behind NDRN (the National Disability Rights Network) and a change.org petition to fight this corporate attack.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/620/text>

<http://ndrn.org/en/public-policy/ada-a-civil-rights.html>

•Housing clarification

The interplay of laws affecting housing situations is complicated. We recently updated our single FAQ answer on the topic to reveal more of this situation, and we are working toward putting out an article to help housing providers and seekers better understand the rules in play.

•Revision of emergency card

We are revising our emergency card to be additionally available as a fillable pdf. A draft is in progress based on board input and is being revised.

We are also drafting a first-responder refrigerator notice, and will be doing so based on the 2016 convention's first responder discussion.

•2015 FAQ flyer translation

We are considering creating a French version of our flyer. We have a Spanish version.

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2015-PSDP-FAQ-flyer-Español.pdf>

•Treasury Report

The treasury report includes changes to and progress in the categories of: income, expenses, current funds, the budget, earmarked funds, and fundraising.