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PSDP Board of Directors Minutes
10/26/18, 12:00 p.m. PT/3:00 p.m. ET

Attendees

Veronica, Brad, Chanda, Elaine, & Linden

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Interviews
- Fundraising
 - Awesome Foundation
 - AAPD award
- Manners review
- Website
 - Easy advocacy how-to
 - SD POC, etc.
 - Ask an Expert
 - Pictures
- Advocacy
 - Messaging
 - Delta breed ban
 - Flowcharts for airline employees
 - AKC PAT
 - Federal interagency "SESA" Workgroup
 - Manhattan court case
 - AODA
- Revision of emergency card
- 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- Community Spotlight addition
- Conventions
- 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, November 30th at noon PT/3:00 ET.
- Interviews
We've received more requests recently from students for us to participate in interviews for their projects, so we've been obliging and trying to educate.
- Fundraising
 - Awesome Foundation
We considered whether to alter our monthly application for this grant with a new project centered on funding meetups among service dog users. The goal would be to cultivate the service dog community by facilitating conversations and cultural exchange.
 - AAPD award

We applied for an award from the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), which we hope will help us in developing a "manners review".

- Manners review

We are working on a test to help mark progress with early service dog training. This would be more tailored to service dog training and be used as we've roughly used non-tailored AKC tests in the past. We are reviewing a rough draft.

- Website

- Easy advocacy how-to

We're continuing work on our micro-advocacy development, making it easier for everyone to help out. This project takes a general approach, designed in part with step-by-step instructions for a menu of expandable options. We hope this will make it easy for community members to find their advocacy niche.

Linden and Brad have drafted the how-to, had it beta-tested by select, gracious community members, and are reviewing the beta-test feedback to implement the best suggestions.

- SD POC, etc.

We're interested in reaching out to people in groups that are underrepresented in our community, so that we can remove barriers and better serve any unique needs. Such groups might include people of color (POC) and racial/ethnic minorities, men, and veterans and first responders.

In order to connect in authentic ways, we are developing plans to engage volunteers from such groups in creating programs or processes to reach out to their underrepresented peers—respecting the "Nothing about us without us" principle. We will initiate this as we're able.

- Ask an Expert

We have a couple of "Ask an Expert" entries in the works. We started by soliciting questions from the list to then curate and pass along to the experts in particular fields. We're focusing now on the dog trainer questions. This is still in process.

- Pictures

We have not yet crafted the 2018 convention videos, but we have curated and now published the photos.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2018-convention/pictures-video>

- Advocacy

- Messaging

We considered whether and how to adopt stances on particular topics of general interest, such as encouraging voting.

- Delta breed ban

Delta is again leading the way in policies that discriminate against certain service animal users. We alerted DOT to Delta's proposed ban on "pit bull type" service dogs and DOT responded with a clear statement that this is not okay. Our page on this explains more and offers helps for those seeking to fly on Delta with a service dog that an employee may consider to be a "pit bull type" dog. We are still waiting for a response to our email to our Delta contacts about this. We are also working on getting more information by those affected.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/delta-pit-bull-service-animal-ban>

- Flowcharts for airline employees

As a USAUSA project, we are looking into creating flowcharts for airline employees regarding animal behavior and what to do in different situations. We have been asked by Southwest to assist with a similar project that is specific to their policies, but ours would be a template to be used by any airline.

This project had to be put on hold right away due to all the work required for DOT-related items and then other priorities.

- AKC PAT

AKC is misleadingly re-marketing its CGC Urban test as a "Public Access Test". We believe that no matter what disclaimer AKC uses, people will be confused about whether passing this test grants teams

public access in the same manner as service dogs.

We have alerted AKC to this unnecessary and serious problem, suggesting an alternative of "Public Settings Test" if they need to rebrand. However, AKC has so far given us only an evasive response that is unsatisfactory.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/akc-pat>

We have since worked under the USAUSA coalition to create and market a petition on change.org. This petition now has over 1,600 signatures. We have alerted AKC to it and have not heard back. Plans are in the works to increase the pressure on AKC to do the right thing. Fortunately, it seems that other organizations and our community are behind us on this.

<https://www.change.org/p/mary-r-burch-ph-d-stop-akc-before-they-harm-service-dog-handlers>

-Manhattan court case

Two board members aided in a federal court case related to a service dog access denial at a hospital (one served as an expert witness and another assisted). This was a good opportunity to put clear information out in the world, but since the plaintiff was not successful, it is unlikely this will help in future access cases. However, we are hoping to publish a paper based on points made in the expert witness report.

-AODA

Another review of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) is underway. We resubmitted our comments in hopes the new reviewer will take them seriously this round. The comment deadline is November 2nd.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy>

- 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 trying to create a French version of our flyer. We have a Spanish version. We have made significant progress recently on the French translation.

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

- Community Spotlight addition

We are working on another entry in our fairly new Community Spotlight section. We have an email-based interview still in the works.

- Conventions

We are brainstorming possible updates to how/where conventions are held.

- Treasury report

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