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PSDP Board of Directors Minutes
5/24/19, 12:00 p.m. PT/3:00 p.m. ET

Attendees

Veronica, Brad, Elaine, Linden, and Rob

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Leadership
- Fundraising
 - Expert witness for MA case
 - Facebook fundraiser for DC advocacy trip
 - Grant Committee update
- Website/social media
 - SD POC, etc.
 - Ask an expert
 - Pictures & videos
 - Laws FAQ
- Advocacy/outreach
 - GDUI presentation and solidarity scarves
 - DOT in DC
 - Waggin' Trail dog walk
 - Media backdrop
 - Flowcharts for airline employees
 - AKC PAT
 - Manhattan court case
 - Podcast interview
- Revision of emergency card
- 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- Manners evaluation
- 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, June 21st at noon PT/3:00 ET.

The current meeting is a semi-open board meeting with PSDP leaders and advisors invited.

- Leadership
For the time being and for official purposes, PSDP's board now has five membership slots. We continue to consider others for leadership positions in non-board and board-adjacent positions. We've added two individuals to the convention planning committee.
- Fundraising
 - Expert witness for MA case
The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination called us for background to help with their service dog case. Later, they called back to invite us to be an expert witness over the phone for the

upcoming hearing.

This case was settled and did not need further input.

-Facebook fundraiser for DC advocacy trip

This fundraiser for our meeting with DOT exceeded our initial goal and as of May 23rd raised \$305! We are so grateful to our community for helping us pay for the expenses required to make effective advocacy a reality.

-Grant Committee update

In addition to the search for funding for the local meetups project and for convention scholarships, the Grant Committee is turning its gaze toward funding for advocacy/outreach trips. Based on the recent DC meeting, it looks like we may have to travel more in the future than we were anticipating in order to stay on top of the advocacy needs of our community.

The committee has a few prospects, but does not yet have any that seem like a fantastic match.

•Website/social media

We have a tentative plan to update our site's organization. Given that we want any major update to work well for a long time, we are not in a hurry and are still waiting on design feedback from a community member.

-SD POC, etc. *(no update)*

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

After our dog trainer interview, we have two more "Ask an expert" entries in the works. After finding a willing expert, we solicit questions from the list to then curate and pass along to the expert.

-Pictures & videos

We are working on videos and pictures based on 2019 convention footage, with a testing compilation video already distributed to the testees. We have made recent progress on the pictures.

Based on footage recorded in Washington, DC and New York City in August 2018, Brad and Veronica created three promo/outreach videos: "Service dog group keeps fighting for civil rights", "Service dog information for veterans and first responders", and "Hopeful psychiatric service dog resources from PSDP". These will have a staggered release this year, with the middle one set for release on Memorial Day.

The first and third have been released:

<https://youtu.be/1uZnPvNqCL8>

<https://youtu.be/YKAF7WibNW0>

-Laws FAQ

Brad drafted and the board approved an entry for the Laws FAQ on religious entities, private clubs, and the ADA, since the ADA service dog regulations generally don't apply to places operated by religious entities. Brad was able to have George M. Powers, JD of the Southwest ADA Center look over the entry and give his approval.

We released this entry in April and are happy it fills a hole in our popular Laws FAQ. We also took this opportunity to revamp the layout of the Laws FAQ so it is more attractive and organized.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions/laws>

•Advocacy/outreach

-GDUI presentation and solidarity scarves

After Brad, Veronica, and Hestia presented in January at the Top Dog guide dog conference in

Charleston, South Carolina, they were invited to present at the Rochester, New York convention of Guide Dog Users, Inc. A major donation pledge is making this trip possible and will enable PSDP to spread the message of service dog community solidarity to even more community members!

We may have more of the green silk solidarity scarves in tow as we make the two-day (each way) train ride up to Rochester for this event. Our activities and good will ambassadorship go far beyond just the presentation itself, as we work hard in the surrounding days to get to know our peers in the disability community.

-DOT in DC

We were invited to meet with DOT in DC in mid-May to discuss accessibility issues in air travel. We ensured that DOT is not resting easy thinking air travel is somehow in good shape for service dog users —especially for those with psychiatric service dogs, those who are suffering the maze of new burdens that have popped up across different airlines since DOT made it clear they will not stop the airlines from making travel even harder for people with disabilities.

We represented these frustrations and reminded DOT of the solutions we have handed them in the past. This reminder took the physical form of a 358-page, spiral-bound green handbook, which contained as chapter 6 the recent survey feedback from the community.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/usausa>

We're very grateful to our community for supporting this trip through our Facebook fundraiser, PayPal donations, supportive comments, survey entries, and sharing our survey. This is what it takes for effective advocacy to happen!

-Waggin' Trail dog walk

On April 27th, we had a vendor space at a Rock Hill dog walk event to increase in-person community outreach. As usual, this was a minor success on the outreach front, with donations only sufficient to approximately break even.

-Media backdrop *(no update)*

We are looking into getting a step-and-repeat banner for media interviews, our convention photos, outreach events, and prospective tele-conference presentations. Funding is an issue at the present.

We are considering design options in case we have the funding in the future.

-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.

A possibly helpful update on this front is that the Morrises serendipitously met a flight crew trainer for American Airlines recently. This may be another point of contact that is useful for that airline and our community.

-AKC PAT *(no update)*

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 1,800 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>

As of December 2018, AKC has put the "Public Access Test" language into practice on its site, though the branding doesn't seem to have filtered down into physical products. We are not hopeful they will respect the disability rights perspective, though we may try one last time.

-Manhattan court case (*no update*)

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.

We have clearance to publish from our report without redaction.

-Podcast interview

An assistance-dog-podcast host invited Brad for an interview about the service dog solidarity movement in a month or so.

•Revision of emergency card (*no update*)

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 almost done creating a French version of our flyer. We have a Spanish version. We double-checked the translation and are now entering it into the flyer for a final version.

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

•Manners evaluation

We are working on an evaluation to help mark progress with early service dog training. It is more tailored to service dog training and would be used as we've roughly used non-tailored AKC tests in the past.

We released a beta version for feedback received many positive reviews so far. The beta-testing period included administering the evaluation at the convention, with the feedback period ending April 10th.

We are very grateful for the community input. We have finished processing the feedback to see what we can incorporate for the final version. We will release the final version when it is updated.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/public-access/manners-evaluation>

•Treasury report

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

We are hoping to bring in more funds to enable more advocacy and outreach, especially as federal agencies and national organizations want us to travel to meet with them.