

**FINAL VERSION AS APPROVED BY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP SATURDAY MAY 14, 2016**

## **Cascade Havanese Club General Membership Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, April 9, 2016

The meeting was held at Paws-Abilities Training Center  
7338 26<sup>th</sup> Street East, Fife, Wa. 98424

The General Membership Meeting was called to order by President Jane Ruthford at 12:37 P.M. and printed copies of the agenda were handed out to the general membership. A reminder was made to be sure each attendee had signed in on the sign-in sheet.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Secretary Joe Mrazek handed out printed copies and the minutes were read aloud from General Membership meeting held Saturday, October 17, 2015 at the Win-Star Bed & Biscuit, 3602 112<sup>th</sup> Street East, Tacoma, Wa. 98446. Following revisions requested by the General Membership, the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote with no nays or abstentions.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Jane Ruthford reported on the status of the Rescue Trailer. As of today, contributions by participating dog clubs have totaled approximately \$7,000.00 toward the reported figure of \$12,000 required to fund the trailer.

Jane reported that our club can now hold a specialty event if it is associated with an AKC or Toy show. AKC needs to review a presentation package we present for us to hold an Independent Specialty.

With the upcoming club elections to be held May, 14, 2016, Jane explained the need for an orderly transition in the changes to office holders. Jane also described the need for Committee Chairs to be included in the proceedings of the board meetings, particularly the Show Committee and Membership Chairs. Developments are underway to improve the process to enable them to attend electronically. Club member Ursula Bassolino reported good past results with "Google Hangout" which is a free forum on Google Plus and has the capability for video and identity icons of the members which reduces confusion on who is speaking in a strictly voice only telecon. This Google

application works on phone, I pad devices, laptops or full size computers.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Charles Ruthford presented the club's financials dated March 31, 2016. Current liabilities and outstanding checks were reported as zero resulting in a reconciled checking balance of \$2,826.37. Charles reported that he will be providing the year end summary to our May 14, 2016 general membership meeting.

Addressing the issue of spending levels requiring prior approval of the General Membership, Charles reported a vote by the Board previously setting a \$550 limit on spending not requiring a vote of the general membership. Aside from the normal recurring expenses such as annual insurance and facilities rentals, the issue was brought up of discretionary spending without a vote of the General Membership - particularly donations to charities from the club treasury. Possibly obtaining Membership approval by E-mail was put forth as an option, but Charles explained that such votes requires in-person voting in addition to a quorum. With the last General Membership Meeting happening in October of 2015, and the planned February General Meeting being cancelled due to Canine Influenza outbreak concerns, a limit on any such spending was seen as unworkable. A counter suggestion to be addressed in the Board Meeting today following the General Membership Meeting was the option of excluding all spending except charitable contributions from the proposed restriction. A discussion followed on the need for any charitable donations at all, or possibly a spending threshold set as a percentage of available club funds. Charles described the uneven level of club income over a calendar year, describing an expected \$1700.00 jump in club finances due to the annual membership renewals. Citing the need for more discussion of the impacts of such a limit, Treasurer Charles Ruthford withdrew the "only over \$550.00" proposed spending restriction motion he had made.

## **VOTING**

With voting for the slate of officers coming at the May 14, 2016 general

Membership meeting, the results of the Nominating Committee were presented.  
Candidates were:

PRESIDENT: DIANE TOMASEVICH

VICE PRESIDENT: JANE RUTHFORD

TREASURER: CHARLES RUTHFORD

SECRETARY; HENRY MRAZEK AND SHARON MANDERS

DIRECTORS: LORRAINE CALLIS, ANNA SAVAGE AND NICOLE RODRIGUEZ.

Upon opening up to the floor for nominations of additional candidates, the nominations were made for Debbie Foust for the position of Vice President and Lisa Vivolo for Director. Following the close of the nominating session, no new candidates may be added.

Membership Chair Judi Hillis presented new applicants for membership. Following her presentation of the candidates' provided information, secret paper ballots were handed out to the voting members for:

Donita Willaford and Alfred How

Stephanie Balzarini

Lisa McCarthy

Chris and John Cady

Peggy and Bill Herran

Per club rules, the results of the ballot count are announced after the day of the meeting.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Focal Diane Tomasevich reported of developments with the CHC website. In development is the inclusion of Pay Pal on the website enabling payments of dues electronically. Additionally, Diane reported that there was a degree of confusion in which people being accepted to the CHC Facebook site are thinking they are then

members of the Cascade Havanese Club.

### **SHOW EVENTS**

Show Chair Laura Vivolo briefly listed the classes appearing in our upcoming August event at the OKC show in Enumclaw. A side discussion of Enumclaw's Bully Breeds laws relative to shows being held in Enumclaw revealed that the Mayor there was trying to have the law removed and the Police Chief is working to exclude from the local laws any of the breeds listed while attending formal dog shows at the Fairgrounds.

Discussion was made regarding the selection of the judge for our event. It was explained that a very short time frame was available and that 10 possible judges had been considered. In addition to the qualifications, cost issues were considered - particularly transportation expenses and fees asked by each judge candidate. The benefits of selecting a well qualified judge that was already scheduled to be on site for other Olympic Kennel Club ring events was a large financial consideration. It was mentioned that by the time approval from AKC was received to hold such a show, even the Puyallup venue had already been closed for any applications. The opportunity to participate in the August OKC event was too short to wait for a General Membership meeting. Laura reported that we need to start now for calendar 2017 events. Although we haven't settled on a site or date for our club's 2017 events, we have already been pre-approved by the HCA to hold them.

Charles Ruthford advised that per Roberts Rules of Order, Email is not an acceptable method of voting by the General Membership since the voters would not be able to hear all the arguments of an issue, either pro or con.

Judges' biographies are available on line and it is generally agreed that the selection of good judges will bring in a larger number of Havanese handlers.

### **OTHER**

A question arose as to what the benefits of conducting a show were to the dogs, the breed in general, and the Havanese Club of America. Jane answered that the general purpose was to evaluate breeding stock for improvement of the breed. At a local level, such shows may be a club's only fund raiser of the year. In such a venue, a good opportunity exists for a variety of mentoring at a personal level and also to the public at large.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Member Ursula Bassolino suggested increases Email discussions prior to the actual club meetings would serve to streamline the discussion and decision making process.

Similarly, a request for access to club minutes was presented. An unapproved version of both Board and General Membership meetings is made promptly by the secretary but is not official and usually sees corrections and clarifications made before becoming an official document. Work is underway to provide a “members only” method of access through the club website to such records which also include club financials. A request was made to provide to the general membership an agenda to any upcoming Board or General Membership meetings a week in advance.

Relative to voting, a question arose about absentee balloting. Charles explained that only votes made during the meeting from an officially recognized quorum were considered and likewise, proxy voting was also not recognized,

## **BRAGGS**

Judi Hillis reported receiving 2 championship points won by her female Nellie as handled by member Jacquelyn Watt.

Member Debbie Foust reported achieving best of winners at the recent Canadian National Show.

Diane Tomasevich reported her dog sinning Best of Winners at the recent Canadian Regional event.

Ursula Bassolino announced that the current Havanese Rescue Incorporated newsletter contains an article written by fellow member Jacqueline Watt.