**Hood Co Animal Lovers Organization**

General Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2011

Executive Director Emilia Zeller called the group to order. She opened by reading the minutes from the June general meeting.

Nan Charpiot gave a 50(c)3 update. She stated that HALO’s incorporation and assumed name paperwork arrived at the Texas Secretary of State’s office this a.m. Generally, it takes an average of two weeks for incorporation paperwork to be approved and returned. Once our incorporation is granted, we will need a certified copy of the approval to submit with our federal 501(c)3 paperwork. Nan’s goal is to have the federal paperwork submitted prior to our first fundraiser that is scheduled for August 12th. Her belief is that HALO may begin operating as a nonprofit corporation as soon as the IRS receives our federal paperwork

Nan asked for permission to attend the next board meeting with the organization’s originating documents so that officers can sign them for inclusion in organizational archives and the IRS form 1023 supplemental document. Emilia agreed, and announced the next board meeting date – July 27th.

Director of Finance Linda Oeller stated the organization now has enough money to pay the 501(c)3 filing fee. Linda Facer paid fees for the incorporation and assumed name filings. Linda O. said the first fundraiser, a garage sale at Nan Charpiot’s home, would be held Friday, August 12th. Nan stated she would send an organizing memo out two weeks prior to the sale to let everyone know when donations can be dropped off and for what tasks volunteers will be needed. Nan suggested that other individuals involved with HALO volunteer to hold subsequent garage sales at their homes, and Emilia suggested finding someone who could let us participate in the next Pecan garage sale.

Hugo asked if a storage unit was needed for the August 12th garage sale, and Linda O. said no. The storage unit will be needed for future, larger scale sales, but not for the August event.

Emilia asked Hugo to update us on the golf tournament he has suggested as a fundraiser. Hugo said the tournament would probably be scheduled for a Monday in the fall at Hidden Oaks, and that volunteers would be needed. However, no decisions were made.

Sgt. Charles Monroe gave an update on the last Animal Control adoption event – fourteen dogs and 8 cats were placed. He also shared Animal Control statistics for the last month, as follows:

 Euthanized Placed

Dogs 70 84

Cats 218 29

Month-to-date for July, the figures are as follows:

 Euthanized Placed

Dogs 30 46

Cats 46 11

Charles noted these figures are a good representation of Animal Control’s general experience with euthanasia and placement over the last several months. He said there has been an improvement in the number of adoptions, which he attributes to successful adoption days. Charles also shared that approximately 75% of the cats that come into Animal Control are feral. Those cats are, generally, euthanized quickly to make room for socialized animals. Animal Control has only 10 cat cages, so this type of evaluation must be done.

Therese Monroe said the pet ‘parent’ packets are completed and in use at Animal Control. The packets contain flyers for pet insurance, a pet care magazine, hand-outs from Parker Paws, HALO information, low-cost spay/neuter information and contact information for Dr. Ennis. Therese would like to make more packets, but handling the expense of such an undertaking is an open issue.

Someone stated they had checked with Dr. Ennis and learned he gave 25 rabies shots at the Animal Control Adoption Day and made 4 appoints for spay/neuter. Dr. Ennis is willing to attend future adoption days, but his office expressed a concern with participating at an August event due to the heat and its impact on the dogs and cats. Michelle Thompson suggested using her training facility for a future indoor adoption day, and there was discussion about using the facility for a future pet fair.

Locations for upcoming Animal Control adoption days will be: August – Big Lots, September – Compass Bank. Tractor Supply would like us to use their site for a future adoption event.

Charles Monroe said he and Theresa met with a representative from Comfort Suites, and there might be opportunities for future collaboration.

There was conversation about reaching out to youth groups such as 4H or the Boy Scouts for volunteers for future events. It was noted that someone might need to check with schools or other groups to determine what students need public service hours.

Kelly McNabb and Linda Oeller announced there are three dogs in foster: Mutley, Hank and Jinx. Mutley is a Yorkie, Hank a cocker spaniel and Jinx is a border collie mix. Two dogs are placed with Judy Hull and one with Kelly. The adoption fee is $100 and there is a $25 intake charge if an animal is accepted from an individual.

Kelly has completed foster program documents and requirements and sent them to the board for review. She wants to postpone the full launch of the foster program until after nonprofit status is granted so that HALO as an entity can pull dogs from Animal Control. Currently, an individual has to “adopt” a dog from Animal Control in order to move it to the foster program.

There was conversation as to if HALO should microchip its dogs. Charles mentioned that Animal Control was considering the same issue. Emilia will check on the cost of micro chipping with DFW Lab Rescue.

The first HALO adoption day will be the second Saturday in September at Arrow Feed. HALO will continue to run adoption days, and will schedule them not to conflict with Animal Control adoptions.

Emilia introduced Michael Cheek and thanked him for picking up 25 donated Igloo doghouses in Ennis last weekend. Some of the houses went to Huts for Mutts, some to Animal Control, one to Friends for Animals and the rest will be available for HALO fosters.

Linda Oeller suggested having a hot dog stand in Compass Bank parking lot the Friday before Labor Day. We would provide a hot dog, chips and a drink and ask for donations. Hugo will check to see if a health permit is needed under these circumstances.

There was discussion about participating in the Labor Day festival downtown. Ideas were to take dogs to the Square and/or to hand out brochures on the Square. Kelly will check with Pami about this or other opportunities.

Theresa asked if any volunteers were making follow-up calls on Animal Control adoptions. It appears no one is, so she will try to make some herself. This may be a job for future volunteers, who could go to Animal Control and make the calls from their phone.

Kelly said she would check with Tractor Supply about donating water troughs to Animal Control.

Emilia noted that correctly timed vaccinations for pregnant dogs could protect their puppies from contracting Parvo. Charles said that pregnant mothers are usually euthanized before the puppies are born. If the puppies are born at Animal Control it ties up a kennel for many weeks that could be used to rescue other dogs, and it puts tremendous stress on the mother dog and the puppies.

Emilia thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Minutes filed 7/19/11

by Nan Charpiot

Meeting Attendees

Kelly McNab

Michael Cheek

Kathy Olson

Peter Olson

Theresa Monroe

Charles Monroe

Hugo Gomez

Amber Perry

Judy Hull

Linda Oeller

Michelle Thompson

Emilia Zeller

Nan Charpiot