

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL

Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2015 7:30 p.m.

Animal Inn in Lake Elmo, MN



Officers present:

Peggy Simerson, President

Eileen Varhalla, Vice President

Sarah Falk, Secretary

Diane Blasius Brown, Treasurer

Officers absent:

None.

Board Members present:

Denise Gilbertson

Ann Jeddelloh

Rhonda Meath

Board Members absent:

None.

Peggy Simerson called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.

Peggy Simerson moved to dispense with reading the minutes. Sarah Falk seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report (Peggy Simerson):

- Recognition for Match: Thank you to Match Chairs Cristina McColl and Sue Smith; and to Food Chairs Ann Jeddelloh and Laurie Schray. Recognition for Spring Agility Trial: Thank you to Rhonda Meath, Mary Bente and their team for the huge success of the Spring Agility Trial.
- The Helen Miller Fisher Memorial was in the April edition of the Review; thanks to all contributors and to Bobby Moore for designing; the Memorial also mentions that our summer specialty show weekend is in Helen's honor.
- Peggy met with Sally Connor and Liz Weaver—new owners of the Animal Inn, June 27-July 12 the AI will be closed for renovations. We expect a rate increase as our current rate has not increased since 1994. Very excited for the future partnership. Talking through dates for events, but things are good.
- Thanks to Greg and Denise to move the trailer.

Vice President's Report (Eileen Varhalla):

- Eileen reported she has been volunteering at FaerieLand Rescue for member Kathy DuVall. Kathy is always looking for help at the rescue – donations of time or donations of newspapers and cans are always appreciated; as are donations of towels, cleaning supplies, and fostering. Anyone who wants to donate these items or help out at the rescue should contact Kathy.

Secretary's Report (Sarah Falk):

- Public phone correspondence: 11 incoming phone calls since our last meeting at average of 2-3 calls per week. 64% were for training assistance (57% for behavioral issues, 43% for puppy training); remainder of calls at 36% looking for puppies/breeders, membership info, etc.

- Membership correspondence: The new format of a “Weekly Update” via email is going well; several unsolicited kudos from members. People like that it’s less frequent; enjoy the “newsy” feel, that it’s consolidated together into one package and members are seeing more value in that; so expect that to continue. Peggy Simerson added that she has received positive feedback as well and wanted to recognize Sarah for implementing the changes.
- Sent out hand-written thank you cards to the March event chairs.

Treasurer’s Report (Diane Blasius Brown):

- Met with Mada Skare, took information from Liz’s account, put it back in QuickBooks which is an online version and is lower cost, \$12.95 a month or \$155/month. Will put this to the Membership for approval.
- Mada reconciled all the accounts and everything is where it should be and it allows reporting
- Year-End Checking Balance is \$15,171.14, current balance is \$29,205.61 but not there are several outstanding checks due to recent agility trial.
- Money Market Balance is \$10,750; earned \$1.24 in interest in March.
- Diane is actively looking for new banks.

Committee Reports/Topics:

Membership (Cindy Muehlbauer)

- Membership Committee met April 6, the committee determined that some newer members were not invoiced.
- The committee developed a process and new form to track member applicants’ requirement to attend two meetings or club-sponsored events. Will present at the Membership meeting.

Shep-O-Gram

- Voting tonight on making the Shep-O-Gram (SOG) a newsletter that is published every two months versus every month as it is currently supposed to be published. This is consistent from previous years. A review of the last three years of how many editions have been published each year shows: 2012 = 6 publications; 2013 = 7 publications; 2014 = 3 publications of the SOG.
- New editor: Sue Smith (Julie Swinland stepped down).
- If we move to a reduced schedule our Club will still qualify for the GSDCA Newsletter Contest in the bi-monthly/quarterly category for Large Clubs.
- Will still be sent to the membership by email and U.S. postal service for those members requesting.
- Will still be available on the website, as are back issues.
- Will be printed and kept at the sign in desk for new people, members.
- Will be printed and brought to GSDCMSP events, such as trials, shows, fun days, demo day at the fair.
- Social media, i.e. Facebook and the Website cover a lot of what the SOG used to and are more immediate in recognition for brags, etc.
- SOG becomes more informational, public education about the club and the GSD events the public can attend, etc.

Budget and Finance (Mike Metz and Diane Blasius-Brown)

- No update.

March Match (Cristina McColl and Sue Smith)

- Brought in \$312 in income.
- \$243 in entries; \$69 on food (loss of \$25.79); \$45 judge's gifts.
- For future matches or event, we should establish standard pricing for food items.
- Recommend we look to see if next year's Spring Match be after the Spring Agility Trial so that any leftover food or beverages be appropriated for the Spring Match.

Agility (Rhonda Meath)

- Trial pulled in \$3,526.29.
- Had a 52 percent qualifying run rate.
- Spring Agility Trial will be Easter weekend April 1-3, 2016.
- Agility Classes: Rhonda passed out a flyer; she is going to teach agility classes late spring/late summer at her home in her newly fenced, newly equipped outdoor agility ring. Rhonda will not be available to teach classes for the Club on Friday evenings in the summer as she did last year; as she is planning on competing in agility trials and Friday nights are not available. Rhonda's classes will be held on Monday and Wednesdays, 6 week blocks. If we advertise, then \$10 per student will go to the Club.

2015 Specialty Show and Futurity/Maturity (Verna Kubik)

- Peggy Simerson covered recap for Verna Kubik who was not in attendance:
- Premium list is ready to go out
- Working on ads for the catalog
- Volunteers, contact Verna Kubik
- Looking for volunteers for raffles 50/50; Bob Lindsay will be videoing and will have a video raffle. Mary Lee is chairing the table and we will have information for donations in our Club's Weekly Update that is sent each week via email.
- Trophy donations are being collected by Jan Anderson and Laurie Schray.
- Event will be included in the GSD Review's Calendar of Events section for the May edition.

GSD Fun Day (Saturday, July 25):

- Looking for two chairs to assist.

Next Meeting: May 8, 7:30 p.m. at the Animal Inn.

Meeting Attendees

Peggy Simerson
Sarah Falk
Diane Blasius-Brown
Rhonda Meath

Eileen Varhalla
Laura Meyer
Diane Gilbertson
Ann Jeddeloh