



## Alliance for Animals and the Environment

Board meeting minutes 1/28/15

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Present at the meeting were Betsy Munro, Gina Stuessy, Sue Miller, Debbie Fields, Judi Duncan, and Megan Ryan. Executive Director Hannah West was present as well.

Gina discussed the key for the AFAE office.

Betsy discussed the financial reports briefly. Gina discussed some of her concerns with reconciliation of the finances.

Betsy handed out the board member agreement and we briefly discussed that.

We discussed if we are to expect financial records each month or each board meeting (since we don't have a meeting in December) and we decided on every meeting.

We discussed our need for an attorney on our board. Betsy suggested [name redacted] who is an attorney. We discussed inviting other individuals to join the Board. Judi recommended Bob Schwartz who is on the FAC committee and has been involved in animal rights. Gina suggested we reach out to possible candidates and send them documentation to look over to help them decide (for example the Board bylaws, etc).

Debbie talked to Julie Grosso regarding the animals in entertainment issue. It is more of a reactive type group and not feasible to do monthly meetings. We plan to have a presence at each circus show while Shrine circus is here, as well as leafleting. Debbie and Julie are working on a letter to the schools in Madison asking that the circus tickets are not distributed.

The Dane county board will vote on Feb. 5 regarding the proposed monkey resolution (maternal deprivation experiments).

Gina talked about FAC. It has been growing and is now up to 19 people. We've tabled at 5 events. We will do Woman Up!, an event in Milwaukee next weekend. We have a member leafleting in MKE, vegan drinks, Madison [vegan.com](http://vegan.com), and a billboard going up again this year.

Betsy said that she is going to meet with Lauren from Underdog Pet Rescue to perhaps collaborate with that group. Betsy wants to have a presentation on pet acupuncture.

Hannah gave up an update on the status of the wolves being relisted. HSUS wants to change their listing as "threatened" instead of "endangered".

We had three project proposals this month. Gina asked for \$100 for dues for the meetup website for Vegan Drinks. This amount covers 6 months of membership. We generally have 2-3 meetups each month. Nicole Steck is organizing this.

Debbie proposed copying costs for the upcoming circus. The requested amount is \$200. In 2014 we had 8000 leaflets printed. Debbie estimates the cost as \$175 for 3000 brochures.

Gina explained the restaurant outreach proposal. Gina proposed this project for Bob and Josh (from FAC) and the idea of the project is for information that will be printed and given to restaurants to suggest



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how they can be more vegan friendly and offer more vegan options. \$423 includes 8 hours of Hannah's time and printing costs. We would give packets to the restaurants and Mercy for Animals has provided a template for this that they use.

All 3 of the projects were funded.

Pearl, who is an activist, runs a meat-out and will give out samples of vegan food and requested \$50 for this. Sue made a motion and Megan seconded and all voted in favor.

We did agree as a board that Hannah can make financial decisions to fund certain projects or events up to the threshold of \$100 per event and no more than \$500 per month. Sue made the motion and Judi seconded and we all agreed.

We discussed paying Marina for doing the newsletter. Hannah talked to Marina and Marina says she spends between 10-20 hours on each newsletter. 17% of people who subscribe to the newsletter open and read it. We discussed what amount if any we will pay. We discussed different amounts. We voted on paying her and we agreed on \$25 per issue and there are two issues per month. We unanimously agreed on this.

Hannah discussed the ambassador program and we have two applicants for this. One is Tim in Milwaukee. Tim has helped organize tabling in Milwaukee. The ambassadors will email Hannah to get approval on events or activities and Hannah will bring it to the board if need be. Betsy brought up the fact that these ambassadors need to be representatives of AFAE and what they say is reflective of our values and missions.

There are two applicants to be ambassadors in the Wausau area. We decided that we will approve the packet that Hannah prepared for them and permit the three individuals to be ambassadors.

Hannah asked if we want handwritten thank you notes or letters. We agreed that we can use the handwritten notes until we run out but then will use an 8x11 letter and use handwritten notes for high amount of donations.

Betsy said that Wayne and Leslie will help with the accounting duties for the near future and help with the transition. We will discuss in the future if we are to get another accountant.

Megan made a motion to adjourn and Gina seconded.