Minutes of Board of Directors
January 23, 2007

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Texas Kennel Club was held at the Jewish Community Center.

The meeting was called to order by President Don Sutton at 7:08 pm. Board members present were: Dianna Barefoot, Tom Barrie, Karen Beddow, Maggie Ford, Hillary Knoeppel, Michael Knight, Libby Parmer-Smith and Jane Phelan.

The minutes of the December Board meeting were corrected to remove the reference to Joy Bass, re: catalog advertising. Approved as corrected.. Tom thanked Maggie for taking the December minutes.

Jane presented the correspondence report. She reported that the judging list had been submitted to AKC with copy to Onofrio. AKC still has us listed for the September 20 show date. Jane got them to remove the Conformation date, but obedience and rally are still being shown on the AKC website.

Hillary presented the Treasurer's report. It started with a preliminary report for the January show, showing a deficit of over $6000. This did not include the sponsorship payment from Purina, which is anticipated to be $10,000, divided equally by the three clubs. Cluster expenses are being collected by the Cluster treasurer, Jane Phelan. We are still uncertain about the expenses for the Convention Center. At this point, Jane is expecting to have to bill each club for about $4000 to cover Cluster deficit.

Hillary recommended transferring approximately $20,000 from the Vanguard account to checking. She moved that a withdrawal be made of approximately $24,000 so to leave a balance in the Vanguard of $55,000, second by Tom. Passed. She then moved that the withdrawn funds be divided, $10,000 into the Capital One money market account, the balance to be retained in checking, second by Tom. Passed.

Judges expenses were discussed. We had 24 judges on our panel, compared to18 on the other two panels. Most judges drew fewer than 100 entries. We must reduce the number on the panel. It appears that the Judges Selection Committee is assigning about 150 dogs per judge. It was recommended that a full load be assigned, and additional judges hired as needed at closing.

The policy of using Club members who are provisional judges was discussed. It was decided to announce again at a member meeting that Provisional assignments to member judges are not restricted, and to ask that new provisional judges inform the Judges Selection Committee.

Karen observed that we had not filled the assignments of our obedience judges for the past several shows. We have operated three obedience rings, and had three judges. Two would have been sufficient.

It was recommended that the Judges Selection Committee be advised to base the assignments on a full load or more for all but a single all-rounder, and that obedience be handled by two judges. Other cost-control measures were discussed. This included reducing expense for obedience ring stewards, reducing transportation expense by reducing numbers of judges, especially provisional judges. Getting another bid from another limo service was considered. Hillary will solicit alternate bids. Number of judges' lunches should be reduced to cover the judges, members who have signed up, and a few for guests and AKC/Onofrio personnel. Guest lunches should be paid by the member host of the guest.

Soft-sided crates were discussed. There were reports that obedience was boycotted. Since there is no requirement for stacking, the only justification for restricting soft-sides is a safety issue. The restriction will be reconsidered by the Cluster committee.

Hillary reported on annual operating expense by category, to try to identify other areas to economize. She then proposed that we reconsider having a member dinner in February. Since the dinner and the date had been voted by the members, the Board could not cancel the event. It was moved by Jane, second by Tom, that the Board postpone the dinner, and refer the matter back to the members in view of the financial crisis. Passed.

Hillary discussed an issue with Show Chair expenses that had come up outside the meetings. One issue was an unusual expense, hosting a dinner for the James family while staying at Michael's home. The other issue was the total expense exceeded a $500 limit for a single committee expense. Tom clarified that the restriction on single signature checks was $750; over that amount requires two signatures. (This is a TKC policy.) Committee chairs are authorized to obligate up to $500 without prior approval. After discussion, Jane moved that normally reimbursable expenses and show expenses be separated in the bill submitted and reported as such. Second by Tom. Passed.

Committees. Agility. Dianna asked that in lieu of the gifts given in prior years to workers at the Agility trial, they be given gift certificates for entries at the next Trial. Moved to approve by Jane, second by Libby. Passed.

Dianna was asked if the trial had filled. They had not. We were about 130 entries short.

Michael commented that the closing time for the Jewish Center was restricting the time allowed for discussion of issues, and we need to have more time. In view of the fact that several issues were necessary to discuss prior to the Cluster meeting next week, the meeting was recessed to the lobby of the Crowne Plaza Hotel.
The meeting was reconvened at the Crowne Plaza. All Board members were in attendance.

Michael stated that the Cluster Committee will consider whether to move out of the Convention

Center, in favor of selecting new dates at Market Hall. New dates will be needed because Market Hall is never available in January, and it is the proper thing to do to move off the Monroe Cluster date in September. He anticipates that the entry at the September show will be low, in addition to hurting Monroe entries.

At request of Board members, Michael listed the pros and cons of the two facilities. Convention Center is a more prestigious location and is considerably cheaper, considering only the rental. Market Hall is an aging building with difficult electrical hookups, but parking, and exhibitor access are much superior. Michael estimates that all finances considered, the Convention Center will always be cheaper. If the Cluster grows, we could outgrow Market Hall, although at one time TKC held a 4200 dog show there. Exhibitors and handlers are generally upset with the lack of easy access to the Convention Center. Necessity of sharing the Convention Center with other events will continue to be a problem by restricting access to the loading docks.

Jane asked what Dennis Sprung thought of the Convention Center. He believed it to be a fantastic location. He thought that it will take three years to stabilize the entry.

Maggie commented that exhibitors can be turned off to a show if they are stranded with bad weather, and entries will suffer for several years following an ice storm like the one we were threatened with.

Jane suggested that a decision be delayed until at least two shows at the Convention Center. It was discussed that data is available for the Market Hall shows from last years' GCKC/TVKC Cluster there, and we have two shows at the Convention Center. Available dates at both venues need to be determined again.

It was suggested that Don contact Market Hall to find out available dates. Hillary recommended continuing on the January date for at least another year, and finding an alternate date for the second show in Market Hall. Using Market Hall will be a concession to the desires and convenience of the exhibitors, thus building good will. The weekend following Shawnee in June was discussed.

Michael suggested eliminating flower decorations for future shows. Hillary suggested that her husband Andy could get flowers at wholesale. It was agreed to reduce the budget and accept Hillary's offer.

It was the consensus that it is necessary to be consistent with date and location to build exhibitor loyalty. It was decided to request a list of available dates for Market Hall and hold a conference call early next week. Michael will update the Onofrio list of dates, Don will check those with Market Hall, and Tom will advise the time and number for a conference call.

Libby requested that an agenda be published prior to the Board Meetings.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.