

Belmopan Humane Society – Annual General Meeting Sunday 15th May
2011 at the BHS Compound, Resource Center

1:30pm: Dewey Morison calls meeting to order, introduces and turns the meeting over to AGM Chairperson, Beverley Swasey.

National anthem is played.

Present members of the Board of Directors: Dewey Morison (Chairman), Graciela Diaz (treasurer), Lilly Morison (secretary), Judith Ferrier, Nikki Buxton. (Board members Dyanna Guillen and Olga Myers are not present.)

Dewey Morison thanks everyone who has contributed to past year: extra mention - Belmopan City Council, British High Commission, US Embassy, Belmopan Men's Club:

Dewey presents a slide show of events from the Belmopan Humane Society's (BHS) history:

2007 AGM at BHS property, tent, no fence.

2008 AGM at property, raining with collapsing tent.

2009 and 2010 AGMs, inside the resource centre.

Be Kind Belize first workshop - "test case" group.

Monthly socials – first one.

Rotaract Halloween Party – BHS serving snacks.

Children's matinee

Kids' puppet workshop with Charlotte Hansen, followed by puppet show at George Price Center.

> Charlotte has donated several puppets to BHS

Santa Paws at Garden City Plaza.

Puppy adoption tent at Belmopan Day event.

"Twilight" teen event in the Belmopan Civic Center.

U.S. Embassy handing over the cheque for Be Kind Belize programme.

Valentine's cocktail party and auction at British High Commission.

Dewey thanks the corporate sponsors, Banana Bank Lodge, BCSL, Biomed's Ltd., Builders Hardware, Cheers Restaurant, Roaring River Golf Course, Belize Healthcare Partners.

He thanks Frankie Miller for re-designing the website, and veterinarians Dr.'s Tesecum, Alpuche, and Baptist for their assistance over the past year. Special thanks to Dr Tesecum for all the clinics he has helped us provide.

Lilly reads minutes from last year, minutes accepted as read by Judith and seconded by Graciela.

Graciela gives the treasurer's report: total expenses this year were \$18,126.70.

Total income was \$19,614.39. The majority of the income came from donations and fund raising.

The U.S. Embassy grant for the Be Kind Belize programme totalled Bz\$21,935, all this money has now been received by BHS.

Dewey gives the property report. He presents a slide show of significant events in the development of the property since 2006.

This year a solar system has been set up with donations from Graham and Frankie Miller, Phyllis Kadle in USA, and was installed with the help of Tom Tullsen, Dewey Morison and Don Thompson.

Graham Miller built mahogany shelves with wood donated by Phyllis Kadle, to form the library in the resource center.

There remains a lot of work to do to improve the interior of the resource center.

Barbara Clark from USA donated money to buy material for new stairs leading to the resource center. Dewey, Graham, Cosimo and Don built the stairs.

Paint work on the exterior of the resource center still needs to be done, and some more concreting needs to be done underneath the building.

A new cover has been made for the tent outside.

All of this has been possible with donations from people for each specific project.

Lilly gives the animal assistance report: Dogs that have been rescued or in some way helped in the past year by BHS: Pulga, Prosper, Bailey, Honey and her puppies, Grace, Bee Bee, 2 hit and run victim dogs, Gypsy and her puppies, a machete chop victim dog, Lily, Rocco, Snoopy, Mia, Betty Ann, Cody, Solomon, Pongo, Bruiser, Prince Hairy, a dog with pneumonia, Riley, Harley.

Cats who have been rescued or helped: Mr. Leo, three feral cats, lots of cats belonging to one lady, Forest, Pearl, Lucy, Midnight and Twilight.

One toucan has been rescued, and a pit bull has been stolen and is still missing in Belmopan.

Lilly mentions the many successful low-cost spay and neuter and veterinary clinics that have been held over the past year.

Education presentation: Trey Cabb plays the excellent jingle produced by Devanny Productions which may be used by the Belmopan Humane Society "Be Kind Belize" (BKB) program.

Nikki Buxton talks about the BKB programme: it was imported from San Pedro where Colette Kase originally devised it. It has been adapted to suit Cayo and the mainland. Starting in January, it teaches children the 3 R's of reverence, respect and responsibility. It has been funded by the U.S. Embassy.

Colette Kase visited Belmopan for a weekend and gave a workshop to the prospective teachers.

Each group of approximately 15 children receive eight one hour voluntary modules, and there is a very low drop-out rate showing how much they enjoy coming. The course covers feeling and learning, wild and domestic animals, responsibility, and dog safety.

At the end of each programme a “Kind Kid” who has been voted for by the others receives a prize.

The children are taken on a trip to The Belize Zoo upon successfully completing the programme.

A question is asked if there is any follow-up at home to see how the children are getting on.

Nikki answers no, but explains that the only checking they can do is to ask the children to take a survey at the beginning and end of the programme, and see how their opinions have changed. They have however, received verbal reports from the childrens' parents expressing their amazement at the transformation in their children at home, so the BKB team are confident that BKB works.

Lilly talks briefly about foster homes and presents Graciela, Judith, and Frankie with a small token of appreciation for their help with fostering animals. There is a great need for more foster homes in Belmopan.

Yasmin Novello presented a letter she had written. She expresses her love for animals, especially dogs, and wishes that people in Belmopan would treat their animals more humanely and considerately. They deserve to be treated with respect and only to be owned by people who will look after them properly, not allow females to breed, and protect them in the same way that they protect us.

The 2010 board of directors is dissolved. Nominations for the 2011 board are: Tom Tullsen, Lilly Morison, Dewey Morison, Kenisha Hoare, Graciela Diaz, and Roberto Guerra. Ross Blumentritt proposes to accept the new board, and everyone voices their agreement.

A break is taken whilst the new board discuss their responsibilities.

Dewey Morison, 2011-2012 Chairman introduces the new Board of Directors. Roberto Guerra – Deputy Chair, Graciela Diaz, Treasurer, Lilly Morison, Secretary, Tom Tullsen, director, Kenisha Hoare, director and Assistant Secretary.

Dewey speaks about the hurricane damage caused by Hurricane Richard in 2010. In the future it is hoped that the property will serve as a hurricane shelter for animals. Last year Maddie Collins of PAWS on Caye Caulker expressed an interest in making use of the property in the event of a hurricane. Approximately a quarter of a million dollars is expected to be needed to build this.

Ross asks if the property can become a boarding kennel in the future, and Dewey confirms that this is one intention, to create an income for BHS.

Lilly mentions that T-shirts and dog I D tags are for sale.

3:00pm: Meeting adjourned, Refreshments served.

Minutes taken by Frankie Miller