

RICHMOND DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB, INC.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 13, 2024

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Richmond Dog Obedience Club took place on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at the club building annex on Tomlynn Street. President Patti Kilcullen called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

The following Board Members were present:

President: Patti Kilcullen (2024)

Vice President: Carolyn Wilkerson (2024)

Corresponding Secretary: Merilynn Bergstresser (2024)

Training Directors: Gabby Hughes (2024/2025)

Recording Secretary: Claibourne Jackson (2024)

Treasurer: Rocky Altimore (2024)

Member at Large: Judi Edwards (2023/2024), Donna Crumpler (2023/2024), Dave Frazier (2024/2025), Theresa Myers (2024/2025)

Dave Frazier made a motion to proceed out of order, allowing our guests to speak first. The motion was seconded by Donna Crumpler and then approved by verbal vote.

The following **guests were present:** Arlene Dickson, Laura Herman, Maryann Massie

- Arlene began with presenting a mock-up of our Rally & Obedience Trial Premium which contained new proposed language regarding accommodations (ADA) for service dogs/animals (entered and un-entered in our trials) on the premises. Laura Herman was a tremendous help in explaining what the club must/must not and may/may not do and how to word our policy so that we comply with AKC's ADA policy for its events as well as ADA rules in general.
- After the presentation and discussion, Judi asked Laura to speak to the Trial Committee to explain/clarify our responsibilities regarding accommodations (ADA) before the next trial.
- Trial Committee members must know the rules and accept the responsibility to call for emergency hearings when required. The last Obedience Trial involved a situation where an emergency (disciplinary) hearing should have been called right then – we failed to do what a Trial Committee is supposed to do.
- In response to the proposal of abandoning our June trial date: Claibourne made a motion to leave/continue with our June Obedience & Rally trial date, Merilynn seconded the motion and discussion followed. Arlene presented extensively researched data to see what weekend dates (if any) would be available to us IF we decided to drop our June trial. AKC has rules about conflicting events and, to comply, the only dates that might be available to us are Week 10 or Week 41 of the year. There is no guarantee that we would be awarded use of either of these dates since, by the time we submitted a request to AKC, another club may have gotten there first. Additionally, these weeks are close to other RDOC functions and volunteers get spread thin. The original motion was passed by verbal vote.

Minutes of the last meeting:

- Theresa Myers made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2024 board meeting, Judi Edwards seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by verbal vote.

Report of the Secretaries:

Corresponding Secretaries Report: Merilynn reported that a flower arrangement had been sent to Judy Abruzese

Recording Secretaries Report: none

Report of the Treasurer: none

Report of Committees**Buildings and Grounds:**

- Dave Frazier reiterates that parts for the main building A/C are due in today or tomorrow with repairs beginning the following day. At this point, we are expecting the air conditioning to be up and running by Friday, August 16. If not, the Board has resolved that an emergency committee of Patti, Dave and Rocky will push for an in-person meeting with Porter and/or the building owner and daily reports from the same.
- Judi mentioned an email she received about the members maybe sensing that the Board isn't doing anything....
- Dave F. made a motion to purchase the insulation packs for the garage doors, Claibourne seconded the motion. After some discussion, the referenced purchase was approved unanimously. This material was for sale on FB Marketplace so we are hoping it is still available.
- Dave advised that he is no longer allowed to call anyone outside of Porter Realty for emergency service of any system or element of the building. We will have to advise Dave, he will have to contact Porter and WAIT for them to address our issue even if it's an emergency.
- Porter has told Dave that our members are still parking in front of others' garage doors during the day – Gabby said she would address this with day instructors and class participants.
- Dave reports that a guest who is familiar with such things has said we must have Emergency Exit Lights. That said, if we insist on having such, the Club (as Tenant) has to cover the cost. In "light" of the massive issues we are experiencing with the air conditioning at this time, the Board has resolved to table this issue until Fall.

Nominating Committee:

- Merilynn Bergstresser will send email messages to several members to gauge interest in serving in various positions for 2025. Patti Kilcullen, Claibourne Jackson, Rocky Altimore, and Carolyn Wilkerson are happy to continue to serve in their respective roles in 2025. The term of service for Theresa Myers and Dave Frazier does not end until 2026.
- Merilynn will post information in the PawPrint about the various offices needing to be filled.

Training:

- Gabby notes that there are 6 classes that are 4 weeks behind due to the air conditioning failure in the main building.
- Gabby made a motion that club policy be revised to state that any person who has a member of their household ill with CoVid, may NOT enter the building. Donna seconded the motion and it subsequently passed unanimously.
- Gabby made a motion to refund in full for a class because the student had a family household member ill with CoVid. The motion was seconded by Rocky and subsequently passed.

Web Site:

- Judi reiterated to please contact her with questions or information regarding our website !!!
- Judi made a motion to raise Rocky's salary (for all the work creating and managing RDOC's website) by 25%, effective September 1, 2024. Theresa seconded the motion. Rocky abstained and the motion was passed by majority vote.
- Judi asked why RDOC's WiFi password was such a secret. It was resolved that the password would be posted in the Members section of the RDOC website

Unfinished Business:

- Nicole Allen brought to the Board the need for more keys to the building. Patti made a motion to purchase 25 keys at a total cost of not more than \$600. Merilyn seconded the motion and it passed by verbal vote.
- Claibourne reminded Theresa to present for vote at the September Membership meeting to change the Standing Rules to allow more than 6 CGC classes per year.

New Business:

- After asking Dave and Gabby to leave the room, Patti made a motion to award gift cards to Gabby and Dave (\$100) in appreciation for their daily trips to and from the club while trying to work through the A/C failure. The motion was seconded by Claibourne and discussion followed. Subsequently, Patti posed an amended motion to change the amounts of the gift cards to \$100 for Gabby and \$125 for Dave. Judi seconded this motion and it was passed by verbal vote.
- Judi -Susan Nepomuceno had suggested (in the August general membership meeting) that the club should be offering AKC Puppy STAR and more CGC classes as puppy buyers' contracts from breeders frequently mention these as a requirement. Judi pointed out that our club doesn't have any evaluators for AKC Puppy STAR, even though our puppy classes teach the elements required to earn the Puppy STAR certificate. Becoming an evaluator costs \$25 (to AKC).
- Judi relayed a few of the comments heard recently from various members. The ideas ranged from slightly uninformed to wayyyy off the track of factual history. The conclusion is that a lot more communication and information need to be disseminated to the membership in general. To aid in this, Patti has volunteered to interview long-time members and publish a series of articles in the PawPrint focusing on the history of RDOC.

- The puppy cubby partitions in the Annex have been taken apart, moved and not replaced. Although the shuffle should end soon, the classes generally taught in the Annex REQUIRE the partitions. A great deal of time and effort went into creating the partitions and they were moved carelessly causing damages which someone now has to repair.

Adjournment: Dave Frazier made a motion to adjourn, Carolyn Wilkerson seconded the motion, it passed; and thus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Claibourne Jackson, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved September 10, 2024