

Pennsylvania Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Council
March 12, 2024 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

In Attendance:

S. DeArment, P. Hentz, L. Stallings, S. Gallagher, S. Acosta

I. Interviews

Katie Lee had been scheduled for an interview but was now taking employment out-of-state. It is unclear whether she plans to rehabilitate in Pennsylvania. SueD will follow up with her to find out her plans.

II. CTO / Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. On a motion by Peggy, seconded by Leah, minutes of the January meeting were approved.

SueG will forward a redacted version of the minutes to Peggy and Sandra for uploading on the PAWR website.

III. Finances

Leah provided a written treasurer's report prior to the meeting. There have been no changes, and the current balance remains at \$23,595.46.

Leah continues to research interest rates and minimum deposits for CDs. Based on her findings, all agreed to remain with Santander Bank when taking out a CD. A decision on how much to invest will be made at the next meeting, when conference expenses can be estimated.

IV. Conference

M. Meyers and S. Kilroy of the Alloy Hotel in King of Prussia joined the meeting to outline their offer of conference hosting. The offer includes:

- Free WiFi and free parking
- \$139 room nights with a \$10 rebate on each room booked
- One comped room for every 40 rooms booked
- “Shoulder night” pricing, with reduced costs for attendees three nights prior and three nights post conference, pending availability
- Pet stays at \$75
- Vegan and vegetarian food options
- Connection with a liaison from Elmwood Park Zoo for field trip
- Advertising of event through Montgomery County visitor bureau
- General space plus breakout rooms for 30-50 people
- Shuttle service to mall & attractions (not walkable)

Pricing:

- \$25,000 food minimum (negotiable, depending on meals selected)
- \$1,100 to cover all meeting rooms for weekend
- \$625 A/V service per room, with 10% discount

Leah will write up a comparison of all three hotel offers, State College, Lancaster, and King of Prussia, and forward to council members.

SueG will draft a survey for the rehabilitation community to help make the decision on a 2025 venue.

When the survey is finalized, Peggy will put it on the PAWR website.

Additional decisions/info needed for the conference include:

- Using an app to help manage registration (It was cumbersome this year)
- Finding additional sponsors (Sandra may be able to)
- Length of conference (Include Friday? Shorten Sunday?)
- Tiered discounts for speakers, to save money
- Amount/availability of a PGC grant

V. Other

Sandra had to leave the meeting but will continue working on 501c3 status for PAWR. She would also like to offer improvements to the website and has ideas she will share.

Peggy shared that Tara Probst's sponsored legislation to get funding for rehabilitation centers is moving forward. There has been no update on adding a small mammal classification to rehab regulations. Peggy will pass on any information she receives.

On a motion by Leah, seconded by SueG, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for May 14.

Susan Gallagher
Recording Secretary