

**RICHMOND DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB, INC.**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Richmond Dog Obedience Club took place on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 over zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

**The following Board Members were present:**

President: Peter Lenk (2022)

Vice President: Michele Gillette (2022)

Corresponding Secretary: Rhea McCaffrey (2022)

Training Directors: Valerie Pascal (2021/2022)

Recording Secretary: Deanne Hamilton (2022)

Treasurer: Rocky Altimore (2022)

Member at Large: Linda Heimiller (2021/2022), Jeanette Makowskyj (2022/2023), Ellen McNelly (2021/2022), Janie Robertson (2022/2023)

Board Members absent: Carisa Whelan (2022/2023)

The following **guests were present:** Les Foldesi, Catherine Foldesi, and Theresa Myers

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The amended minutes of the January 2022 board meeting were approved. Michele Gillette made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the last board meeting. The motion was seconded by Valerie Pascal and passed on verbal vote.

Valerie Pascal made a motion to go out of order so guests could speak first. The motion was seconded by Linda Heimiller and passed on verbal vote. Minutes of discussion under **New Business.**

**Report of the Secretaries:**

**Corresponding Secretaries Report:** none

**Recording Secretaries Report:** none

**Report of the Treasurer:** no report

**Report of Committees**

**-Agility Trial:**

Everything is lined up for the upcoming Agility Trial. Volunteers are being secured.

**-Tracking:**

Planning is full speed ahead for the upcoming Tracking Trial. Judi and Michele will be walking some additional land on Friday. Peter Lenk reported that he received a detailed email from Judy concerning the trial. Many volunteers have signed up to help.

**Unfinished Business:**

Peter Lenk brought up the topic of masks. He stated the numbers on Covid are still high and, considering the number of members we have that are in the high risk group, we will continue masking for the next month and look at it again in March.

**Presentation of Applications for Membership:** The application of Merilynn Bergstresser was read to the Board. Michele Gillette made a motion to approve the application for a vote at the March 1, 2022, Membership Meeting. Valerie Pascal seconded and passed by verbal vote.

**New Business:**

Catherine Foldesi requested Board approval to organize an event to honor Sally Cecil at RDOC. This led to a lengthy discussion concerning the appropriate tribute to long standing members who made significant contributions of time, talent, and commitment to RDOC and the world of dog training. Memorials, pictures, plaques, ribbons, and dedication of trials were all mentioned. Theresa Myers brought up concerns about pictures that had been removed. Finally, it was concluded it would be best to bring this topic up at the general membership meeting on March 1, 2022. A committee might need to be created to establish consistent criteria that could be added to standing rules. Michele Gillette made a motion to table until the membership meeting. The motion was seconded by Peter Lenk and passed by verbal vote.

Valerie Pascal requested a partial refund for two members who registered for a four-week class, however, due to no fault of their own, only ended up with 2 classes. Rocky mentioned the No Refund Policy but explained that they were eligible to receive a credit without Board approval.

Valerie Pascal reported that Judi Edwards would like to offer a Tracking Seminar at her home on Saturday, April 2, 2022, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. There would be 10 working teams and 10 auditors. The cost for non-member teams would be \$130 and \$110 for member teams. Auditing would cost \$80 for non-members and \$30 for members. All participants would need to bring their own lunch. Discussion ensued about how the class would be advertised and whether there would be an emphasis made on trying to engage more beginners and/or first timers to this seminar.

Valerie Pascal reported that a member suggested we might need to increase our class prices. We have quality instructors with great communication and, comparatively, our prices are lower than others in the community. Some discussion ensued. It was decided that Valerie would send the current pricing from other clubs/classes in the area to the Board for their review.

Valerie Pascal had a question concerning membership. A non-member had started working on her membership back in 2020, and the hours had been signed off on. However, she did not finish at that time due to Covid and other factors. Valerie asked whether she would need to start fresh or could use the prior hours towards her membership requirements. It was determined that if they were signed off on, we have documentation, and the non-member can continue where she left off in working towards membership.

Peter Lenk brought up the possibility of going back to in-person Board Meetings starting in April. He asked everyone to share their thoughts on zoom vs in-person. Peter emphasized we didn't need to decide tonight, but he wanted to know how we felt. Most felt it was time to go back to in person or they would go with the majority rule.

**Adjournment:** 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deanne Hamilton, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved as amended 3/8/22