

RICHMOND DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB, INC.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2024

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Richmond Dog Obedience Club took place on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at the club building on Tomlynn Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

The following Board Members were present:

President: Patti Kilcullen (2024)

Vice President: Carolyn Wilkerson (2024)

Corresponding Secretary: Merilyn 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)

Board Members absent: none

Minutes of the last meeting:

- The minutes of the April 2024 Board meeting were approved. Patti made a motion to approve the minutes of the last Board meeting; the motion was seconded by Theresa and passed on verbal vote.

Corresponding Secretaries Report: None

Recording Secretaries Report: None

Report of the Treasurer: None

Report of Committees

Buildings and Grounds:

- Dave reported that the cleaning contract has been executed and signed; Rocky will file the original in the office.
- Hot water had stopped working in the main building but has been fixed now. A new breaker was installed and Dave noted that the water heater itself is original to the building.
- The Annex roof drain is still leaking occasionally – at this point, the exact reason is known, just not completely remedied. Please continue to look for leaking and proceed as previously instructed.
- The foul odor is still occurring randomly in the main building and remains largely a mystery
- The bathroom exhaust is open to the outdoors with no screen or cover of any kind on the duct – thus, we have birds in the building. Dave will work with Porter on this. (A huge thank you to Dave Frazier for hunting down the cause of all the pesky problems and working so hard to solve them!)

Membership:

- Rocky listed several people who had cancelled their membership and one whom he was not able to locate. As a result, these people have been removed from the membership roster:
Tom Hodges, Susan Giles, Mary Jo Pristera, Valerie Pascal, Carmen Vasquez, Alison Visokay, Carol Wiggins, Patty Wilmoth

Trials & Events:

- Theresa Myers reported that Hanover Ruritan has given permission for us to use their facility in the evening after our September FastCAT for a Fetch Trial.
- Judi Edwards made a motion to take/use the November date previously set for Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club tracking trials to hold an RDOC trial (noting that PVGRC has opted not to hold their trial). Theresa seconded the motion and it was passed by verbal vote.

Training:

- Gabby Hughes requested partial refund for a manners class. Registrant had to be removed on the 3rd class because the dog tried to bite an instructor and go after another dog. Instructor recommended the dog see a vet for a thorough exam. For 3 of 8 classes attended, refund requested is \$87.50. Gabby made motion to refund \$87.50, Merilynn Bergstresser 2nd'd and the motion passed unanimously.
- Gabby reported that Cindy Hall and Emily Chambers would like to teach a tricks class with the goal of participants being able to pass the Novice Tricks test. They propose 6-7 students, Wednesday or Thursday during the day, using club equipment and would like to offer a Novice Tricks test at the end.

Theresa Myers noted that she can do Tricks testing & certification and discussion followed regarding opening the test to club members (decided yes).

- Gabby noted that Cristol Klevinsky would like to take a break from teaching Novice B
- Patti Kilcullen made a motion to offer a 2-hour Mini Workshop on Backchaining, July 15, no dogs, \$60 non-members and \$40 members, to be taught by Mary Ann Massie. Judi 2nd'd the motion and it passed by verbal vote.
- Gabby said that Mary Ann Massie has proposed teaching 6 weeks of a special class for members only (6 students) 1.5 hours, wherein each student would bring 2 issues in Novice or Open that the class could work on. The class would be 7/15 - 8/26 and would cost \$60. Claibourne made a motion to proceed with the class as proposed, motion was 2nd'd by Judi and subsequently passed by unanimous verbal vote.

Presentation of Applications for Membership:

- There were no new applications for membership.

New Business:

Website:

- RDOC website still mentions that we offer “tattoo clinics” and this should be removed; the Board asked Rocky to please adjust the verbiage accordingly.

Board Meeting Time:

- Standing rules say Board meetings start at 6:00 pm, but the Board has been meeting at 6:30. After a brief discussion, all agreed we will return to the 6:00pm time to convene Board meetings.

Trials & Events:

- Merilynn has requested some identification for volunteers during our events – such as a badge. Merilynn made a motion to spend up to \$200 for lanyards and badge holders to identify volunteers at our events and to have the Trophies/Ribbons Chairperson be responsible for handing out and retrieving badges. Rocky 2nd’d the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee on Pricing for Classes:

- Committee Chair Donna Crumpler reported the various ideas proposed by the committee and discussion followed with the driving philosophy being:

RDOC remains viable only as long as there are volunteers, therefore, it is essential to incentivize volunteers.

Ultimately, a points system was proposed, discussed and backed by Board members. Points would be earned retroactive to 1/1/2024 for use beginning 2025 and redeemable for *classes only*. Points earned by members would be redeemed at up to 100 points for each class session, leaving the remaining dollar amount to pay (currently it would be \$40). Points earned would be for **CLASSES ONLY**. Points will not be valid to trade for clinics, seminars, workshops, events or run-throughs. Only ONE dog per member will be allowed in pet classes, i.e. Basic, Puppy, Manners, CGC.

Motion made by Claibourne to outline the program, present in the PawPrint and put to the membership for vote at the June meeting; motion was 2nd’d by Judi and passed unanimously.

Club Meetings:

- Patti mentioned that we can and should set a time limit for persons who wish to comment at any Club meeting – the purpose being to keep meetings from getting off track and/or going on much longer than necessary. After a brief discussion, Judi made a motion to enact a 3 minute limit, Claibourne 2nd’d the motion and it passed by verbal vote.

Committees without Chairs:

- It was noted that there are many committees in the club without chairpersons. These are additional volunteer positions that can earn points. We should post a list of committees without chairpersons, noting that descriptions are in the standing rules; there may be members interested in the various positions.

New Class:

- Judi would like to offer a new class: “The Well Mannered Dog.” Participants would be required to have completed Basic II as prerequisite. Class would include setting up everyday living scenarios such as checkout counters, restaurants, vet exams as well as possible off-site work. The class requires the main training floor. No other facility is offering anything like this in our area.

Judi is checking regarding insurance for field trips, and will work with the Training Director to get up and running. (This sounds like a great class – should be filled quickly!)

Training Director:

- Dave Frazier asked for clarification about training committee, training director, and who was where in the organization. In clarification: RDOC's Training Director, Gabby Hughes, is in charge of the program; all questions, proposals, etc. are her domain.

Adjournment: Claibourne made a motion to adjourn, it was 2ndd by Donna Crumpler and subsequently passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,
Claibourne Jackson, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved as amended, June 11, 2024 CJJ