

Expectation of a Green County Humane Society Board Member

- “Commitment to the Membership and to the specific mission area.” We act as the agents of the membership, and as such we must be committed to that trust. This is even more important than a commitment to the mission, because “Mission” is an outcome of the board’s work on behalf of the Membership. At times, the process of how we do our work as a Board is as important as the Work GCHS does to save animals because our work enables the organization to carry out that work with integrity.
- “Propensity to think in terms of systems and context.” As a member of the Board, your ability to think of the whole of our work rather than its parts is critical to our ability to create an overarching framework of policies and accountability. Focusing on pieces rather than how the pieces fit together into a powerful organizational purpose is a distraction the Board can ill afford, and should remain in the capable hands of volunteers and professional staff.
- “Ability and eagerness to deal with values, vision, and the long term.” Our work is about translating values into policies. The staff’s work is about turning policies into action. The Board is the only collection of people who are equipped and tasked carry this out. We are the steward of the organization’s vision.
- “Ability to participate assertively in deliberation.” Failure to voice one’s views, as they represent one’s interpretation of the organization’s values, is a failure to do one’s duty as a Board member. Active participation in the Board’s work is a requirement.
- “Willingness to delegate, to allow others to make decisions.” Individual Board members must be willing to share power with others on the board, subordinating individual interests to the will of the group. Individual also must be willing to delegate to staff, allowing for the exercise of the Boards authority unencumbered by operational minutiae and encouraging staff’s professions growth unhindered by obtrusive Board meddling.