

WAO UNDERWENT YET ANOTHER CHANGE, REVERTED BACK TO ITS OLD WAYS

Editorial, May 8, 2010

Some organizations never learn from their past mistakes. Case in point: The Wild Animal Orphanage's Board of Directors reverted back to its old ways.

On April 30, 2010, two out of three board directors motioned and seconded the inclusion of a Floridian family member, to the board as a "member/advisor" and appointed a family member, with a fairly long criminal record, to the WAO's CEO/director position. What happened to the previous CEO/director and third board director? Well, she was fired in retaliation for voicing her concerns that the board was more focused on adding family members to the board than on the WAO's financial situation.

On April 30, 2010, board of directors' minutes showed the two board directors voted on a motion to reassign "positioning of BOD Members." Michelle Cryer was listed on the board meeting minutes as "President/Secretary" and Sumner Matthes was listed as "Vice President/Treasurer."

Questions arose as to whether or not this action was legal since according to the Texas Business Organization Code, Chapter 22, Nonprofit Corporations, Subchapter E Management, 22.204 Number of directors, "(a) If the corporation has a board of directors, a corporation may not have fewer than three directors." According to the WAO's own By-Laws, Article Four, Board of Directors, "the number of Directors shall not be less than five (5) consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer."

The WAO's By-laws also state in Article Three, Membership, Classes of Members, "There may be Honorary and Advisory Board Members. Honorary/Advisory board members may be elected by the Board of Directors and an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Directors shall be required for election (emphasis added)."

Apparently, there will be no "New Beginnings" until the current directors and advisory member are removed from the WAO's Board and new professional board directors and members are selected to oversee the well-being of the WAO animals.