



**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 9, 2012**  
**4:00 – 5:30 pm**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Street Station [1050 E 11<sup>th</sup>]**

Attendees: Joanne Richards, Stewart Snider, Diane Owens, Dave Rawlins, Mike Ignatowski, Teresa Taylor

1. Approved Minutes from August 18, 2012 Board meeting unanimously.
2. Treasurer's report: How are we doing? Still have \$533.00 balance from last month but must consider October payment for Constant Contact.

Question of whether to include Texas United to Amend mailing list would be determined by how much overlap could happen between our two organizations. This is still TBD.

3. Reports:

*Progress report from Texans United to Amend – Diane Owens*

With 321 petition signers so far, we could expand our Constant Contact account to include them at this time and spin them off at a later date if necessary. Decided to hold off on a decision at this time until after next TUTA coalition meeting to determine direction to take.

*Success of the Austin HuRAH conference – Teresa Taylor*

Between 75-120 people attended the September 1<sup>st</sup> regional convention. Attendees represented very diverse communities and organizations. A video link from Vermont showed there was a national interest in Human Rights. Coffee Party Austin members attended or facilitated different breakout sessions and gave reports on the discussion at these sessions. Diane reported that in the Politics session voter rights was a unanimous concern of the attendees. Voter participation [not just registration] should be a focus as this issue is of broad concern and can help unite different groups. Joanne and Ken Ripperger-Suhler are compiling reports from the facilitators of the different breakout sessions. The combined report will be made available when it is ready. Moving forward, there will be monthly meetings of the Council of Communities with representation from each organization. Teresa thinks these meetings will be a place to discuss strategy and tactics. El Paso has already held their regional convention. A state convention is being planned, possibly for January in Austin (timed to coincide with the new state legislature).

4. Travis County state senate and house candidate forum – Stewart Snider and Joanne Richards

*Venue?*

Numerous suggestions have been made, with St Edwards University as the best so far

### *Timing?*

During the day on a Saturday or in the afternoon on a Sunday are agreed best options

Dates October 13<sup>th</sup> or October 20<sup>th</sup> need to be confirmed at a specific venue, then tested for availability of the agreed candidates

### *Questions for the candidates:*

one Q on campaign finance reform - Disclose Act or Citizens United

one Q on accountability in education - accountability vs. \$\$ that supports testing

one Q on voter access - vote fraud and voter suppression

one Q on comprehensive immigration reform - DREAM Act or \$\$ supporting private prisons

One or two sample questions can be provided to the candidates so they can feel comfortable with the forum and be somewhat prepared

5. MeetUp on Thursday Sept 20<sup>th</sup>: - Joanne suggested viewing segments from Moyers's interview with Sheila Bair and the creation of the Systemic Risk Council. Ham agreed to lead the conversation, but other Board Members will pick a segment and then lead discussion during that viewing in future.
6. Other Business - Venue for Saturday Coffee Party Meetings
  - Joanne mentioned that at a previous board meeting we decided to return to Yarborough Library. From June 2, 2012 board meeting: Yarborough from 2:00 to 4:00 is the preferred meeting place/time. We need to be in touch with the library to get the time slot we want in 2013.
  - We also discussed the need to keep the website active so Board members agreed to post items this month including, but not limited to:
    - Mike: Recap books discussed during today's meeting
    - Teresa: Recap HuRAH conference
    - Stewart: Update on Candidate's Forum
    - Joanne: Update on Texans United to Amend.
7. Next Carver Library Meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>:

Stewart wants to confirm Texas Secretary of State Esperanza "Hope" Andrade as our featured speaker next month in time for Last Day to Register to Vote on October 9<sup>th</sup>.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM