

Board Meeting Minutes for August 06, 2011

Present: Joanne Richards, Diane Owens, Teresa Taylor, Stewart Snider

Absent: Mike Ignatowski, Tanya Tussing

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 PM

Agenda items:**1. Permanent Board Election of Officers:**

After discussion, the quorum of board members present elected the following slate of officers, noted with the expiration of their term in office:

President - Joanne Richards June 30, 2013

Vice President - Stewart Snider June 30, 2012

Secretary - Dave Rawlins June 30, 2013

Treasurer - Diane Owens June 30, 2012

and remaining board members would have their terms expiring at:

Mike Ignatowski June 30, 2013

Teresa Taylor June 30, 2012

Tanya Tussing June 30, 2013

Open Board Position June 30, 2012

2. Establish Committees (as expressed interest on board applications):

Decided each committee would meet and create a Statement of Purpose and elect their Chairperson.

Combined ***Community Organizing and Developing Alliance with Other Groups***

Members are: Mike Ignatowski, Stewart Snider, Joanne Richards, Teresa Taylor

Combined ***Internet/Social Media and Marketing with Publicity and Branding***

Members are: Mike Ignatowski, Diane Owens, Teresa Taylor, Tanya Tussing
Diane stated she would like this group to work with the Texas Chamber of Citizens for blogging about issues of interest in Texas.

It was also hoped Tom Archer, Jeannine Caracciolo, Kathy Carvel, Lou McCreary, Ham Richards, and Andy Wilson will get involved in this effort.

Strategic Planning:

Members are: Mike Ignatowski, Dave Rawlins, Joanne Richards, Stewart Snider, Tanya Tussing

Fund Raising:

Since no prospective board members expressed interest in this committee, it means all members of the board will be involved in this effort.

3. Meeting Dates for Membership Meetings

Agreed we should schedule Book Club meetings every quarter so we can publicize the events.

The proposed dates are:

August 27th 2011

December 3rd 2011

March 3rd 2012

June 2nd 2012

August 25th 2012

The first Book Club meeting will discuss **13 Bankers** by Simon Johnson and James Kwak on Saturday **August 27** at noon at Yarborough Library (bring your lunch; coffee always provided) discussion leader will be Tanya Tussing. Agreed to publicize through Austin libraries and Craigslist book club list. Will invite others to propose books to be discussed at future meetings.

Investigating other possible venues other than Yarborough and Howson libraries to hold a General Meeting on a Thursday evening, including but not limited to: Jorge's, Sherlock's, Nuevo Leon, La Madeleine, and 5604 Manor. Stewart will follow up on acquiring a venue for a September 15th evening meeting. Diane will acquire a copy of **Pricele\$\$** dvd to be shown during a Money in Politics Meeting.

The future meeting schedule at this point (though unconfirmed) is:

Saturday	Aug. 27	Noon	Book Club	Yarborough
Thursday	Sept. 15	7 PM	Informational	TBD
Saturday	Oct. 1	Noon	Pricele\$\$	Yarborough
Saturday	Oct. 8	1 PM	John Bonifaz	Howson
Saturday	Nov. 5	Noon	Planning	Yarborough
Saturday	Nov. 12	1 PM	Ray Marshall	Howson
Saturday	Dec. 3	Noon	Book Club	Yarborough

No outside speakers are confirmed nor are venues (except libraries) decided or confirmed.

4. Report on Save Our Schools State Wide Conference:

Stewart and Tanya participated in the conference attended by 100-250 interested people from across the state of Texas. It was an informational conference to help facilitate local involvement in the political process and generate interest in running for office in local elections. Unfortunately it was poorly organized.

5. Report on Free Speech for People:

Diane has been corresponding with John Bonifaz, a constitutional attorney, who will be speaking at a fundraiser event in Dallas on October 10th. He expressed interest in coming to Austin to speak to our group. Stewart will follow up with John as to what he has in mind and possibly direct John to other groups in Austin as well. We will pencil him in for our scheduled meeting on October 8th, two days before his scheduled event in Dallas.

6. Report on Local Voices (Money in Politics Community Conversations):

Joanne and Stewart will be meeting with the Austin League of Women Voters to determine next steps. Joanne sent a request to submit a proposal to train 100 facilitators in 7 regions of Texas to Diane Miller of Civic Collaboration, Snestlerode of Omega Point International, Sandy Heierbacher of NCDD, and Carolyn Lukensmeyer of America Speaks

Because funders are more likely to fund a sustainable community conversation, the proposal to funders would suggest a study circle model where conversations would take place over several weeks – one evening/week for ~8 weeks. The first conversation topic would be the budgeting process and the structural deficit (one evening/week for 3-4 weeks); the second conversation topic would be the influence of money in politics particular as it relates to judicial selection but we would tie the more general topic of money in politics to the budgeting process conversation.

7. Immigration Reform:

Teresa reported on her latest meeting with the Workers Defense Project. Coffee Party Austin has committed to participate in the ***Build A Better Texas*** campaign. Their next step is to conduct a survey of all workers that have unreimbursed hospital and medical expenses.

8. Coffee Party USA and Texas Chamber of Citizens:

Diane, chair of ***Coffee Party 2.0 Organizers***, reported the upcoming election of officers and directors for the national organization is proceeding. There is some concern that there may not enough candidates to fill all positions. The fledgling Texas Chamber of Citizens is a coalition of non-partisan organizations looking for positive changes in American democracy with civil discussions with others. Diane is seeking bloggers for their input.

Coffee Party USA is also considering having regional meetings this year instead of a larger national meeting.

9. Voter ID Bills Affect Women:

Joanne feels it is important that people are aware of how the various states (including Texas) are infringing on the ability for women to vote. See <http://motherjones.com/kevin-drum/2011/07/do-voter-id-laws-target-women>

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

Respectfully submitted: Dave Rawlins, Secretary