



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2016, 4:00-5:30 PM
at La Mancha restaurant**

Attendees:

Joanne Richards (president)
Mary Patrick (board member)
Teresa Taylor (board member)
Dan Eckam (secretary)

Discussion items:

1. Treasurer's report. Current (as of meeting) balance is \$1024.43, and Joanne has another \$35 to deposit. Latest expenditures were for a double-sided table banner and a 2'x3' new sign on foamcore = \$136.40.

2. Report on recent activities. Joanne said the Democracy Awakening rally drew about 250-300 people; we got 25 new people signed up for our emails. The police escorted marchers up and down Congress Ave. at the end of the rally. A video documenting the event is currently being produced.

About 15 people turned out for today's meeting on moves to amend the Constitution. We saw some new faces; some people had heard about the meeting through the Third Coast activist network.

3. Planning for June meeting. Our June 4 meeting will be about the two-party system and will feature Professor Michael Faber of Texas State University, along with Dan and others to be determined. We'll hold the meeting at the North Village library branch on Steck instead of the Yarborough library because it's not available on that date. Dan will write a description of the meeting for Mary to submit to the Chronicle, and to be used in email and online.

We discussed the title of the meeting, and agreed on "The Two-Party System: Past, Present, Future?"

4. Planning for Sept. or Oct. meeting. Joanne will be out of town for these meetings, but will be able to help plan them via phone and email. Dan volunteered to run the two meetings in her absence. We decided to host a candidate forum for the Railroad Commissioner race, assuming we can get at least two candidates to attend. We expect that the League of Women Voters will co-sponsor the event. Not sure yet whether it will happen in September or October.

For the other of these two meetings, we discussed the idea of focusing on competing schools of economic thought -- Hayek vs. Keynes, for example. Mary suggested the name of David Kendrick as a potential discussant.

5. Planning for Nov. meeting. Our November meeting has been rescheduled from the 5th to the 12th to avoid clashing with the Texas Book Festival. We considered as a working title for the meeting “The Feds, the State, the City and Me” -- concerning when, why, and how local control should be overridden by higher-level jurisdictions -- in light of an expected debate over statewide ridesharing regulations in the next legislature, and the past overturning of Denton’s anti-fracking regulations by the state.

6. Looking ahead to the next Legislature. Dan asked about our process for deciding what bills to support in the biennial Texas Legislature, which convenes next in January, and whether we should begin to consider what our priorities should be. The answer is that we usually focus our efforts on bills being considered by the Elections Committee plus bills pertaining to ethics reform including disclosure of campaign contributions. We have generally just signed on with other groups in support of bills introduced by others.

Dan suggested we might also be able to convince a legislator to introduce a bill that we favor, and that one such possible bill would be for Texas to join the National Popular Vote interstate compact, which 10 other states and DC have already joined. However, not everyone on the board is convinced of its merits, which we debated briefly. We also could consider a bill suggesting instant run-off voting. We decided to continue the discussion in future board meetings.