



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Nov. 13, 2016, 1:30-3:00 PM
at Joanne's house**

Attendees:

Joanne Richards (president)
Diane Owens (treasurer)
Dan Eckam (secretary)
Mary Patrick (board member)
Dave Rawlins (friend of the board)
Ham Richards (friend of the board)

Discussion items:

1. Minutes approved. We confirmed that the minutes of our last meeting were approved by the board via email.

2. Treasurer's report. We gained \$8 from donations, bringing our current balance to \$1031.43.

3. Library reservation issue. Joanne informed us that Yarborough is up for renovation. Jan 7 & Feb 4 dates are secure. Although our preference is to remain at Yarborough, as a backup for March through November we've reserved the Old Quarry branch meeting room, as suggested by the librarian at Yarborough. We'll cancel the reservations at Old Quarry as needed when the time gets nearer.

4. Discussion about how to attract board members. We decided we should explain our mission at every general meeting, along with the civility pledge.

5. New board member applications.

- a. **Naiman Rigby:** Dan presented Naiman's board application. The nomination was approved 3-0 (Mary absent).
- b. **Char Dison:** presented by Joanne; approved 3-0 (Mary absent).
- c. **Sandra Ragona:** presented by Mary; approved 4-0.

6. Considering meeting topics for next year.

We talked about a few ideas for meetings:

- feds, state, county & me (local control) -- e.g. fracking in Denton
- "sanctuary" cities, i.e. ICE using local law-enforcement resources
- civil discourse in the present day -- what happened to it?
- Ham suggested inviting Citizens Climate Lobby and/or No Labels to share with us their process for approaching people who would not be natural allies. (CCL is pushing for a revenue-neutral

carbon fee. What's their process for gaining influence?) The Austin contact for CCL is Anna Graybeal; the Texas contact for No Labels is Bobbi Schwartz.

7. Decision to support the NPVIC in the TX legislature.

Dan proposed that because we've seen (for the 5th or 6th time, depending on how you qualify it) the national popular vote diverge from the electoral college, and because we are well-positioned as a non-partisan group that has developed significant familiarity with the issue, and because we believe that observing the principle of "one person, one vote" is a common-ground position that should be institutionalized in our system, we should apply pressure to the Texas state legislature to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. We discussed the proposal and agreed it would be a good idea to work with other groups to accomplish this goal. Dan made the following motion:

MOTION: that CG4TX dedicate adequate resources to pursuing the goal of getting the Texas Legislature to join the NPVIC.

The motion passed 4-0.

We assigned these to-dos:

- Dan will create a flyer to promote to other groups
- Joanne will email Integrity Texas about joining forces with us
- Joanne will also talk to Cinde Weatherby and Carol Geiger at Public Citizen.
- Joanne & Dan will make appointments, when ready, to visit with staff of state legislators such as Eddie Rodriguez, Celia Israel, and Donna Howard. We will also meet with several Republican legislators to achieve bi-partisan support for such legislation.

8. Discussion of ranked-choice voting.

Joanne proposed looking into the feasibility of getting the City of Austin and Travis County Commissioners Court to adopt ranked-choice voting when electing City Council members and County Court Commissioners.

The rationale:

- it is fiscally responsible
- it encourages positive campaign rhetoric
- the voices of more people count because run-off elections are notorious for their VERY low turnout.

She will report on the results of her exploration at the annual retreat on December 3.