



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2017, 2:00-4:00 PM
at Char's house

Attendees:

Joanne Richards (president)
Diane Owens (treasurer)
Dan Eckam (secretary)
Char Dison (board member)
Naiman Rigby (board member)
Saundra Ragona (board member)

Discussion items:

1. Minutes approved. We confirmed approving, by email, the minutes of our last board meeting on April 1.

2. Treasurer's report. We are up-to-date on tax filings; only expense: \$185.65 for bookmarks; our current balance is \$935.31.

3. Activism updates.

a. **NPVIC (Dan):** the bill is now dead in TX; it passed the House in Oregon; a march or (more likely) rally is being planned for October 7 across the country. Dan is working to organize the Austin event.

b. **Integrity Texas (Joanne):**

- omnibus bill from last session was split into 6 bills (see Appendix)
- no dark-money bill
- ethics bills rely on lawyer's interpretation so Joanne doesn't really contribute meaningfully to these meetings

c. **Another group -- Texas Election Reform --** may be a better coalition for us, long term (LWV, NAACP, MALDEF, Common Cause, ...)

- board agreed that Joanne's time would be better spent here than w. Integrity Texas

d. **Represent.us --** 4 people running 1st meeting; ~20 people who showed up at Spider House. Is starting in Austin a bad idea? Take the lead on new Austin fair campaign contract?

- Joanne will connect them w. info and people such as Fred Lewis, Brigid Shea, Dan Buda, ... Represent.us is behind the Tallahassee model legislation but this may need to be modified for Texas.

4. Library update.

We are scheduled at Yarborough for Sept-Nov. Char will look into meeting at the new downtown library beginning in January.

5. June programming.

Our guest will be John Reynolds from Texas Tribune -- include the 6 bills we were concerned with. (on the whiteboard and in a handout).

6. Interim study for Texas fair courts.

Joanne is meeting w. Donna Howard's chief of staff (Scott Daigle) about the best way to request a study. Draft letter from Justin Rodriguez to Joe Straus; letter directly from Texas Fair Courts Network. Joanne wants to know how to most effectively support Rodriguez's bill.

7. September programming.

CodeNEXT discussion. Invite council members Flannigan, Houston, Casar. Maybe someone from Envision Austin, if someone from city council can't come.

8. October programming.

NPVIC discussion? (Aim for 10-12 rally on Oct. 7, if possible, so as not to conflict w. our meeting.)

9. Email messaging.

Ideas for upcoming emails (June/July):

- email linking to our blog on citizen redistricting commission (April mtg.)
- email about interim study on judicial selection

10. Summer board meeting dates.

- Saturday, June 17; 2:00-4:00 pm at Char's house
- Saturday, September 2; 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Char's house

APPENDIX

Ethics bills tracked by Integrity Texas:

- Part of the 2015 omnibus:
 - SB 500: Officials convicted of felony lose pension & forfeit office; sent to Abbott
 - HB 505: Prohibit former legislators from using leftover campaign \$\$ to lobby; sent to Abbott
 - HB 501: Officials required to disclose certain financial interests in govt. contracts; uncertain
 - HB 502: Limiting wining & dining spending by lobbyists; died in the House
 - HB 503: Prohibiting elected officials from lobbying; died in the House
 - HB 504: Close revolving door for legislators; died in the House
- Other ethics bills:
 - HB 1377: Post personal financial statements on the internet; died in Senate
 - HB 3882: Close revolving door for statewide officials; died in Hosue

- HB 464: Prohibit certain campaign contributions to RR Commissioners and candidates; died in House
- HH 3305: End “pay-to-play” for gubernatorial appointments; died in Senate

