



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2017, 2:00-4:00 PM
at Char's house

Attendees:

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

Discussion items:

1. Minutes approved. We confirmed approving, by email, the minutes of our last board meeting on May 27.

2. Treasurer's report. We received a \$25 donation by Paypal and \$35 from anonymous "cookie jar" donations; our current balance is \$994.28.

3. Activism updates.

a. NPVIC rally (Dan):

Dan volunteered to be the lead organizer in Austin for the National Popular Vote March for 2020, and CG4TX is a sponsoring organization. Dan & Joanne attended the first planning meeting at Carver Library June 10. Latest details:

- Rep. Ina Minjarez has agreed to sponsor the event at the capitol
- The capitol grounds use application requires a sponsoring organization and states that the application constitutes "tacit acceptance by the organizer of all legal and financial liability for any damage to state property, or for any personal injury caused by the described activity, or occurring as a result of the activity."
- Diane voiced the concern that we don't want to expose the group to liability since we don't have insurance for the board or the group.
- Dan will email Common Cause (Anthony Gutierrez) and LWV (Grace Chimene) to ask if they will be the lead sponsoring organization. May also email Public Citizen for help, since they led the Democracy Awakening rally about 14 months ago.
- **Motion:** authorize up to \$400 to be spent by Dan or Joanne on event-related expenses, until we get a GoFundMe page going. Passed unanimously.
- Note: if there is a GoFundMe surplus of funds, we may want to give it to the national group.
- Dan will email (or call) Sanford Levinson to see if he'll be a speaker at the rally.
- We'll use our NPVIC list on MailChimp to promote the event.

b. Texas Fair Courts (Joanne):

- The strategy for getting the judicial selection interim study done: first try Justin Rodriguez, then John Smithee, then Joe Straus.
- Bay Scoggin w. TexPIRG offered to strengthen our letter of request.
- Note: chief justice Hecht is inclined towards merit selection (w. retention elections), so we might write a letter to him asking him to request the interim study.

4. Programming notes.

- CodeNEXT meeting -- Flannigan said OK; Houston recommended two others from her district; Casar cannot make it. September is when City Council will be considering its budget so their attention will be directed to that task. The idea is to emphasize the differences between different parts of Austin and how to handle them.
- Alternative idea -- report on institutional racism and systemic inequities in Austin
- **Decision:** we'll do inst. racism on Sept. 9, CodeNEXT on Oct. 7.
- Decision for November will be made later.

5. Information handling.

- Joanne will put board documents in Google Docs, where the BOD but not the general public can access them.
- Joanne will add a group history section to our "Who We Are" web page
- Dan has deleted the outdated web page "Minutes of Membership Meetings"

6. Email messaging.

Dan will send a new email message within the next week, mentioning that we're looking for volunteers for the NPVIC rally, and explaining the interim study on judicial selection (kernel text to be supplied by Joanne).

