Attendees:
- Joanne Richards (president)
- Dan Eckam (secretary)
- Char Dison (board member)
- Saundra Ragona (board member)
- Mary Cullinane (board member)

Discussion items:
1. **Minutes.** Minutes from our 9/3/18 meeting were approved. The vote was 4 to 0 with 1 abstention.

2. **Treasurer update.** Our treasurer was not in attendance. Current balance is $1568.39.

3. **Library reservations.** Joanne will go to Old Quarry library on Nov. 1 to reserve meeting rooms for 2019. We’ll request either the first or second Saturday of each month we plan to hold general meetings (January-June and Sept.-November).

4. **Housekeeping.**
   - We need to change the contact on our Paypal account. Not sure if we still need it; will figure it out soon. Kevin may know alternatives to Paypal.
   - Diane will no longer be the owner of the postal box. Joanne will now own it.

5. **Activism updates.**
   - **Democracy Dollars** program: Joanne is meeting with Dixie Davis & Frances McIntyre from LWV next week, to talk about the probems we see in the proposal text. If they agree, then all will talk to the chair of the Charter Review Commission. Then we'll go to city council members interested in passing a city ordinance, to make sure what is passed makes sense.
   - The **Census 2020** workshop (on Sept. 15) went well; attendance was about 50. Planning to have transcript translated to Spanish. In the longer term the goal is education of the public about the importance of the census. We have seed money to help El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley hold similar Census 2020 events.

6. **Programming for November.** Joanne has an ACC student and a UT student for the panel. She has asked a teacher at Anderson. We’re hoping Mike will moderate the discussion.
7. **Board retreat.** Our annual retreat will be Saturday, Dec. 1 at Char’s house, from 1:30 to 4:30. As usual, the agenda will include retrospective evaluation of our performance; considering and perhaps modifying our goals for 2019; and reviewing and updating the website to match. Some things to consider in regard to our goals: should we do more across-the-spectrum conversations? How do we diversify our audience?

8. **Ideas for January meeting.**
   - Expectations for the Texas 2019 state legislative sessions.
   - Incivility: how should the boundaries of protest be drawn? How & why have social norms changed?
   - Living in the age of algorithms -- their limitations and advances.
   - Elitism & anti-elitism, or why don’t we value expertise? (Especially in politics. Mentioned: Michael Lewis, *The Fifth Risk*, Pod Save America, Fantasyland, Chris Hayes, *Twilight of the Elites*, the backlash against PC norms.)
   (Note: Is populism the opposite of elitism?)