

Board of Directors Minutes, April 25, 2017

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of Trans Pride Initiative, a Texas corporation (the corporation), was held April 25, 2017, at a mutually agreed location: Green Papaya restaurant, 3211 Oak Lawn Ave, Dallas, Texas 75219.

Attendees

- Directors present: Nell Gaither, Robyn Crowe, Bret Camp
- Directors absent: none
- Guests present: Derica Brown

Call to Order

- Chair Nell called the meeting to order at 8:23pm. Nell recorded the minutes in the absence of Corporate Secretary Jamila Davis (no longer on the board). A quorum of directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Announcements

- Derica Brown was introduced, and she stated her desire to be on the TPI Board.
- There were no announcements.

Reports from Officers

- **President:** Nell went over the receipt of two grant awards totaling \$40, and that we have not heard from the TJFP application yet. Also noted that most work currently is focused on prison support. The office was quickly relocated to 614 W. Davis Street, Dallas, Texas 75208 after TPI was notified we had 30 days to vacate our office, and the move was completed April 21.
- **Secretary:** Acting Secretary Nell asked to approve the minutes from January 5, 2017. Bret motioned the minutes be accepted, Robyn seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- **Treasurer:** There was no statement from the treasurer. Approximate funding in the bank was a little over \$51k.

Committee Reports

- Nell noted that the person who had been developing the Housing Services Committee was no longer able to participate due to opening a new office for his counseling services.
- There were no other committee reports.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- Nell proposed having board meetings only once a year since we have been having so much difficulty achieving quorum. Bret asked if bylaws allowed that. Nell will check and report at next meeting.
- Because the new office space had to be approved quickly, Nell asked the Board to approve the decision to acquire the new space after the fact. Bret motioned that the Board accept the decision to rent office space at 614 W. Davis Street, Suite 207/208, Dallas, Texas 75208. Robyn seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- Nell mentioned that with the new funding we would need to hire an accountant to make sure we are compliant with accounting practices. Nell is to research options (including David Hesse/Avoir Innovations, Treach Ebony/Urban Banker) and report back prior to the next Board meeting, with the intent to approve an option at the next meeting.
- Nell mentioned that she would like to hire an “organizer” or pursue a different option to bring on more consistent assistance that would move the mission of the corporation forward. Discussion included also looking at someone with social work experience and offering stipends to community members to increase engagement. The Board agreed in principle (no vote taken) to allow such an option contingent on final approval during a special or regular meeting, as appropriate.
- Nell proposed that the Board consider that the Directors had reviewed decisions taken since the last Board meeting, that any questions about those decisions had been addressed appropriately, and that the Board approves of actions taken by the President in the conduct of the corporation’s business since the last meeting of the Board. Bret motioned that the Board agreed that had occurred, Robyn seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Open End

- Open ended discussion took place before the start of the meeting. It involved several ideas to move the corporation’s mission forward. These included discussion of options for increasing capacity for prisoner support, increasing volunteer engagement (including seeking advice from Debra Cavazos), and leveraging legal connections for pro bono legal help.

Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nell Gaither, acting Recording Secretary

Date