

Board of Directors Minutes, February 15, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of Trans Pride Initiative, a Texas corporation (the corporation), was held February 15, 2024. The meeting was done by phone and video conference.

Attendees

- Directors present by remote connection: Nell Gaither, Josh Crabtree, James Fairchild, Bret Camp
- Directors absent: Bret Camp had to leave the meeting at 7:34pm

Call to Order

- Chair Nell called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. A quorum of directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Announcements

- There were no announcements.

Reports from Officers

- **President**
 - The president noted that this is the annual board meeting, as per the bylaws.
 - The president noted that work had proceeded without any exceptional events since the last meeting of the board.
 - There were no questions or comments for the president.
- **Secretary**
 - Acting secretary referred to the minutes from the October 11, 2023, board meeting, asking if there were any comments or questions or corrections. There were no comments or questions or corrections, so the acting secretary requested that the board approve the minutes as provided. James motioned that the minutes be approved as provided, Josh seconded, and the vote to approve was unanimous.
 - The acting secretary asked if there were any questions about the work of the secretary since the last meeting, and there were none.
- **Treasurer**
 - The acting treasurer referred to the reports provided: bank reconciliation detail and summary reports for January 31, 2024, noting that we have a little over \$330,000 in the bank. The acting treasurer asked if there were any questions or comments or concerns, and there were none.
 - The acting treasurer referred to the proposed budget for 2024, noting that it was primarily prepared for the proposal for Borealis funding, and that we generally do not need to refer to the budget throughout the year, but it is typically fairly accurate in terms of total income and expenses. The acting treasurer asked that we approve the proposed budget for 2024. Bret motioned that the budget be approved as provided, James seconded, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

- The acting treasurer asked if there were any comments or questions about the work of the treasurer since the last meeting, and there no questions or comments.

Committee Reports

- **Fundraising Team**

- Nell, for the Fundraising Team, noted we had submitted our request for funding from the Borealis Fund for Trans Generations, and that if we receive the funding it would be the eighth cycle to receive this grant. Nell noted that the request was not worded strongly because we have sufficient funds, but we have noted we have sufficient funds for the last two years, and still received funding.
- Nell asked if there were any comments or questions about the work of the team since the last meeting, and there were no questions or comments.

- **Action Team: Prison Support**

- Nell, for the Action Team Prison Support committee, noted that we are still able to keep up with the prison letters, and that the backlog is about 30 days. Nell noted that because the backlog is not high, she is using the time that is available to pursue additional advocacy efforts.
- Nell noted that we did six complaints about deficient PREA audit reports in 2023, and so far one in 2024.
- Nell noted that we completed a web page showing response rates to complaints, and the board members looked at the page for comments. There were no immediate comments, so Nell welcomed additional input if anyone later had such to share.
- Nell noted that we are still working on housing resources to help people releasing.
- Nell noted that not much is happening on Project 103, but there will be a meeting with the attorneys participating on February 21, 2024. Nell noted that ACLC was sent notice that we were terminating our contract with them in November 2024, but has not responded and has not returned our retainer. Nell asked for suggestions about how to address, but there were no suggestions.
- Nell asked if there were any comments or questions about the work of the prison committee, and there were no further questions.

- **Action Team: Healthcare Committee**

- Nell, for the Healthcare Committee, noted that HHS is still refusing to respond to our FOIA request. We sent a formal appeal to the HHS Chief FOIA Officer in December 2023, and because there was no response, send a request for mediation to the National Archives Office for Government Information Services (OGIS) to provide mediation. At the time of the meeting, we have not been provided an investigation number or meaningful response from OGIS.
- Nell stated that we are considering legal action about the refusal to respond. Bret mentioned that we may want to contact legislators and Clay Jenkins of the Dallas County Commissioners prior to filing any legal action.
- Following this discussion, Bret Camp had to leave the meeting at 7:34pm.
- Nell asked if there were any comments or questions about the work of the committee, and there were no questions.

- **Other Teams and Committees**
 - There were no questions or discussion about the other teams and committees.

Unfinished Business

- Nell noted that because this is the annual meeting of the board, we are to elect board members, and that per Texas law there must be three minimum members. Nell apologized that TPI has not taken steps to close as was anticipated when Josh and James joined the board, and said they could step down if they wished because of the failure to close. Both Josh and James stated that they were willing to continue on the board. Nell stated that if there were no objections, we could vote to continue board membership with the current slate of members. Josh motioned that TPI continue by reelecting the current slate of members, James seconded the motion, and all present voted aye to continue with the current slate of members.
- Nell noted that every other year, the TPI board is required to elect officers of the organization, and read the requirement from the bylaws. Nell noted that the current officers are Nell Gaither as President, Vice-president is vacant, the Secretary is Max Lucky (Nell is acting Secretary), and the Treasure is vacant (Nell is acting Treasurer). Nell noted that few people are even volunteering to participate at any level, not to mention perform duties as an officer, that we have a permanent request for board members and officers on our web site, but there has been no interest expressed in any positions. Nell suggested that if no objections, we could continue with the current officers. James motioned that we continue with the current officers, Josh seconded, and all present voted aye to continue with the current officers.
- Per agreement at the April 19, 2022, board meeting, the status of a search for a Secretary will remain unfinished business until someone is identified to replace Max and fill the position. Nell noted that there has been no interest in filling the Secretary position since the last board meeting, that she has no idea who might be willing to serve as Secretary, and asked if anyone has suggestions to please let Nell know.
- There was no other unfinished business.

New Business

- Nell brought up for consideration whether TPI should investigate starting a Community Land Trust for providing low-income housing for trans and queer persons. The idea was discussed generally, there was interest in exploring the idea, and James stated that he would like to look more into the possibility and would take that on for the board.
- Nell asked if any board member had new business to bring up, and no new business was brought before the board.
- With no other new business, Nell asked if we could set a time and date for the next meeting, and a tentative time was set for July 24, 2024, at 7:15pm.

Open End

- There were no open end discussions at this meeting.

Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nell Gaither, Acting Secretary

Date