

Board of Directors Minutes, February 8, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of Trans Pride Initiative, a Texas corporation (the corporation), was held February 8, 2023. The meeting was done by phone and video conference.

Attendees

- Directors present by remote connection: Nell Gaither, Bret Camp, Josh Crabtree, James Fairchild
- Directors absent: none

Call to Order

- Chair Nell called the meeting to order at 6:16pm. 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**
 - Nell noted that this is the annual TPI board meeting for 2023.
 - Nell noted that since our part-time employee left, we have been able to keep up with the work load fairly well.
 - Nell noted that the TPI winter email update was not done, but not sure that is very effective.
 - Nell noted that we now have a new insurance agent, and that they are much more informative than the agent we filed the complaint about.
 - Nell noted as a general update that the office space is becoming very noisy, interfering with work.
 - Nell commented to the board members that she has not been able to move toward closing TPI. She apologized and explained that since cutting back hours, she is no longer as burned out. Nell noted that no board member has to stay, but would ask to help find someone to take your place if leaving.
 - There were no further questions or comments for the president.
- **Secretary**
 - Acting secretary asked that the board approve the minutes from the September 14, 2022, board meeting. Bret motioned that the minutes be approved, Josh seconded, and all present voted to approve the minutes.
 - There were no questions for the acting secretary.
- **Treasurer**
 - Acting treasurer made reference to the reports provided: FY 2022 income and expense sheet, bank reconciliation detail and summary reports for December 31, 2022, and the same for January 31, 2023.

- Acting treasurer noted that since January 1, 2017, we have received donations from about 850 individual and corporate donors.
- Acting treasurer noted that TPI received a stipend of \$500 for some very limited comments on a documentary about incarcerated artist Jamie Diaz, which we are passing on to Jamie's release fundraiser. There will be a second stipend of the same amount in 2024. Nell also wrote a short article for a catalog for Jamie's debut gallery exhibition, and the stipend for that was also passed on to Jamie; this was not run through TPI though.
- Acting treasurer noted TPI's Form 990 has not yet been started because the electronic filing service we use has not finished updating for calendar year 2022 changes. Not due till May 15.
- Acting treasurer made reference to the draft 2023 budget and asked if there were any questions about the budget. There were none. Josh motioned that the draft 2023 budget be approved without changes, James seconded, and all present voted to approve the draft budget.
- There were no further questions for the acting treasurer.

Committee Reports

- **Fundraising Team**

- Nell noted that the Trans Justice Funding Project sent \$2,000 to all past grant recipients in January, so we received that.
- Nell reported that she was in the process of filling out the Borealis Philanthropy application for our seventh award of the Fund for Trans Generations, probably \$15,000.
- Nell noted that TPI was invited to submit on a new grant from the Transgender Strategy Center, which is offering grants of between \$25,000 and \$40,000, but she let them know why we would not be applying at this time.
- There were no questions or discussion about the fundraising work.

- **Action Team: Prison Support**

- Nell noted that since our part-time help left, we have been able to keep up with the prison letters, and the current backlog is less than 45 days.
- TPI is also going to start filing complaints against PREA auditors who do not contact TPI (per PREA requirements to contact entities that may have information about a facility) or include our data (easily available via a new auditor tool we have developed).
- Nell noted that during 2022, TPI sent about 1520 and received about 1935 letters, reflecting correspondence with 622 individuals.
- Nell noted that we have started using one form letter, but only used it in very limited cases. It has made some letters where used faster.
- Nell noted we have developed three factsheets that have cut down on some repetitive explanations, especially related to what info we need to document or try to address violence.
- Nell updated on Project 103 (see 103.tpride.org), stating that current discussions are slow. One attorney had quit responding to all other persons involved for nearly two years, but now wants to join again, so we are discussing how to handle that. Still has \$3k retainer fee. The current plan is to try to prompt some cases to be filed to prod Paxton

- into intervening, eliminating the technicality for the dismissal of the first suit. One person has filed on their own and we are tracking that.
- There were no further questions or discussion about the prison committee work.
 - **Action Team: Healthcare Committee**
 - Nell commented on the Parkland Discrimination Project, noting that HHS is still refusing to respond meaningfully to our FOIA request, although they said in August last year they would respond. Request is still “in progress.” Nell stated that the next step is to request review by the FOIA Ombudsman at National Archives.
 - Nell asked if there were any opinions on pursuing legal action if HHS continues to refuse to provide the documents requested and the ombudsman is not successful. There was a brief general discussion, and the question remains open as to what we might consider in that case.
 - There were no further questions or discussion about the healthcare committee work.
 - **Other Teams and Committees**
 - There were no questions or discussion about the other teams and committees.

Unfinished Business

- Nell noted that our board member elections are held annually, and that TPI must have three minimum board members.
- Nell recommend that the board proceed as in past by accepting the current roster if no new board candidates are present and no board members wish to step down.
- Bret motioned to accept the current roster of board members, and Josh seconded; all present voted in favor of accepting the current roster of board members.
- Nell noted that officer elections are held every other year. The last elections were in 2022, so no elections are necessary in 2023.
- Nell noted that the current officers are President: Nell Gaither; Vice-President: vacant; Secretary: Max Lucky (Nell Gaither acting); Treasurer: vacant (Nell Gaither acting).
- 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.
- There was no other unfinished business.

New Business

- Nell asked the board how they felt about announcing the board meetings publicly to try to get more involvement. No one objected to doing so, and Nell said she would consider an invitation to all on our email list next meeting.
- Nell noted having some problems with her computer and asked if it was ok to look for a new computer, which would probably be an expense above her \$500 single-item spend limit. No one had any objections, and all informally agreed that it was ok to purchase a new computer of good quality to serve as the main TPI computer.
- The directors discussed a time for the next meeting and agreed to plan on the date of June 14, 2023, with the time to be determined, possibly 7:15 to accommodate time zone differences.

- There was no further new business to consider at this time.

Open End

- There were no open end discussions at this meeting.

Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nell Gaither, Acting Secretary

Date