

Board of Directors Minutes, July 24, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of Trans Pride Initiative, a Texas corporation (the corporation), was held July 24, 2024. The meeting was done by phone and video conference.

Attendees

- Directors present by remote connection: Nell Gaither, Josh Crabtree, and James Fairchild
- Directors absent: Bret Camp

Call to Order

- Chair Nell called the meeting to order at 7:17pm. 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 commented on the events that led to changing our web hosting service. Moved to InMotion Hosting. Prices about the same even after discount expires, and technical assistance has been wonderful, which was the main problem at HostGator.
 - There were no questions or comments for the president.
- **Secretary**
 - Acting secretary referred to the minutes from the February 15, 2024, 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. Josh motioned that the minutes be approved as provided, James 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 June 30, 2024. The acting treasurer asked if there were any questions or comments or concerns, and there were none.
 - 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 have been notified that we were granted \$20k general operations and \$10k organizational development funds from Borealis Fund for Trans Generations, the eighth award from the funder.

- Nell noted also that we had in July received an anonymous Venmo donation of \$5k.
- 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 working on tasks such as submitting complaints about the new digital mail problems and submitting detailed complaints about problematic PREA audits.
 - For the digital mail issues, we have documented about 140 specific correspondence interference incidents, and have filed about 40 complaints, copied as well to legislators. We have also been referencing the initial RFP requiring kickbacks and asking for investigation.
 - For the PREA audits, we have completed 14 deficiency complaints, and now use a longer template for facilities about which we have some good info, and a short template for those with less documentation.
 - Nell is also adding topics to letters to provide additional information that is not sufficient for logging incidents.
 - Nell noted we are still working on compiling housing resources for release.
 - Nell discussed that Project 103 is now likely over, that the attorney McGiverin unethically took almost all the funds.
 - After ending our service agreement contract and getting no response on returning our retainer, TPI filed request for mediation with the State Bar Client Attorney Assistance Program. That resulted in finally getting a response that McGiverin was billing the entire retainer for services under Project 103, which was explicitly stated multiple times not to be done. However, probably can't argue that because they will only look at the contract.
 - Will need to determine what to do with remaining funds of about \$600.
 - Nell noted that we are helping with a project called "Making it Official" by Dan Bustillo, which will develop and provide affirming IDs to incarcerated trans persons (focus also on migrant persons in detention facilities). This is an extension of TPI and other's contributions to Dan's doctoral thesis research (TPI is in the thesis in part for our ID card modifications we have provided), and is funded by a project of trans historian and author Susan Stryker.
 - 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**
 - Parkland Discrimination Project
 - Nell noted that HHS had promised to provide FOIA responsive materials by June 14, 2024, then did not provide and now refuses to provide info or respond to emails and calls.
 - Nell submitted a mediation request to NARA FOIA Ombudsman Feb 6, 2024, but the response was vague, and apparently meant that they would not do anything unless HHS specifically refused to provide materials. Seems to mean as long as HHS claims the request is "in process," they won't do anything. When Nell asked NARA if that

was true, they did not answer, but contacted HHS and asked them to respond, and that is when TPI was given the no-later-than June 14 delivery date.

- Last board meeting, Bret suggested contacting Clay Jenkins, but this is the federal HHS that is delaying, not county. Per vague indication from the HHS FOIA office, some party could be trying to object to the release of info, so that could be Parkland or the local HHS OCR, but there is no definite evidence. Nell asked for suggestions.
 - Josh suggested contacting Jasmine Crockett.
 - Nell said she would need to research whether this was the same person that made transphobic comments when representing a TPI client in legal case.
 - Nell noted contacting Bernie Sanders because is chair of Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, but no response.
 - Nell noted that if considering legal action, the board will be consulted first.
 - 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

- 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 one person has expressed interest in the Secretary position, Alexis Cabrera.
- Nell asked Alexis to introduce herself and to comment on her work with TPI.
 - Alexis noted volunteering for TPI for the past several months.
 - Alexis that she had moved to Austin, but felt she could handle the secretary responsibilities remotely.
- Nell suggesting letting Alexis take on the secretary duties provisionally until the next board meeting to see how it goes, and consider a vote at later date. Alexis agreed to that, and no board member objected.
- Nell asked if anyone had ideas about how to add programs so that we can put our funds to use rather than just sitting on them? There were no suggestions at this time.
- Nell brought up the idea about adding or converting to a Community Land Trust for the benefit of Dallas trans community? Could property and funds be held until someone able to develop for purposes established in the trust?
 - James noted that he had not had time to look into the topic further
 - Nell noted meeting with a person who is a community member and a resident in the area around the office, where there seem to be some opportunities for land purchases, but that person was not comfortable with the idea.
 - Nell said that we should not try in this area if we don't have a means of building local support, and this person's opposition to the idea is a significant barrier.
 - Nell said maybe the idea could be considered for the Oak Lawn area, but cost and other considerations are very different there.
 - James said he knew someone working in property in Oak Lawn and would talk to them if he had time.

- There was no other unfinished business.

New Business

- 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 October 23, 2024, at 7:15pm.

Open End

- There were no open end discussions at this meeting.

Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nell Gaither, Acting Secretary

Date