

Board of Directors Minutes, June 14, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of Trans Pride Initiative, a Texas corporation (the corporation), was held June 14, 2023. The meeting was done by phone and video conference.

Attendees

- Directors present by remote connection: Nell Gaither, Josh Crabtree, James Fairchild; Bret Camp joined the meeting at 7:30pm CST.
- Directors absent: none

Call to Order

- Chair Nell called the meeting to order at 7:20pm. A quorum of directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Announcements

- Nell noted the death of advocate and TPI supporter Jesse Tafalla on June 5, 2023, and said that his presence and support would be missed
- Nell noted that TPI had that day received notice from Transgender Law Center that TLC, ACLU Texas, and Lambda Legal were about to file suit against the state over the implementation of SB14, signed by the governor earlier in the month. TLC said that they would keep TPI updated on the suit progress.
- There were no announcements.

Reports from Officers

- **President**
 - The president noted that TPI will start moving to the new office June 16.
 - The president noted that work load has been less than it has been the last few years, and that we are keeping up with letters and have had some time to work on locating housing resources for people releasing. The prison letters are generally getting a response in less than 45 days, and generally 30 to 45 days is the optimal response window.
 - There were no further questions or comments for the president.
- **Secretary**
 - Acting secretary referred to the minutes from the February 8, 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. Josh motioned that the minutes be approved as provided, James seconded, and the vote to approve was unanimous for those present (Bret had not joined the meeting at this point).
 - The acting secretary asked if there were any questions about the work of the secretary since the last meeting, and there were none.
- **Treasurer**
 - Bret Camp joined the meeting at this point, approximately 7:30pm.

- The acting treasurer referred to the reports provided: bank reconciliation detail and summary reports for May 31, 2023. The acting treasurer noted the balance and outstanding liabilities at that time and asked if there were any questions or comments.
 - Josh asked if the payments to “Dallas Lighthouse LLC” were for the new office, and the acting treasurer confirmed, explaining that the \$200 was for the security deposit and the \$500 payment was for the lease from June 16 through 30, 2023.
- The acting treasurer noted that we have not yet received our usual grant from Borealis (generally about \$15,000), but our total income continues to surpass expenses, so we are in good shape even without that grant if we don’t get it. The acting treasurer added that she checked the grant portal just before the meeting, and the grant showed it was still being considered. The delay may related to staff changes at Borealis Fund for Trans Generations.
- The acting treasurer also noted that the week before we had been asked to set up an account with Fidelity Charitable because we had a donation (this is a donor advised fund). On June June 13, 2023, we received an anonymous donation through Fidelity Charitable for a little under \$28,600.
 - Bret asked if there were any restrictions on the grant, and the acting treasurer noted that the only restriction was that the funds be used where most needed.
- The acting treasurer noted that TPI’s Form 990 was submitted March 18, 2023, and it is available on the web site: <https://tpride.org/about.php#records>.
- 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 again that we have submitted the Borealis Philanthropy application for our seventh award of the Fund for Trans Generations, probably \$15,000, but have not heard from Borealis yet on the award. We are not sure we will get it or when it will be awarded (in the past awards were sometimes in May or June) as there have been some changes to the administration of the Fund for Trans Generations, and we have not heard anything from the new fund managers.
- 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 less than 45 days except for some special cases.
- Nell also noted that TPI has filed the first complaint against PREA auditors who don’t contact TPI (per PREA requirements) or include our data (new auditor tool) in Texas audits. The complaint was filed March 11, 2023, and it concerned the audit at Clements Unit. Nell went over a call from a representative of the National PREA Resource Center on April 19, 2023, concerning another matter, and that we also discussed the March 11 complaint. TPI provided information to the NPRC staff person about how TDCJ manipulates protective custody definitions in ways that appear to not be within the spirit

- of the PREA standards, and the staff person asked a number of questions to clarify and indicated that NPRC staff did not understand how TDCJ was defining various types of restrictive housing, and that they would do some investigating. The staff person also went through TPI's data for PREA auditors and seemed impressed with how we presented the information, and stated she would go over that with her supervisor. Nell noted the conversation seemed productive, but it is hard to tell if it will have any impact.
- Nell noted that TPI is involved in a national discussion group between attorneys doing prison advocacy for trans rights. A separate group/committee in the main group are considering asking the DoJ to provide a definition of gender for searches, which is not currently defined, meaning trans persons are pretty much always considered the gender of the unit where they are housed for search purposes.
 - Bret asked if PREA audits included all facilities and populations. Nell explained that the PREA standards state each unit or facility should be audited every three years, and that audits include interviews with several population groups such as trans persons, queer persons, persons with disabilities, persons who have experienced sexual violence, and so on.
 - Nell noted that not much is happening on Project 103, and that the attorney who has not communicated in the last few years told another attorney that he would contact us, but that was apparently some months ago and there has been no contact. TPI will probably wait till after our move is complete, then may separate from the Project 103 effort temporarily to dissolve the relationship with that attorney and try to recover our \$3,000 retainer.
 - 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. It will be a year since we last heard anything in August, so after that time we will go ahead and file a complaint with the FOIA Ombudsman at the National Archives.
 - 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 there has been no interest in filling the Secretary position since the last board meeting.
- There was no other unfinished business.

New Business

- The board agreed that the date and time for the next meeting would be October 11, 2023, at 7:15pm CST.

- Nell briefly covered the level of funds TPI has available (about \$288k), our desire to remain a grassroots organization rather than a more professionalized nonprofit employer, and to undertake projects that allow us to build and mobilize community. Nell briefly talked about a couple ideas related to possible housing options and healthcare support options, then asked if anyone had ideas.
 - Josh asked if a volunteer had talked about funds provided to incarcerated persons, and Nell explained what she and that volunteer had discussed. There was a brief discussion of the considerations for doing something like that, and agreed that we want to keep looking into it.
 - James mentioned his interest in housing solutions and past work in the area, and that he didn't have any specific ideas now but wanted to think about it. He asked if we have an idea of the level of need in the local community, and Nell explained in general what she knows about efforts that have been undertaken, and that they indicate there is a level of need.
- At this point, Nell asked if any board members needed to adjourn the meeting, and discussion could continue after the meeting. One board member said that he needed to go ahead and leave the meeting, so we continued the discussion after the meeting.

Open End

- There were no open end discussions at this meeting.

Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nell Gaither, Acting Secretary

Date