

Board of Directors Minutes, October 11, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of Trans Pride Initiative, a Texas corporation (the corporation), was held October 11, 2023. The meeting was done by phone and video conference.

Attendees

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

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

- Josh noted an upcoming trip he was taking
- There were no further announcements.

Reports from Officers

- **President**
 - The president noted that same as last meeting, 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 as well as filing PREA audit complaints. The prison letters are generally getting a response in less that 45 days.
 - There were no further questions or comments for the president.
- **Secretary**
 - Acting secretary referred to the minutes from the June 14, 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 September 30, 2023, noting that we had received \$34,000 from Borealis—\$25,000 for general operations and \$9,000 for “organizational development.”
 - 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 there were no fundraising activities for the period.

- 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 three complaints against PREA auditors who don't contact TPI (per PREA requirements) or include our data (new auditor tool) in Texas audits where we have some level of data that would have contributed to the audit. The purpose of the complaints is also to bring up additional deficiencies such as failure to properly evaluate the use of involuntary protective custody and gender based activities, including searches.
 - 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. Nell noted that there has been no activity on this issue, so she will try to prod some activity next meeting she attends.
 - 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. We will have to deal with the failure to respond by the attorney soon.
 - 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. That should be done by the end of the year.
 - 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, and asked if anyone has suggestions to please let Nell know.
- 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.

Open End

- There were no open end discussions at this meeting.

Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nell Gaither, Acting Secretary

Date