



Coalition of Rainbow Alliances

Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2020

Attendees: Jim Barr, Rex Schadow, Lee Korty, Bert Morton, April Poole, Timothy Bill, Ann Engel, Rob Weis, Paula Harris, Brian Sylvester, Roz Stein

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jim Barr at 5:01 PM.

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

The roll call was taken and the members in attendance were recorded.

III. Approval of the November 8th, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Timothy Bill submitted the minutes from the November 8th, 2020 meeting which Jim had previously shared electronically. Paula moved to accept the minutes. Lee seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was approved.

IV. Officer Reports and Executive Board Updates

A. Treasurer's Report

Brian provided the treasurer's report and presented it verbally. The final available balance for the month was reported. There was a brief discussion of the report. Rex moved to accept the report. Ann seconded. The motion carried.

B. Other Officer Reports

There were no other officer reports.

C. Executive Board Updates

Jim reported that the Executive Board is scheduled to meet on Saturday, January 9th at 4 PM at First Church of the Brethren.

V. Committee Reports

A. Community Empowerment Committee

Rob provided a written (included below) and verbal report. The historical records group is working on interviews. Buff has been interviewed. Paula shared an updated form for allowing people to express interest and discussed the changes from our last meeting. There was a discussion of handling information submitted via the form.

B. Finance Committee

Brian shared a verbal and written report (included below) and explained that the finance committee met on the 11th of November. Brian will be writing up procedures for the position and the normal filings. The committee suggested that Brian also write up what expenses we can

expect on a monthly basis which will be included in the monthly finance reports. The committee will also work to setup a grant process for those organizations or individuals requesting money from CORAL and wills setup a reimbursement process for projects.

The committee also discussed writing up job descriptions for each of the board position as we look to hold elections in the spring. The committee discussed having an interim replacement in case something happened to the treasurer. April Poole will serve in this role for time being. Additionally, the committee also thought that the secretary should have a key to the PO Box and replacement on standby (Lee Korty currently). There was a short discussion afterward.

C. Pridefest Committee

No report

D. Pride Picnic Committee

No report

E. Ritz Committee

Bert reported that the committee has not met recently, but the committee is hopeful for the future based on the recent news of a possible vaccine.

F. Thanksgiving/Food Pantry Committee

Ann reported that this Saturday will be the sixth Saturday the drive has been held. The group has been filling the Boys and Girls Club and the Fifth Street Renaissance pantries to capacity for the past few weeks. The project may continue if they can find more volunteers to assist. The stocking portion of the drive has also been successful. \$677.00 has been collected which equates to 54 stockings of personal hygiene products.

Ann also wanted to thank everyone who has been involved with this project. The Boys and Girls Club sent a nice thank you and Fifth Street also thanked the volunteers. The committee plans on helping First Church of the Brethren for the Compass Program as a thanks for their help with this project.

Brian noted that his effort has been noticed on our Facebook page. We have had more engagement than ever before. There was a short discussion of this project and its impact. There was a general consensus that this project should continue and that more people could get involved to assist with this effort. The discussion continued what those next steps would be and how to support the Compass program at First Church. The

Compass program donation day would be Saturday, December 26th. Brian and April will forward the donation information to the group.

G. Nominations Committee

Jim will be asking people to volunteer for this committee at the meeting in January to solicit nominations for the upcoming election.

H. Trivia Nights Committee

No report

VI. Old Business

A. Bruce Nims Board Training Update

Jim will add the dates of these training sessions to the calendar on the meeting agenda and minutes. The training dates are February 25th at 6:30 PM, February 27th at 10:00 AM, and March 1st at 6:30 PM. Jim, Bruce, and Tim will make sure that people get the needed information for this training. There was a discussion of how this training will take place and what other groups/individuals would be participating.

B. Partner Organizations and Contacts

If you have information to add to the form, please share that info with Tim.

C. Website for CORAL

Tim presented a written (included below) and verbal report from the website working group. The working group met on November 15th and discussed what remaining steps must be completed before the website launches. Tim hopes to have this work done by the end of the year. There was a question about SEO and Google search results.

D. AIDS Walk Springfield

Rex was unable to go to the AIDS Walk event in December. The next walk will be in September 18th of 2021. More information will be forthcoming in the new year. The group posted some information about the history of AIDS Walk on social media.

VII. New Business

A. Letter Regarding Trans Healthcare

Tim provided a background of the recent issues facing a former city worker who was illegally denied health coverage because she is trans. He presented a possible statement CORAL could release (included below). Bert motioned to accept the contents of the letter. Rex seconded. Roz offered a friendly amended to send copies to the city council and mayor. Bert and Rex accepted the amendment. The motion carried. Tim will post

this statement on social media and send the requested copies to city government.

B. Possible Community Forum

Rob mentioned that he and Tim had discussed the possibility of offering a virtual community event in February or March with programming around diversity and inclusion. The group agreed that these conversations should continue.

VIII. Announcements, Updates, and Communication from Other Organizations

A. PRISM Update

Tim provided a short update on PRISM's recent meetings (included below). The group is currently working on event planning for 2021 and writing bylaws for the organization.

IX. Adjournment

April moved to adjourn. Rex seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Dates to Remember

- December 13th – CORAL Monthly Meeting – 5 PM
- January 9th – Executive Board Meeting – 4 PM at First Church of the Brethren
- January 10th – CORAL Monthly Meeting – 5 PM
- January 12th – Habitat Walk Steering Committee – Noon (via Zoom)
- February 14th – CORAL Monthly Meeting – 5 PM
- March 27th – The Ritz (tentatively)
- April 25th – Walk for Habitat for Humanity

Minutes Submitted By: Timothy Bill, Secretary

Report for Community Empowerment Committee

12/13/20

Updates for the two working groups;

1. Historical Visual Records group (Buff Carmichael, Julie Koon, Rodney Shoemaker, and Rob Weis) – Over 25 interview candidates have been identified. A release form and a menu of interview questions have been established. Julie to coordinate interview process and video storage. Tom has interviewed Buff as the first interview of hopefully many. Rob will send executive board interview questions list.
2. Participation Interest group (Paula Harris, Roz Stein, Julie Koon, and Rodney Shoemaker) – Webpage has been refined with updated features.

<https://form.jotform.com/202616902869159>

It may be time to divide these efforts in to two separate groups or spin off the Historical Visual Records group.

By Rob Weis, Committee Co-Chair

Finance Committee - 11/11/2020 Noon, at Church of Brethren

Present: Brian, Jim, Bert, Lee, April

Absent: Ann, Roz

Brian began the meeting by presenting the filing system for the Treasurer's documentation. The system is set up by year with all significant documents, such as articles of incorporation, EIN certification, tax exemptions, in a file at the front of the system. Each year's file has all the statements, finance reports, billings, receipts, etc.

1. Written Procedures:

Brian stated that one concern he had with the position is that there were no written procedures for how to perform certain required duties of the Treasurer. As a result of this, he has begun the process of writing procedures for the following duties:

- a) The year-end 990EZ required for maintaining the non-profit status. At some point, if the organization should ever make more than \$50k, the format would change.
- b) The state filing for the corporation
- c) The certificate of good standing
- d) The state/federal tax exemption for the 501C(3)

These procedures will be written by Brian and maintained in the primary folder in the filing system he presented at the beginning of the meeting.

Lee made another suggestion that we should be addressing the recurring billings, such as the rent for meeting usage, the storage unit, and insurance premium. Brian stated that he wanted to prepare a billing schedule for all those recurring billings so that anyone acting as Treasurer in the future could see what bills would need to be paid each month of the year. Brian will write this up with the procedures.

2. Donation Request Process:

Brian presented the idea that we need to design a donation request procedure that is similar to the grant process. He asked if this process should be relegated to those requests in excess of the amount decided with the by-laws and after some discussion on the topic it was approved that we should be using this process for all requests. Brian will research grant request programs and draft out a form and procedure for future discussion.

3. Reimbursement procedure:

April presented an idea for reimbursement requests for when individuals are making purchases on their own in response to approved funding for certain projects. She passed out a copy of the reimbursement form that is used by First Church of the Brethren. During the discussion of the form, several key aspects of the form were considered valid for our cause. One was the clause that any and

all receipts for the purchase being reimbursed would be required for payment and the other was the section to be completed by the person performing the reimbursement that would show what the payment was allocated. It was decided that we would add the CORAL logo to this form and present it to the Board for approval to be used for future reimbursements.

4. Job Descriptions:

Brian recommended that a job description should be written up for the Treasurer's position at this time. With the recent change in the by-laws that executive positions would no longer be permanent, it would be wise to have written descriptions for each of these positions so that interested parties would know beforehand what their responsibilities and duties are before seeking election to those positions. Brian stated that he would be recommending this at the next executive meeting as well. Brian will write up a rough draft of this description and present it to the finance committee for any changes or additions before presenting to the executive board for approval.

5. Monthly Finance Report:

April asked why the Treasurer was no longer presenting a printed copy of the finance report at the monthly board meetings and explained why she liked receiving it in the past. Brian explained that in the past when he had presented a hard copy of the report that he would find them left laying around the room and in the garbage after people had left the meetings. The fact that time, effort, paper, and the privileged nature of the information on them had him thinking that it was wiser to not make several copies of the report but provide it for viewing for anyone who might be interested in looking at it at the meetings. April suggested that maybe we should simply add it to the minutes before they were emailed out to the members, but Lee and Jim stated that we had already decided that we didn't want the finance report disclosed in the minutes as they could be seen by strangers as well. After more discussion on the topic, it was decided that the Treasurer would prepare a finance report to be emailed to the Finance committee and the Executive board on a monthly basis. The report would be designed to show the beginning balance for the month, subtracting the expenses, adding the credits, and subtotaling any pledged dollar amounts before showing the final balance for that month.

6. Assistant/Interim Treasurer Position:

April expressed concern that if something were to happen to Brian as Treasurer, there would be no one to take over his authority until a new Treasurer was decided or elected. While the filing system that Brian had brought could be made readily available to anyone who might take over those responsibilities, perhaps it would be better to have a plan in place for someone to step in for a two month time frame until someone could officially take over. After some discussion on this, April was elected to this position within the committee. The interim position would not have voting authority while serving in this position to avoid any conflict of interest with possible relations with anyone else on the board. This will be presented at the next board meeting as we will need to change the signature cards to add her name.

7. General Discussion:

a) The PO Box is currently under the authority of the Treasurer who has the only key to the box. This was decided at that time to make sense as the Treasurer would need to receive the bills and donations for processing as soon as they are received. However, it isn't frugal for only one member to have this access. After some discussion on the topic, it was decided that the secretary should also have access and a key to the box in case the Treasurer is unable to access it. This will be presented at the next board meeting for discussion.

b) The upcoming Acorn Equality Breakfast was discussed as CORAL has always been present at the event in the past. Lee and Brian have each donated \$400.00 for a table each year in support of the cause in the name of CORAL. Because of the pandemic, the Breakfast will be virtual this year. Brian went to the Acorn Equality website and found out that the tables are only \$100.00 this year because of the virtual nature of the event. However, both Lee and Brian decided to donate \$200.00 each for one table as Acorn has set it up to be a competition between tables for how much each of them can receive in donations. Lee and Brian will write a check to CORAL and Brian will write one check for \$400.00 made payable to Acorn for this event.

Thanksgiving Committee - 11/11/2020 Noon, at Church of Brethren

Present: Brian, Jim, Bert, Lee, April

Absent: Ann, Roz

Brian began the discussion with the topic of the pandemic. He expressed concern with the growing number of cases that have arisen as of late in the area and all over the state as well as the stricter mitigations that are going into effect; he could not advocate for any event that allows for the gatherings of people. He stated that the idea of working with the Boys and Girls Club and Fifth Street with their micro-pantries would still be the safest route for us to take. After much discussion on this, it was decided we would move forward on this idea.

Lee suggested that we make this a six week push for filling the pantries and asked how formal would the process be. Brian stated that he did not see this as something CORAL would be paying for moving forward but we would be reaching out to our membership for requests to make donations to these pantries as opposed to the food they would have brought to our Thanksgiving event. Bert agreed and stated that we did not want to make this a formalized schedule for anyone but a push to our members to cooperate with us to feed those who need it the most.

There was much discussion on the needs of both of these organizations and how we would convey this to our member base. Brian will reach out to Tiffany Mathis at Boys and Girls Club via FB to see if she can provide some assistance on this topic. Brian will also discuss this with Rob Weis, since Fifth Street has just been hit the virus, and see if he can provide some information on this as well.

Bert stated that we need to act fast on this as the holiday is coming upon us and so are the cold temps so he will reach out to Rodney Shoemaker about getting some information on each site of the pantries as well as photos so that they can be posted on our FB page and announced as our activity in place of the Thanksgiving event. Much discussion took place on how to keep our members abreast of this action on our part and it was decided that we will flood social media on a regular basis on the needs of these pantries and how to go about helping. Brian will write a small article on where members can go to obtain food and other items for the pantries for relatively cheap prices. The pantries need quantity more than quality.

April asked if we were still considering helping with the Compass program that she had suggested at the last board meeting. Bert responded by saying that we could most definitely make that announcement on the FB page as well. The more we keep adding to our social media while the pandemic is going on the better as it shows our members that we're still here and working on causes. April will reach out to the Compass program Director to see what needs they have as well and get back to Bert and Rodney.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

December 12, 2020

The website working group has the following items to report:

Meeting

The working group met on November 15th to discuss a domain name for the website and what items must be finished before the website is ready for launch. Those in attendance included Timothy Bill, Ann Engel, Julie Koon, and April Poole. The working group made suggestions about a domain name and, in consultation with the executive board, selected springfieldcoral.org as the domain name. The goal is to launch the website publicly before the end of 2020.

Remaining Items Before Launch

~~Choose a domain name - completed~~
Search engine optimization work
Complete the mobile site
Update the newsreel on the home page
Edit and revise the currently posted new stories
Verify our partner organization information
~~Finalize the volunteer form and process - completed~~
Select and purchase plan

Current Website Address

<https://timothyjbill.wixsite.com/mysite>

Submitted by Timothy Bill



The Coalition of Rainbow Alliances

The Coalition of Rainbow Alliances (CORAL) believes that health care is a fundamental human right and that no one should be denied health care on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. We recognize that trans people face a multitude of barriers to receiving affordable, comprehensive, and compassionate health care.¹

Illinois has taken multiple steps to prevent healthcare discrimination within our state. The Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Insurance Code, and the Illinois Administrative Code all prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in health care settings including in the offering and provision of health insurance coverage.²

Elected officials, at all levels of government, represent the people. As President Lincoln reminds us, we have a government 'of the people, by the people, and for the people.' That means all people, regardless of their gender identity or who they love. Our elected officials have a duty to uphold the law and make sure all rights are protected.

CORAL stands with our trans friends and family and affirms the basic human rights as outlined by the Illinois Human Rights Act. We support the Illinois chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and their work to defend those rights in our community.³ Trans people deserve quality health care and an elected city government that respects those rights.



1. Transgender Law Center - <https://transgenderlawcenter.org/resources/health/transgender-health-and-the-law-identifying-and-fighting-health-care-discrimination>

2. Illinois Governor's Office - https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/21752-Pritzker_Administration_Affirms_Illinois_Nondiscrimination_Protections_Press_Release.pdf

3. ACLU Illinois - <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/news/springfield-woman-files-charge-challenging-citys-anti-transgender-employee-insurance-plan>



December 12, 2020

PRISM has the following updates to report:

Meetings

PRISM met on Wednesday November 11th, November 18th, and December 2nd via Zoom. The meetings have discussed how PRISM moves forward during a pandemic, creating bylaws, possible events for 2021, and creating a strategic plan for the organization. Once we have a draft of our strategic plan, we will be reaching out to CORAL to get feedback and to discuss how PRISM will be moving forward. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Submitted by Timothy Bill

Leadership Team

Co-chair: Dustin Patton

Co-chair: Blake DenHerder

Treasurer: Shaun Thrasher

Events: Bree Hea

Member: Timothy Bill

Member: Chris Boyster

Member: Nathan Leitner

Member: Paul Staab