

SDSA BOARD MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2007

Members present: Lynne Armstrong, Roberto Flores, Joe LaMonica, Mauro Gamez, Travis Peterson and Cris Ramirez

Members absent: Jeanne Belaire, Ruth Dalrymple, Bryan Gerard, Olga Hernandez, and Richard Moon

Guests: Dan Graney

The meeting was called to order by Lynne at 7:00 PM. Travis requested an addition to the board minutes of the last meeting. He requested that they include the fact that his absence at the last meeting was due to attendance at a meeting regarding SDSA business. The minutes were approved as amended.

Roberto reported that SDSA as a corporation has been officially dissolved and provided the committee with the official notice from the Office of the Secretary of State, stating this. He also indicated that the list of "things to do" during the transition period, had been accomplished in record time, six weeks. He thanked the board for their efforts in accomplishing these tasks.

There was no treasurer's report. Lynne reported that \$365 was collected at the Kucinich event from SDSA memberships and renewals and the sale of T-shirts and decals. There is an outstanding bill of approximately \$190.00 for the printing of more brochures, leaving a balance of about \$700 in the account.

Cris reported that thanks to Olga the SDSA Minutes page is now up and running. From now on the SDSA membership will be sent a link that will take them directly to the minutes page. The minutes for board and membership meeting are listed by dates. Minutes will be available for an entire year.

Lynne discussed sending a fancier, more colorful announcement about membership meetings. One concern raised was the amount of disc space that is required to download these documents and because of that perhaps they should be used for special meetings. Olga will be sending Cris a sample of the type of announcement Lynne is requesting.

Lynne made a specific request to Mauro that he check his e-mail weekly, and he agreed to do so.

Cris reported that Mark Spencer is considering assuming the position of chair of the Board Development Committee and currently there are four members on the committee.

The Communications Committee and Budget/Finance and Fundraising Committees have not been able to meet yet. The Membership Committee will meet on March 15th and Olga provided the committee with a written report listing new members and those who have renewed.

Dan provided the Board with a report on the Endorsement Committee, in lieu of Richard's absence.

Lynne made a motion that we approve, by acclamation, the members of the Endorsement Committee and the Chair of that committee, Dan Graney. The motion passed. The board approved a budget of \$50 for preparation expenses for the Endorsement Meeting. The additional \$1250 needed for dissemination of the endorsements will be discussed at the April board meeting. Lynne made a motion that we approve, by acclamation, the mayoral and city council candidate questionnaires. The motion passed. Dan passed around a list of candidates who have filed for mayoral and city council positions. The Criteria for SDSA Financial Support of Candidates, the Pro-Equality Platform of SDSA, and Policies Governing Endorsement and Financial Support of Candidates for Public Office, were discussed, and after some grammatical corrections were made Cris moved that these documents be adopted, Roberto seconded and the motion passed. Dan recommended that the Pro-Equality Platform of SDSA be posted on the web site. Lynne and Roberto will work with the Endorsement Committee to finalize the details of the Endorsement Meeting.

The Program and Events Committee passed out a tentative agenda of annual events and a tentative budget for these events. Mauro suggested that we sponsor a Stonewall Drag Spring Fiesta at the Saint on April 19th. He also suggested having a picnic on Labor Day; two members have offered a location for this event.

Dan expressed a concern about a lack of a budget, and too many events being planned. Dan suggested that this be discussed in committee and finalized before being presented to the Board. Roberto stated that because of the number of activities and events taking place, committees have been unable to meet. Joe mentioned that he thought fund raising events were important because they bring the membership together and there is an opportunity for members to get to know one another. Roberto made a motion to accept two proposed SDSA events, one on March 31, a SAIIR benefit for Olga, and the other on April 19th, the SDSA Drag Spring Fiesta at the Saint, with the contingency that the details of these events be sent to the Board via e-mail. Joe seconded and the motion passed.

Joe indicated that he is still recruiting members for his Voter Registration and Mobilization committee and hopefully he can meet with them after the next membership meeting. Travis reported that the Peace Officers Committee has been granted eight hours of sensitivity training. The training will take place sometime in May.

Cris reported that since the last board meeting in February, four motions were made and voted on. The motions were:

1. To accept the Standing Rules of Endorsement as amended and presented to the Board in November of 2006. The motion passed.
2. To publicize the SDSA By-laws on the web site. The motion passed.
3. To have either Lynne and/or Roberto write a letter on behalf of SDSA protesting the obscene utility company pay raises and the RIF which seems to be how they are raising the money for the salary increases. The motion passed.
4. To make it an SDSA policy that the names of persons who move and second motions in regard to SDSA business---including the business of any of its committees, including the Executive Committee---shall be recorded in the minutes of such deliberations (including e-mail voting records); persons abstaining or not present to vote shall also be named; persons being discussed, and those making significant verbal contributions to the deliberations, shall also be named. There were five votes in favor of this motion and five against it. The deciding vote was cast by Mauro at the meeting, and the motion passed.

Lynne reported on the Kucinich event and how inspiring his speech was. Roberto reported on the John Edwards rally. Lynne also reported on the Texas State Stonewall Democratic Caucus and specifically that the Democratic National Committee has adopted new rules that will officially recognize LGBT Americans as part of its affirmative action policy and will require all fifty state Democratic parties in presidential elections to increase the number of LGBT delegates beginning in 2008. Names of possible speakers for the September fundraiser were discussed, Gore, Kucinich, Hilary Clinton and Barney Frank. Both Roberto and Lynne discussed their impressions of Equality Texas Lobby Day. They feel that this is such an important educational experience that members should definitely be encouraged to attend. Travis discussed the results of our presence at the Laramie Project at Trinity University. Our presence there produced very little results. Chris Forbrich will be speaking at the next membership meeting about the debate he participated in, at UTSA, on homosexuality.

Cris indicated that she wanted to state for the record that she was not in favor of sending out a solicitation letter to the membership requesting funds for this particular endorsement activity.

Cris made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lynne seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cristina M. Ramirez,
Secretary