



**501c3/c4 Council Meeting Agenda**  
7:00 pm, Monday, May 20th, 2019  
**Metro Justice Office**

**Attendance:** Aaron, Evelyn, Marcus, Crescenzo, Denise, Christine, Mahima, Jack, Andrew, Michael, Julie, Mohini, Robert (by phone)

Called to order: 7:00pm.

- **Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Crescenzo. Seconded by Mahima. Approved unanimously.
- **Opening Remarks:** (Aaron) Gonna rearrange agenda a bit so Mohini can be here for Strategy Discussion. Jack notes sad to hear of the death of Mike Connelly, longtime veteran activist involved with Take Back the Land, Band of Rebels, and many other efforts. We're waiting to hear about a memorial.
- **C3 Reports**
  - ROCLA / Grania: Grania's taken a step back from this role. We'll need to figure something out. June 5th ROCLA strategy event. Denise also going.
  - PA&E: Doing a vigil at Memorial Day Parade next Monday @ Liberty Pole @ 10am. Doug is the point of contact. Holding signs while parade goes by.
  - Ciudad Hermana / Michael: No new report. We continue to do our work.
- **Committee Reports and New Business**
  - Elder Justice: Been circulating petition, survey around Safe Staffing Act.
  - Healthcare: Held May Day rally. had 3-40 people despite the rain, got great media coverage. May 28th Albany hearing on NY Health Act. Trying to fill the bus. Mohini's been helping a lot. MJ doesn't always get added as event co-host, missing opportunity to reach more MJ members. Noted. There was an MJ email blast that went out. Got 31st co-sponsor in the NYS Senate, meaning only 1 more is needed to pass. National Medicare for All push goes through Morelle (house rules committee). Discussion of public pressure campaign at Morelle. In meeting, Morelle said he agreed with the values, but didn't want to vote for something that's not funded yet. Also met with Mayor Warren. City Council's already supported it, haven't heard back from Warren yet.
  - Personnel: No report.
  - Treasury and Finance / Marcus: Met 4/26. Aaron, Marcus, Keevert, and Jay were there. Unexpected costs this year for renewal of insurance. PPlan to liquidate one of our CDs in August. Depends how well our deficit fundraising campaign goes. Heard favorable things back from Drug Policy Alliance for 9k grant. Long-term 50k grant also from DPI. Discussed RPCC deal. Started working on taxes a little early. John doesn't like how much rent we pay, but we're locked in through 2020. Community

room is additional cost, but we're on pace to break even. Not likely to find cheaper and better. Aaron suggested smaller fundraisers in between the big ones (Dinner, Alt. Fair). Market's volatile, so we should get out of equities. Michael agrees it's good to reduce equities anyway. Short duration income funds at 2-3% would be good. Annual dinner was a bit more expensive and had a bit less revenue than expected in budget. (Andrew) Changes to how we sell program ad space resulting in lower revenues. (Andrew) Minimum dues are now \$60/year or 5/month.

- Racial Justice: (Aaron) Recapped RJI's popular education proposal/idea. Sense that this is veering away from reader and other pre-established content in favor of more internal white privilege analysis. (Michael) There'd been tentative dates, then bringing in facilitators provoked lots of long discussions, got bogged down. (Andrew) For long time RJI has done workshops on white privilege and racial justice. Went defunct for a little while, Staff & Council back then put together a reader to study racial justice intersectionally. (Michael) "Everyone's got ideas." (Mohini) Some of the people brought in to facilitate don't seem to want to have the kind of discussion originally envisioned. (Robert) Also a little confused about the timeline. Off the rails at this point. Can regroup, but (Aaron) doesn't want to waste anyone's time. (Michael) Whatever RJI does, they want it to lead to action. There's agreement on Exec/Council to focus on structural racism.
- Christine moves to accept Exec Minutes, Marcus seconded. Approved without objection.

- PAB Update

- **Proposal on Jay's time:** Proposal to shift Jay's hours a bit more to RPCC. He would no longer qualify for healthcare through us, but we'd work out some kind of reimbursement for his out of pocket healthcare costs (stipend, gift card, etc). Effective 6/1 - 9/1, then review arrangement. Molly Traub volunteered to finish/polish grants in consultation with somebody from the effort concerned for content. This picks up some of Jay's slack. A bit more office management will fall to Andrew. Marcus says Finance is fine with it. RPCC is handling Jay's healthcare costs issue. Written proposal distributed for review. Moved/seconded by Evelyn/Crescenzo. Motion Passes unanimously.
- Aaron's been plotting to get Bruce Popper more involved with MJ now that he's retired from the Presidency of 1199. He's not thrilled at prospect of being Personnel Chair, but conversation's ongoing. Also possibility of adding him to Council, but this requires going through the currently non-existent Nominating Committee.
- Report from NLG meeting. Some recommendations about repairing the rifts left between MJ and other groups, namely publicizing our Code of Conduct and to make a final round of "speak now" outreach to pertinent groups. Opinion: Lots of these groups are directed as much by personality as by policy or strategy. There's still a potentially harmful amount of talk still happening about us. Healthcare's got people who won't come to meetings when they're here. No clearly articulated ask. Denise reminds us that organizationally we're not

going to back away from the work because of this. As we try to make things whole, we must tend to the vibrancy and forward momentum of the organization. Christine is angry at this horseshit coming from a handful of individuals. There's more than a little opportunism involved in how those opposed to MJ's anti-capitalist politics have used this. Andrew: We need to keep engaging new people who may have heard things, but be ready to stand up to this issue with pointed questions. (Marcus) This isn't about defending anything but the work itself. We need to heal these relationships *in order to get the work done better*. Christine feels we made the right decision last year, only mistakes were PR flubs. Michael agrees decision was right and thoughtful. PR and other secondary handling issues are of limited relevance to the work now. (Aaron) At this point it's not really about Colin, getting conflated with stereotype of MJ as white organization that's not responsive to survivors, marginalized peoples. Evelyn, no problem talking about this but hindsight's 20/20 and we weren't just gonna throw the problem away.

- **Staff Reports**

- Lead Organizer / Mohini: Pursuing relationship with CWTU. Hopefully will lead to more formal relationship. Putting together a strategy session for them to determine their structure and direction. We're specifically helping them build the union side, not legislative stuff. Meeting Wednesday. RRRN: Helping them base-build, gonna lead to database overlap, begging organizational questions. Conversation's ongoing. We might fiscally sponsor or take on as a new Task Force, or ad hoc committee. Launching Border Patrol greyhound campaign June 7th (Friday) 4:30-6:30pm. Denise and Mohini still working on salting program with Workers United. Criminal Justice committee hasn't had meetings recently, but volunteers are getting work. Movie screening this Thursday hopefully followed by discussion with local candidates at the Cinema Theatre on Clinton and Goodman. Working on getting teachers union support for Roc Student Union. Healthcare's in the home stretch, just makes sense to prioritize given how long we've worked on this.
- Fundraising and Membership Director / Andrew: Dinner didn't do as well as we hoped. Low individual ticket purchases, sponsorships constant. Bunch of regulars not there, hard to say how much is due to last year's controversy and how much is coincidence. Julie suggests having speaker speak during dessert. Andrew'll send Jay's analysis out. Fundraising letter is off to really good start. Shared draft script with Aaron and Mohini for our Council phone banking follow-up. We'll have 30-40 calls to make over next week and a half. If every member gave an extra \$120 it'd blow our deficit out of the water. Idea of guest speaker event that we could sell tickets for. Jim Bearden's started organizing new member orientation - Christine volunteers to help. Gonna have a bunch of interns this summer (4-5 of them) - they'll organize a fundraiser by end of summer. Little Theatre tickets coming soon. Very good fundraiser with a very good community partner. Fundraising & Membership needs to add more fundraisers to the calendar.
- **Strategy Discussion:** (Aaron) Question of a strategic core campaign. Looking at neighborhood, worker organizing, student union to build long-term grassroots power. Lots of potential for synergy between Climate Justice and Student Organizing. (Mohini) Also looking into sex worker organizing. Still in the "having lots of 1-on-1s" phase. (Michael) In the past, we've always looked at what the racial justice impacts are. It's not enough that our work have a racial justice component, we need to place public emphasis in the framing of the issue. (Aaron) Let's avoid finite-term legislative fights. (Denise) We seem not in position to decide this tonight. Let's keep exploring, evaluating. (Mohini) What does Council need in order to make this decision. (Andrew) Leaving this question open as we head into tougher financial times, we risk being driven by grant money once again. General enthusiasm for Criminal Justice and RCSD Student Union. (Michael) There are statewide groups working on parole reform. Also groups working on release of elderly prisoners. There are currently 4 vacancies on the Governor-appointed parole board. (Mahima) Gotta choose based on values, political criteria not just what excites us. (Crescenzo) Where's the idea of a transit

riders union at? (Aaron) Coalition we're on has lots of advocacy groups, but no real representation of riders. Buffalo has one through Coalition for Economic Justice. Transit Center centralizes the rider population. Mostly black and brown people, disproportionately young, all working class. Been exploring with ATU either funding or organizing assistance for us to organize that. It's been a few months, not a ton of movement as yet. Could also get environmentally-oriented grant funding for this. (Andrew) He and Mohini will start charting campaigns and criteria, share via email so we can hone in on this. (Michael) There's advantages to doing something nobody else in town's already doing. (Denise) Midwest Academy Issue Selection Chart is a good tool to use.