



501c3/c4 Council Meeting Minutes
7:00 pm, Monday, July 15th, 2019
Metro Justice Office

Attending: Evelyn, Marcus, Crescenzo, Robert, Christine, Julie, Michael, Mahima, Mohini, Andrew, Vel, Robin, Charlie, Claire, Alexis, Danya

Called to Order at 7:06pm

- **7:00-7:30pm Racial Justice Initiative Proposal:** (Vel) Decided to change the way we were going to present (since February proposal). Was originally gonna be article discussion. Decided needed more, hoping to be more of a workshop series w/ MJ leadership. Hopefully to result in an increase in work w/ the black community and communities of color more generally. Starting w/ MJ leadership, eventually to reach membership and public. Location will be at MJ office. Starting in Fall 2019. Discussions will be 2 hours, but workshops 4 hours? Open question of Sundays and Saturdays as various sabbath days. Focus on popular education methodology to do experiential learning around experiences of race. Articles are for general educational use. Exact times still subject to change. Hoping for some change in the organization regarding communities of color. (Robin) When RJI members looked at MJ's mission, we found beautiful rhetoric and there was some question whether the practice matches it. We want the series to be introspective to examine internal processes with an eye to how much MJ lives up to our values regarding race politics. (Robert) Wondering about goals and details. We've heard the general statement of dissatisfaction before, but unclear how this is to be addressed. Lots of institutions that have high black engagement are service provision based. We don't do that - we address the systemic. Struggling with the details and the how. (Mohini) Excited to see this come together. Also has questions about specifics. First question about workshop (stoked by popular ed model), would like to know specific topics for workshops. What are hoping to get from participants? (Vel) Self-reflection, self-awareness. MJ doesn't go out and ask community for priorities, but rather pre-determine those priorities. (Robin) All MJ's campaigns should help black communities, but where did they originate. This'll be an evaluation of MJ's internal prioritization processes. (Mohini) What specifically are we supposed to be reflecting on? MJ's work? Personal experiences? (Robin) White supremacy within the organization. It's both personal and institutional. (Robert) Still not that specific. How would this apply to our campaign work. (Evelyn) Leaving it too broad risks not getting around to the actual work/changes needed. (Robin) Housing Justice initiative is a good example of engaging stakeholder communities. (Mohini) Hearing a desire to assess campaigns against racial justice values. (Vel) We're not saying MJ's not doing a good job, etc, otherwise wouldn't be here. (Marcus) Question about where this goes. (Vel) At some point, would want to broaden this to other organizations, but start with

MJ. (Michael) Sami (former MJ staff) contacted me few days ago asking for RJ training for her org's board. (Marcus) Clarify that this is an internal pilot for us for now. (Danya) Was confused about purpose, goals, etc. MJ needs something a little different, because we're not like most other organizations both in having higher aspirations and being more accustomed to discussing these issues. (Crescenzo) Is survey for racial experiences or logistical availability. (Vel) Both. TABLED to next meeting.

- **7:30-7:35pm ICE Response Policy** (Michael) There've been 3 different events against ICE, Concentration Camps, etc in the last 3 weeks. Haven't seen much from MJ on those. Even if other groups are leading, we should be publicizing and encouraging our members for those. There's gonna be more. Staff should send this out. (Andrew) These events are often organized coincidentally by individuals, making it a little difficult. This'll be easier the more folks have access to doing this. (Mohini) We take most of our lead from RRRN and the Allianza Agricola, and turnaround time doesn't always work out. RRRN is doing a strategic assessment around this new wave of resistance on immigration issues.
- **7:35-7:55pm Campaign Committee Reports**
 - Healthcare Committee. (Julie) Met at the end of June, last Wednesday of each month. We're planning for summer events, tabling, etc. That's fairly low-key. Tabled at Brighton farmer's market, got a good number of cards. On 7/23 at Westside Market gonna table with doctor named Lois. 8/4 Brighton farmer's market again. (mohini) All campaign contacts now in MJ Nationbuilder database, which is very good and convenient. [Minutes abridged for temporary wifi failure.] Next Meeting 7/31 at 6:30 at MJ.
 - Climate Justice Committee / Mohini: Focus on climate campaign criteria. Spent lot of last week connecting with Energy Democracy Alliance. Picked brain of Jessica Azulay from Alliance for Green Economy NY. EDA's both very in line with our politics and has grants to give out. Recruiting people to go to their upcoming retreat in Stony Point, NY Tuesday 7/30 to Thursday 8/1. (Andrew) Liaison work to RPCC. Trying to gather people for some kind of climate strike week of action in September. Recruiting steering committee of green groups from across the city. Waiting to hear about SEIU, which would be great.
 - Criminal Justice Committee / Mohini: We have a meeting this Wednesday 7-9pm. Alexis has been helping craft agenda and prep. Statewide debrief on failure of weed legislation scheduled for next week (everybody took a break after the legislative session). Assessing that effort and re-evaluating what we're gonna do going forward. Weed campaign was meant to build us up to capacity for other more long-term strategic work, so this may be the moment for that. More next Council.
 - LGBT Committee / Christine: Last month mentioned working w/ No Cops at Pride group, spoke to Exec about it since. Situation's been fluid and informal Also Out Alliance keeps changing their stance. Now saying less visible cop presence this year. No idea what that means. Let's wait and see, respond if needed. Would still like to

flyer, but don't need to do that as MJ per se (may need some printing). We're not gonna be in the parade this year, but we can still do lit. It's this Saturday. (Mohini) We're gonna be doing petition on trans healthcare, so let's do that too. (Danya) Have we thought about recruiting for healthcare at Black Pride? (Christine) We have now.

- **7:55-8:20pm Council Committee Reports**

- Treasury and Finance Committees / Marcus

- Revised Budget: Got updated profit and loss from Jay. Data current as of 6/28/19. Projected deficit down by \$5,000 to ~\$3,000. We did see expenses ahead of schedule. Expenses are a bit ahead of both projections and income. As the expenses stay constant. Forecasts are always some degree of wrong. Reported at the last meeting that Keevert shared lots of files with Marcus, 10 different schedules. Some time on Jay's schedule to get up to speed on what all needs to be done to get this done. Deadline's 10/15, planning to be done well ahead of that. Gonna be tight, but not unexpected. Another CD's maturing next year. We don't want to liquidate that, but it is the next thing on deck. Finance Committee doesn't want to make any major moves at this moment. A lot depends on timing within the stock market. Expecting major downturn sometime relatively soon. Not really possible to anticipate that with any precision. As we get closer, may want to shift investments to safer things. Still in the running for 2 Drug Policy Alliance: small one (9k) we'll hear back any day, big one (50k) September. Don't count on these, though. (Mohini) Met w/ Paul Hippolyte (regional fundraiser for NYSUT) discussed organizing against State RCSD takeover. NYSUT can't directly, but RTA and RAPP can. They can give MJ donation with NYSUT's permission. BENTE following NYSUT's lead on this.

- Nominations Committee / Christine: Had little problem with google forms to schedule the meeting. Probably next week to meet. Gonna be reaching out current members to see if they'd like to be renominated. Gotta recruit somebody to run a personnel committee.

- **8:20-8:30pm Central Campaign Discussion:** (Mohini) Had hoped to have more substantial treatment of this for today. Criteria assessment documents. Hoping for next Exec and Council to devote most time to this, as it really does require in-depth discussion. I need help from others.

- **8:30-8:45pm Staff Reports**

- Lead Organizer / Mohini: Lot of work lately has been about solidifying strategic basis of each campaign/committee/etc. RCSD Student Union, Climate, Criminal Justice, RRRN. Also working on big prospects. Aiming to bring in 84 prospects/month. Now at 36 (not counting Healthcare data dump). Doing a bunch of petitions and other online statements to list-build. 1/3 of time has been focused on interns.
- Fundraising and Membership Director / Andrew: Most time since last Council has been on getting Little Tickets out, working with interns. Seems like Council phone-bank may have run its course. Still about half the call list is left, though, so folks should still do it. Started early prep for Alternative Fair. Pretty sure we'll have the same fee (\$1,300) for the space. Used to be we made bank at the door, but last few years it's been more from vendor fees, so thinking about expanding number. If we need more room, the space expense will go up (\$3-400ish). Also considering combining it with Activist Fair. Vacation end of August. Working w/ Mohini on mass prospect mailings. Ongoing work liaison to RPCC. Now using Stripe instead of PayPal. It's better this way. Facilitated painful 3-hour strategy session w/ ROCLA. Not sure how this is gonna go, less than optimistic. Unless something changes, their continuity is uncertain.
- Interns: Painting fundraiser last month. Lessons on the use of social media and event setup. Not ideal to do 2 things in one event. Next is Candidates and Cocktails Wednesday 7/24 6-8pm. Candidates agreed to guest bartend. Charging lower amounts, in hopes of getting younger folks. At UU art collective (handicap accessible). 8 candidates confirmed so far. Cocktail cover \$10, \$7 for just the band. Just changed idea of cover charge, gonna meet w/ Jay tomorrow to figure out the impact of that. We're not spending anything so gross and net revenues should be same. Charlie's working the door. Alexis MC. Clare, Danya gonna manage candidates. Andrew's gonna do security. Gotta decide 18+ vs. 21+. We get door and tips. Candidates will have competing tip jars. Winning doesn't constitute endorsement.
- **8:45-9:00pm Task Forces Reporting to C4**
 - ROCLA: No report.
 - Ciudad Hermana / Michael: No report.
 - PA&E: No report
- **Good & Welfare:**
 - Sally McCoy passed. Waiting to hear from Bill and Sarah about memorial and what we can do to support as MJ.
 - Denise broke her arm trimming hedges. We wish her a speedy recovery.