



501c3/c4 Council Meeting Agenda
7:00 pm, Monday, March 18th, 2019
Metro Justice Office

Attendance: Aaron, Denise, Mohini, Marcus, Julie, Crescenzo, Michael, Grania, Christine, Jack, Andrew, Sarah, Nate, Tracey

Called to Order: 7:03pm

- **Opening Remarks:** One of the unfortunate aspects of this year is figuring out how to overcome our deficit. Phone banking is part of that, as is external fundraising (grant-seeking). We've been trying (led by Jay) to go after grants more aggressively, but Jay needs help: a committee of folks either wanting to help look for grants or write them up. As we look for grants, we have to think strategically, given our current period of transition. Want grants to still move in the direction of our strategic plan, and less short-term ones. Suggests special get together to review the strategic plan, current areas of work and where we are/need to be going. Do we really want to seek another grant on criminal justice, or another area? Would like to get Council and Staff together sometime next month to do that strategic review. (Julie) what grants do we have now? (Aaron) The JLUSA one is still in effect. (Andrew) Clarify that we use grants to refer both to specific grants for specific work as well as ones where we're writing up the terms. We've had better luck with specific work partnerships (CANY, FF15, JLUSA, etc). (Mohini) Jay's working on both kinds of grants right now, but the bigger picture ones require us to have that strategic clarity. (Aaron) I may start to bug people if not enough volunteers.
- **Rochester for Corporate Accountability Report:** (Nate) Works to cut ties with ethics violators. Committee would create a do-not-patronize list for city to avoid purchases/contracts with. (1 Labor violations. 2. Human rights violations. 3. Environmental degradation. 4. Unethical corporate governance. 5. Monopoly dominance. 6. Excessive tax evasion. 7. Undermining health.) Rochester has fairly few investments in these firms, so it's more about purchases and contracts. As MJ's rep, focus has been to reach out to other folks and organizations. Green Party's endorsed, upcoming conversation with Iman at NYCLU, NLG seems interested but hasn't committed. (Grania) How many corporations are targets? Just local companies? (Ans.) Don't have definitive list, will be based on the 7 factors. Second facet's been research. Been going thru City's checkbook (via FOIA) - it's a lengthy spreadsheet. Analyzing that to demonstrate the need for reform. Some preliminary examples are all we have so far. Motorola Solutions. Sent FOIA to City for invoices on purchases from them. They've bought IT equipment for RFD and other depts, contracts with ICE regarding communications. Hewlett Packard is another example. \$75 million contract with Customs and Border Patrol (which oversees ICE). Rochester's made several major purchases

last few years. Caterpillar (D9 bulldozers used in Palestine). Wide array of relevant issues and thus organizations. MoU w/ RGRTA on bus terminal security provided by G4S (who staff private prisons and work a lot with ICE detention systems) quarter-billion-dollar contract. Would like various affected groups to help speak to make case to Council. Rochester has major ties to IBM which worked closely with Nazis to make punch cards, etc. (Grania) Happy to talk about connections to ICE and how Rapid Response might relate. (Mohini) Goals? (Nate) Hoping to create a body that can adapt to doing divestment work for whatever issues arise, whether it's fossil fuels or whatever else. (Sarah) Lots of cities have started getting onboard with divestments like these. (Nate) (Michael) Any approach to more receptive suburban local governments? (Sarah) Focusing on specifically creating such a board for the City. (Michael) Might be easier to go through a suburb like Brighton first where we have some connections, then hold that up as an example in the fight to win the City's compliance. Sarah's leading outreach on this campaign. We're going door-to-door with petition supporting the creation of such a board. City Council up for election, will listen if they're shown that people care. Goal 10-20k signatures by the fall. (Michael) Seeking endorsements from City Council candidates? (Sarah) Dave Atias of the Green Party doesn't openly endorse but shows up. Been targeting 7/11 heavily. Michael suggests Mary Lupien. (Aaron) What do you need for us? (Nate) Not really, just wanted to keep MJ in the loop, get feedback. (Aaron) Thank you for all this research work. Multiple folks in the room emphasize a broad range of settler colonial targets. (Jack) Would like some emphasis on military contracts. (Nate) Rochester's close ties to Harris.

- **7:45-8:45 Council Phonebank:** People made calls. Calls were made.
- **C3 Reports**
 - ROCLA / Grania: Rice & Beans Dinner fundraiser coming up this Friday. Honoring a woman from Bolivia who's an indigenous activist there. And a guy who does international labor organizing mostly in Latin America, with particular focus on Colombia. Honoring local Irene Sanchez, founder of organization for Puerto Ricans who've moved to Rochester since Hurricane Maria. Grania personally has really time-consuming roles and is planning to take some kind of step-back soon. Andrew got materials from Sara for sending an announcement for the dinner over our MJ channels.
 - PA&E / Doug: (Jack) Met with Morelle this afternoon. More open conversation with Slaughter, but Morelle seemed ok. He's on Rules Committee, trying to get up to speed on foreign policy. Good first meeting. (Grania) Doug's somewhat less optimistic. (Denise) Is there a position on Venezuela? (Answer) Yes, we're for hands off Venezuela and said so to Morelle (who seemed middlingly onboard with that).
 - Ciudad Hermana / Michael: (Mohini) Ciudad Hermana screened Las Sandinistas for International Women's Day. Some controversy, but very good and valuable film and panel afterward. About 50 people from the sign-in sheet. Interesting opportunity for

ongoing cooperation with the Little. Anyone with films they'd like to do similar film educational events, talk to Andrew.

- **Committee Reports and New Business**

- Elder Justice / Ken: (Andrew) Barb and Ken gonna start pushing Safe Staffing campaigns. Hoping to have petition/list infrastructure this week. Strategy for Elder Justice to create petition broad enough to encompass labor allies and other groups who all have interests in particulars of Safe Staffing legislation.
- Personnel / Denise: Meeting next Friday. (Mohini) Should check-in with Nadine. (Aaron) Has spoken with her earlier today.
- Treasury and Finance / Marcus: First committee meeting earlier this month. Filing for an extension on our taxes (give us until November). Working on Financial statements in July. *Keever budget to run all fundraising dollars thru C4, take C4 deficit. **Correction: Most fundraising goes thru C4, C3 will hold deficit.*** We'll give a formal treasury report next meeting (end of 1st quarter). Colin is still on the account, Keever had some issues getting in touch with him. Gotta remove Colin, update address, add Evelyn and Marcus. Will review dues situation, wanting more detail on \$30-50 range. Minimum will bring some up, but those who can't we'll give special dispensation. Hoping threshold will bring people up. Still looking at details for a good minimum number. Proposal beginning of summer. (Aaron) one or two possible additions to committee. (Christine) Did budget consider losing the JLUSA grant? (Andrew) JLUSA money came lump sum all in 2018, despite the contract going over into 2018-19. Expenses have exceeded contract, so in '19 fiscal year it's possible that our projections may be too low. (Mohini) Got 40k from JLUSA for thru June 2019. Essentially budget underestimate budget deficit by \$20k due to this issue.
- Racial Justice: (Andrew) Working on next set of RJI trainings for staff, council, committee leadership. We were all supposed to fill out online survey by now. Please do it ASAP if haven't already. Probably planning for Mondays. Reading/discussion group on racial justice issues centered around the reader they've made. Details TBD.
- Healthcare: meeting at Brew Cafe tomorrow night. Meeting last wednesday of the month (potluck) at 960 geneese st at 7:30. also doing writing workshop (letters to editors) (march 27th at 6:30 wed.), possible rally at Blue Cross. Lobby days in Albany early June, nothing definite yet.
- Annual Dinner Speaker: First round of invites yielded nothing so far. Now trying for Steve Williams (transformative organizing, co-founder of Left Roots). Mohini sent email, can't find phone number (Denise might). Andrew reached out to Bruce Popper about Rev. Barber, but nothing yet. Not quite time to panic yet. Dinner is May 5th. Council should be prepared to be asked to help staff the Dinner. Mailing to union partners sometime by the end of this month.

- **8:35-8:55 Staff Reports**

- Fundraising and Membership Director / Andrew: Written report submitted. Continuing movie series. Next is Wind that Shakes the Barley (March 29th 6:30). April theme earth day either Naomi Klein's "This Changes Everything" or "If a Tree Falls." Andrew keeps list of films, deliberately not making decisions more than a month ahead so there's flexibility to adapt for current events. Co-sponsoring a screening means a small donation and splitting list with organizations outside MJ. New Member Orientation coming up. Format more like speed dating, more time for informal milling about with food. Note on RPCC: doing "Free Market Solutions to Climate Change" event with Chamber of Commerce. no bylaws or process for coalition members (like MJ) to object to that. Thanks to all who could attend Rachel Larson's memorial service. (Denise) Coordinating meals for the family. Waiting to hear back from Brian about this. If he says yes, Denise will solicit meal help from Council.
- Lead Organizer / Mohini: Leadership strategy retreat. Discussing it within Exec. We need to resolve a new strategic clarity post-crisis. Decisions were made as short-term stop gaps to keep the organization alive, but it's time now to step back and re-assess where we need to be moving. Day-long strategy retreat w/ 2 tiers: 1) Nitty-gritty what do we want to build, 2) open it up to broader leadership. Not everyone's gonna be available for a day-long thing. Denise offered to help facilitate, draft agenda. Now a matter of follow-up and logistical coordination. aiming for early April. Want to make it social (room at bar, or at someone's house - someplace more social). Marijuana town hall went well despite lots of technical things going wrong. Aaron's op-ed got in the D&C and there was lots of great local press coverage. Opportunity to get back into restaurant worker organizing. In talks with Workers United about salting initiative they're considering. They seem into it, now trying to nail down concrete specifics. Crescenzo's been working with City-Wide Tenant Union. Need to sit down with their leadership to formalize a plan. Kim Gibson with Healthcare Workers Rising has been amazing ally lately turning people out to lots of our events.
- Tracey on Jordan Health Center: Been fighting for a year and 4 months to get a contract and to make a long story short we've been reaching out into the community to bring Jordan to the table. CEO (Janice Harbin) not interested. "Not gonna be pushed back by some union." It's about destabilizing the union. But now there's another issue where they're looking at outsourcing 10 jobs from billing dept (in bargaining unit). Held authorization vote (almost unanimous to authorize a strike over this). Prayer vigil this Thursday 5pm at corner of Hudson and Holland. CEO has stacked the board with some of her people. All but a 1% increase (effectively about \$15k), all other contract terms have been resolved for more than a year.

Adjourned by unanimous voice vote.