# Meeting Minutes

6:00 p.m.  
Thursday, October 19th, 2023  
Dennis R. Neill Equality Center  
621 E. 4th Street

OKEQ seeks equal rights for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and families through intersectional advocacy, education, programs, alliances, and the operation of the Dennis R. Neill Equality Center.

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## Executive Committee

- President - Eric Wilson
- Treasurer - Julie Chase
- Vice President - Bob Hanson
- Secretary - Whitney Cipolla
- At-Large - Kristy Vann
- At-Large - Kylie Vanderslice

## Board of Directors

- Zoe Brett
- Eddie Carreno
- Claire Combs
- Kaylyn Compton
- Julia Fletcher
- Liz Ortiz
- Crista Patrick
- Paula Shannon
- Monique Washington
- Kylie Vanderslice

## Board of Advisors

- Michael Carney
- Jodi Rachel Green
- Ryan Fitzpatrick
- Stephen Haney
- Alexandria Hefner
- Heather Hornig
- Caleb Jackson
- Bonita James
- Michael James
- Kevin Knight
- Tiffany Oslin
- Gary Percefull
- Jennifer Nolen
- Denise Reid
- Ann Reynolds
- Tamecca Rogers
- Shelta Sneed

Attendance Legend: P = Present; A = Absent with approval; U = Absent without notice/approval
Called to Order

1. A Moment of Silence and Remembering Fern

2. Approve Prior Meeting Minutes (6:00-6:05 PM)
   a. Motion - Julie
   b. Second - Whitney
      i. Approved

   a. Finance Committee Report
      a. We have nearly $143K across our bank accounts - $81,000 is restricted, leaving us with approximately $62,000
      b. We just finished the fiscal year, so we are waiting on the final documents to forward to our auditor
      c. We have a first draft of our finance policy manual that the Executive Committee and Dorothy are reviewing

4. Executive Director Report – Dorothy Ballard (6:25-6:40 PM)
   a. Town hall recap
      i. The town hall focused on the outcomes of the forensic audit and what we’ve done to correct course
      ii. There was some media attention, but not as much as we were expecting
      iii. The feedback overall feedback has been good; folks seem to be regaining trust in us
   b. Staff and operations
      i. No changes since last month except our grants and development coordinator, Beverly, has become full-time
      ii. We are announcing the embedding of 2 CREOKS therapists (Petra and Wendy) and a caseworker (Rags)
   c. Strategic plan - progress to date
      i. We are continuing to work on the items outlined in the strategic plan, and we are focusing particularly in establishing metrics to better measure progress and program effectiveness
      ii. We have someone who is willing to work on the IT system so it is more user friendly and accessible for staff

5. Executive Committee Report – Eric Wilson (6:40-6:45 PM)
   a. General updates
      i. The Town Hall was great - a couple who previously didn’t feel welcomed came for the first time and said they’d be at the next town hall meeting
      ii. TPD said they’re investigating the embezzlement - we have asked the forensic auditors to create a breakdown of expenditures by state to see if a case can be made in federal court
      iii. We want to acknowledge staff burnout - the fair was very taxing and required a lot of hours of the staff, and that’s why we are adding an item on the agenda called “Volunteer Opportunities” so the Board can pitch in and take some stress off of staff

   a. Approve Board Member Contract
      i. Motion - Eddie
      ii. Second - Julie
         1. Approved with some language changes
      iii. Fill the form out
b. By-law changes
   i. Proposed changes document
   ii. Summary document
      1. Motion - Kylie
      2. Second - Bob
      3. Approved unanimously

c. We are looking at doing a February board retreat; I'd like us to focus on building out each committee's goals since there hasn't been a lot of structure or institutional knowledge in the past

d. Board orientation materials are coming together, and I'll print them for the November meeting with our updated by-laws

7. Legislative Update – Whitney Cipolla (7:20-7:25 PM)
   a. The court case on gender affirming care for minors in Oklahoma hit a big barrier; a judge ruled that the law could go into effect even though there is still a pending case
   b. Resources for gender affirming care for youth provided by Eric
      i. TENT, along with the Campaign for Southern Equality, has Patient Navigation assistance and a resource guide, as well as grants from the Southern Trans Youth Emergency Project: https://southernequality.org/twresources/
      ii. Campaign for Southern Equality general resource guide: https://southernequality.org/resources/transinthesouth/funding-your-transition
      iii. Campaign for Southern Equality and Freedom Oklahoma have teamed up to provide this Oklahoma-specific resource guide, which includes $500 in grant funds: https://southernequality.org/okresources/
      iv. One clinic in New York that may have availability: https://hhinternet.blob.core.windows.net/uploads/2019/10/the-bridge-brochure.pdf
      vi. In Wichita, Kansas, Trust Women maintains a clinic, and Kansas currently does not have a ban on gender-affirming care: https://trustwomen.org/resources/
      vii. In Colorado, the Transgender Center of the Rockies has a list of providers across the state that provide gender-affirming care, including virtual clinics: https://www.transgendercenteroftherockies.org/physicians-transgender-healthcare-resources
      viii. In Minnesota, Children's Minnesota has a Gender Health Program that provides gender-affirming care throughout the state: https://www.childrensmn.org/services/care-specialties-departments/gender-health/what-to-expect/

8. Volunteer Opportunities
   a. We need help especially in the front desk area
   b. There is a Halloween event on 10/28 in the evening time
c. Trans awareness week is coming up with several activities - Nov. 13th-20th
   i. We will need help collecting resources at the trans resource fair

d. We are doing a post-Thanksgiving gathering - Framily Day (not open on Thanksgiving)

e. Any holiday festivities will be in between the actual holiday dates to allow staff to be with their families

f. We have revamped the Equality Business Alliance, which meets the 4th Thursday of the month - If you’re not a member, become a member! If you are a member, please host! We could also use transportation support.
   i. We have a new focus on up and coming 2SLGBTQIA+ businesses

9. Old Business
   a. None

10. New Business/Open Forum (7:25-7:30 PM)
   a. None

11. Announcements (7:25-7:30 PM)
   a. Our next board meeting will be on Thursday, November 16th

12. Adjournment
   a. Motion - Eddie
   b. Second - Julie

Meeting ended at 7:37 PM