



Secretary's Minutes

Regular Meeting

February 7, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

- The Terre Haute Bar Association Regular Business Meeting was held at the Terre Haute Brewery located at 401 S. 9th Street, Terre Haute, IN 47807, Phone: 812-814-3071. The meeting was called to order shortly after noon by President Scott Craig.
- A quorum was found to be present. The following members were in attendance: Don Bonomo, Traci Orman, Tricia Rose Tanoos, Scott Craig, Jared Farnsworth, Phillip Smith, Matt Sheehan, Adrian Polit, Darwinson Valdez, Dan Kelly and Jim Walker.

Agenda Item #1 – Secretary's Report

Tricia Rose Tanoos presented her Minutes of the November 1, 2018 Annual Meeting. Phillip Smith moved that the Minutes be approved. Jared Farnsworth seconded the motion, and the Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item #2 – Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jared Farnsworth presented his Treasurer's Report which shows that the THBA has a balance of _____ in its checking account as of today's date, and a Wabash Valley Community Fund balance of _____ as of September 30, 2018.

OLD BUSINESS

Item # 3 Memorial Resolutions

Scott Craig reported that Mike Ireland is chairman of the committee working on a memorial resolution for James Sullivan. The committee hopes to have the resolution completed by the end of this month.

Item # 4 U.S. District Judge James Sweeney – Invitation to meet the THBA

Tricia Rose Tanoos reported that there is nothing new to report on this topic, but she kept this matter on the agenda for today's meeting so that we don't lose track of it. Craig McKee is in charge of arranging a suitable date when it would be convenient for the judge and his staff to attend.

Item #5 Talk to a Lawyer Project

Noah Gambill who spearheaded this project was unable to attend today, but Scott Craig who participated in the event thought the Talk to a Lawyer program which was held at the Vigo County Public Library Tuesday, December 4, 2018 was a huge success. Attendance was up from the last time the event was held and participation by members of the THBA was very good. Jim Walker thought part of the increase in attendance was due to the fact that not only did the time include the lunch hour, but also extended to 6:00 p.m. Several citizens did attend during their lunch hours and after work.

Item #6 ISBA Leadership Development Academy – March 14 & 15

Scott Craig noted that the Leadership Development Academy will be coming to Terre Haute on March 14 & 15. Noah Gambill has the details of the program that will take place here.

Item #7 Mock Trial Project

Tricia Rose Tanoos reported that Ivy Tech and Indiana State University are helping sponsor the program this year. Each has purchased a \$1,000 ad which will help pay for the cost of printing materials. Tricia reported that from the feedback she received after last year's program, she thought we needed to simplify the curriculum for the students. The plan now is for 4 lessons, starting with "What is a Lawyer" and ending with a game at the final lesson. Tricia stated that she has volunteers lined up for all the schools. Our revised materials have just been printed, and we hope to distribute them to the schools within the next week. We had hoped that every middle school would participate in the mock trials at the courthouse, but Honey Creek and Woodrow Wilson will not participate in the trials this year. However, we will teach the curriculum to them as we did last year.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #8 New Member

Dan Kelly introduced Steve Timmerman and moved that he be admitted to the Terre Haute Bar Association. Steve is an attorney with DCS here in Vigo County. He is originally from Russiaville and now lives in Brazil. Steve has been with DCS for about a year. He received his bachelor's degree from Ball State and his law degree from I.U. McKinney School of Law. Phillip Smith seconded the motion, and motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 Legislative Update for 2019

Scott Craig reported that he is working on trying to arrange a legislative update after the end of the legislative session. Scott's wife Kristin is vice president of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, and she will coordinate this for us. Scott reported that Senator Rod Bray is interested in coming to Terre Haute to participate in the program again this year.

Item #10 CHINS Mediation Program

Juvenile Court Magistrate Dan Kelly reported that Vigo County has received a grant for a CHINS mediation program to help streamline cases, and he is looking to compile a list of 6 to 8 family law mediators to handle the mediations. Mediation may also be employed to explore options prior to the filing of termination of parental rights cases. Mediators will be paid \$90.00 per hour, with a maximum of two hours allocated to each mediation. Mediators will be paid even if no agreement is reached. The mediations will take place in the Vigo County Annex. Anyone who is interested in becoming a mediator for this program should contact him or Judge Sarah Mullican.

Item #11 Western Indiana Community Action Agency – Michel Starkey

Tricia reported that the Western Indiana Community Action Agency is required to have a local attorney on its board. Michel Starkey is our current representative on the board. Her position is up for reappointment and Michel would like to continue. The consensus of those present was that Michel Starkey should be reappointed.

Item #12 Non-profit status – Jared Farnsworth

Jared Farnsworth discussed his recommendation that the THBA become an IRC 501(c)(6) non-profit organization. The main reason is that it would facilitate our working with other non-profits. For example, people could

contribute to our WVCF Fund, then the WCF could distribute funds to us to use for programs such as our mock trial program. Phillip Smith raised the question of whether status as a 501(c)(6) organization would preclude us from taking a position on proposed legislation. Whether this would be the type of political activity that is permitted or prohibited would have to be examined. Jared also raised the idea of looking in to obtaining a charitable gaming license. This could help boost our member participation and also funds could be added to the WVCF fund.

Item #13 Pending Legislation – Scott Craig

Scott Craig said that he put this item on the agenda so that we could discuss Senate Bill 441. This bill would change how interest on judgments is computed. It would be complicated and would require that the interest rate be recalculated each time a payment is made. Since putting this on the agenda, Scott has learned from Jeff Lewellyn that he had spoken to Senator Jon Ford who is one of the authors of the bill, and the bill is now dead.

First Unlisted Agenda Item

Jim Walker noted that dues notices for 2019 have not gone out yet. Phillip Smith moved that the dues date be extended to March 15, 2019. Jared Farnsworth seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Second Unlisted Agenda Item

Adrian Polit stated that the local office of the District 10 Pro Bono Project needs student volunteers for this summer. Volunteers can be law students returning home for the summer and undergraduate students from rising sophomores through seniors.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other new business raised, President Scott Craig declared the meeting adjourned, and the meeting was adjourned without objection. The next meeting will be March 7, 2019 at noon at the Terre Haute Brewing Company.

Respectfully submitted,



Tricia Rose Tanoos, Secretary
COX, ZWERNER, GAMBILL & SULLIVAN, LLP
511 Wabash Ave.
Terre Haute, IN 47807
Phone: 812-232-6003
Email: ttanoos@coxlaw.net