

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation

2019-12-08

### Pre-supper discussion :

At some point, the meeting was called to order. It was hard to tell over the din of competing conversations.

In attendance : Derek Bridges, R. D. Childers, Brooks Coleman, Glenn Currie, Wolf Dilworth, Alex Iles, Eric Lundquist, John Oliver, Dustin Reichert, Jerry Rutherford, Denise Scioli, and Mike Scioli.

Glenn Currie will solicit guest speakers. Derek Bridges has prepared a list of potential organizations to aid Glenn's efforts.

Brooks Coleman proposed that TRG hold a dry-run of the Broken Toy Autopsy Night at the January 02 meeting. Subsequent Broken Toy autopsy Nights will require A, B, C ... (A)dvance notice for PSAs and posts of the mailing list, Facebook, and our web site. (B)roken toys. (C)ommitment of members to be present and to participate. A question was asked regarding Right to Repair laws.

John Oliver mentioned that he had learned of our existence when he was residing in Phoenix a decade ago. He was excited to learn that TRG still exists but disappointed at our current state of affairs. Some key points of his comments :

- a) TRG needs to have an active core group to survive.
- b) TRG needs to be led by its most-active members for stability.
- c) TRG leadership needs to improve its planning. Members needs to be able to commit.

A brief discussion ensues about the difficulties of service to the organization. The usual suspect, lack of time, reared its ugly head.

Brooks Coleman proposed a series of videos of visits to members' shop spaces.

Wolf Dilworth reiterated the need to create a list of members' skill-sets and to get that onto the web site. Members - and others - should be able to determine who might help or advise them on projects. Further discussion provided some useful suggestions to coordinate TRG's Facebook page, YouTube channel, and web site. Mike Scioli will make that happen. Members' data input is needed.

### Post-supper discussion :

In attendance : Derek Bridges, R. D. Childers, Brooks Coleman, Glenn Currie, Wolf Dilworth, Alex Iles, Vadim Konradi, Gray Mack, John Oliver, Yama Ploskonka, Dustin Reichert, Mike Scioli, and David Treadwell.

Elections were held and ratified by the Board Members. The Officers and Board members for 2020 are :

President : Brooks Coleman  
Vice-president : Alex Iles  
Treasurer : Wolf Dilworth  
Secretary : Mike Scioli

Board member : Derek Bridges  
Board member : Glenn Currie  
Board member : Yama Ploskonka

The subject of grant proposals was discussed. Brooks Coleman and Yama Ploskonka are the only members with current plans to apply for City of Austin Art Grants. As part of the discussion, the matter of an Austin mailing address (required for the Art Grants through the City of Austin) was mentioned. We have an official corporate mailing address that is not published on the web site.

The subject of meeting scheduling was addressed. In various places, we claim to meet on either odd Thursdays or 1st and 3rd Thursdays or simply on Thursdays. [Who is our meetup.com maintainer?] It was decided that we should meet on 1st and 3rd Thursdays, in part, because Meetup's mechanism does not (readily?) enable automatic scheduling of 5th Thursday meetings. Wolf proposed that the 5th Thursday be reserved for the Broken Toy Autopsy Night.

a) The 1st Thursday meeting should emphasize show-and-tell. Members should bring in their project(s) and provide some, at least, brief presentation. Brooks is committing to driving in from Kingsland for this meeting.

b) The 3rd Thursday meeting should feature a guest speaker, if one can be arranged. Guest speakers will probably need to be arranged well in advance to suit their schedules and our need to advertise the talk.

c) Brooks Coleman is willing to commit to the aforementioned Broken Toy Autopsy Night dry-run at the 02 January meeting.

1) A parent / guardian must accompany the children.

2) The most important tools are long-shafted Phillips and straight-blade screwdrivers [sizes?] If an affordable source of the blades can be found, Brooks would like to 3D-print the handles with TRG's name and / or domain name, therobotgroup.org. [Speaking of which, I need to change the DNS of robotgroup.org and robotgroup.net to point to therobotgroup.org]

d) Paul Weyland, a friend of Brooks', might be able to help us in spreading the word to / through the radio broadcast community. We will still need to think and schedule, at least, three months in advance.

It was suggested that, since we will be working with children, it is time to arrange another round of training provided by the Center for Child Protection. A number of members have taken the 3-hour training provided by Center for Child Protection. The training is free although a donation is appreciated. The Center for Child Protection is not to be confused with the Travis County Child Protective Services.

<https://centerforchildprotection.org/services/education-services/>

Wolf Dilworth will connect with the leadership of Chick Tech Austin (<https://austin.chicktech.org/>) to see if we can aid them as well as fulfill our mandate to perform outreach. Mike Scioli suggested that we contact Girl Scouts of Central Texas (<https://www.gsctx.org/>) to see if we can obtain further information on their STEM-related badges and how we might aid them. Yama Ploskonka suggested that we reconnect with Boy Scouts of America Capitol Area Council for the same reason (<https://www.bsacac.org/>).

Brooks Coleman proposed an idea to approach Joey Ficklin (Maker Faire Austin) regarding a Shark Tank(TM)-like event as part of Maker Faire Austin.

John Oliver has volunteered to advance our efforts to procure City of Austin Art Grant funding. Derek Bridges has filed IRS form 990N for us. We have the option to have individual members apply for grants for up to \$4,000 or to have TRG serve as an umbrella organization for such funding. Members are encouraged to log their travel time and mileage to meetings and events as well as their time in-service to the group at meetings and events as this may be of help to us.

To streamline the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday meetings and to avoid airing dirty laundry in front of guests, a series of (quarterly?) meetings of the leadership will be held to discuss strategy in all of its glorious, gory detail.

At some point, the meeting was adjourned. The bodies of those who passed-out due to boredom were removed to the exterior of the building where they were successfully revived.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Scioli, Secretary