



Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2017

**Approved May 5, 2018**

### **Call to order and adoption of the agenda**

The meeting was called to order by President Gene Collins 12:10 pm on December 16, 2017 at First St. John Baptist Church, 5825 Watauga Road. Interim Secretary Constance Jones was present and recorded the minutes.

### **Roll call**

The following members were present: Gene Collins, President, Shuronda Robinson, First Vice President of Programs, Almeda Dent, Second Vice President of Membership; Constance Jones, Secretary; and Donald Williams, Parliamentarian. Terrence Shanks is the chair of the Rules Committee. Robert Williams and Brandon Jones are co-chairs of the Messaging Committee. *(Please reference registration sheet with the additional members in attendance)*

### **Approval of minutes from last meeting**

No minutes to report.

### **Presidents Report**

Gene Collins gave a summation of the Statewide Meeting Weekend to include the inaugural 'Ignite the Vote' fundraiser where awards were given to recognize those who have done significant work for the black community and for the Coalition. Leaders came together to recognize Black Democrats who have helped to promote the election of Black candidates across the state. Deralyn Davis was presented with a special award to recognize her work

in founding the Coalition. She received a standing ovation from the crowd of more than 150 gathered at the reception.

On Saturday, December 16th members of the Coalition gathered to elect officers and attend to business matters. Important conversations took place regarding our membership, strategies for the upcoming elections, and to a resolution asking the Texas Democratic Party to protect the rights of Black voters against the GOP. Our chapter's leaders from Austin, Bell County, Denton County, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Fort Bend and Harris County were present and gave reports on their activities in 2017.

### **Open issues/Summary Discussion**

a. **Messaging Committee Report provided by Robert Williams and Brandon Jones-** Robert gave a brief background of why the messaging committee was created its purpose and members on the committee He stated that they originally wanted the committee to have a representative from every region from the state of Texas to be represented. Robert also, stated that the committee wanted the committee member to have political skills as well as great writing skills. One of the first accomplishments of the messaging committee was Senator Royce West out of Dallas and State Rep Senfronia Thompson out of Houston asked the coalition to address the African American voter integrity plan and protect black voters against the GOP.

Per the request, there were 4 resolutions created to address the request; Accountability, Shared Resources, Education and black women and girls. Robert explained that the initial plan for the messaging committee was not only to prepare resolutions but also statements of solidarity for issues that would come up. One of the committee's goals is to ensure expediency to respond in a timely manner to any issues. Robert mentioned that one of the most recent resolutions that passed was the resolution to the state party regarding Juneteenth. Brandon then expounded on the questionnaires sent out to statewide candidates and how the endorsement from the TCBD works, he explained that the coalition has expectations to be met before any endorsements are done.

A total of one hundred and ten questionnaires were sent out and now conference calls are set up to interview candidates and give a more in depth view of "What are you doing for us in the African American community 'The messaging committee will shut down the interview/screening process on January 15<sup>th</sup>. After which the committee will get out to the members the responses from interview as well as an account of who did not respond. Each community is urged to utilize the information in educating the voters, distribute and help boost the membership. Representative Coleman put together a comprehensive piece of criminal justice reform and it was presented last session for the Sandra Bland Act. While the coalition did not get everything most of what the community wanted was addressed in the act.

b. Resolutions-Carroll Robinson presented the TCBD general body with a resolution that speaks to the way and how they elect the speaker of the house. The amendment challenges or forces the Democratic Party to file a suit against the Republicans who have sole discretion as to who the speaker of the house will be. A motion was made that the TCBD adopt the resolution as read. Motion seconded to accept the resolution. Motion carried.

c. Discussion ensued in regards to making a second resolution for the TDP and NAACP. This resolution would include the same language as original but add the language "Be it resolved

that The Texas Coalition of Black Democrats encourages the NAACP to file suit against the Texas State House of Republicans.” The motion on the floor is to adopt the amendment which challenges or force the Democratic Party to file a suit against the Republicans who have sole discretion as to who the speaker of the house will be. Shuronda Robinson made the motion to accept and it was seconded. None opposed, Motion carried.

d. **Rules Committee Report provided by Terrence Shanks-** Terrence asked the general body to display the blue voting card which shows that you are in good standing and eligible to vote in the election. As the general body prepared to obtain voting cards for those who did not have it. Terrence asked for Parliamentarian Donald Williams to give an update status on corrections made to the constitution regarding membership. Donald Williams gave a history of why the changes were encouraged and explained the modifications to the constitution. Mr. Williams also asked that the coalition take a more detailed look at the constitution to see where changes or amendments need to take place at a later date.

Motion was made that the minutes reflect changes made to constitution were already voted on at a previous meeting and accepted. No additional action needed. Motion carried. Gene Collins asked the membership body to come up with some suggestions to help assist the rules committee with the delegates for upcoming convention. This will ensure that everyone is in sync and on the same page to make sure the process flows without any incidents. Terrence concluded his report with asking that a representative from each chapter would serve on the Rules Committee for proper representation. Motion made to receive Rules Report, None opposed Motion carried.

e. **Election Proceedings led by Gene Collins and Terrence Shanks-** Mr. Collins presented Carroll Robinson before the membership body and stated that Carroll would not be contesting the president’s position but will take on special projects with the TCBD. Terrence Shanks, President of Election and Advisory Committee was asked to come forward and proceed with the election process along with the Parliamentarian Donald Williams. The elections will cover a two year term and the rules were read by Terrence regarding election eligibility requirements and TCBD criteria. Terrence announced that the coalition has 6 Candidates that are not contested and one position Membership Chair that is contested. Terrence suggested that the other 6 standing positions uncontested be voted on by Acclamation. Motions were made to approve acclamation, Motion Seconded, Motion carried.

Terrence asked the Candidates Almeda Dent, incumbent and Opponent Robert Williams be given 2 minutes each to speak on their platform and why they should be chosen as the Membership Chair. Before the candidates spoke the floor was opened up for anyone to give remarks in support for the candidates of their choosing. Each candidate spoke, and the votes were tallied with voting results as Almeda Dent maintaining the Membership Chair Committee position. Final vote were 25 for Almeda Dent and 12 votes for Robert Williams.

**f. TCBD 2018 Elected Officers**

Gene Collins, President elect, Shuronda Robinson, First Vice President of Programs; Almeda Dent, Second Vice President of Membership; Constance Jones, Secretary; and Donald Williams, Parliamentarian. Terrence Shanks is the chair of the Rules Committee. Robert Williams and Brandon Jones are co-chairs of the Messaging Committee.

**V.Adjournment**

Gene Collins moved that the meeting be adjourned, and this was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.

Minutes submitted by: Constance Jones, Secretary TCBD

Minutes approved by:

Date Approved: