Minutes for the GPTX SEC Video Teleconference
7pm, Sunday, June 16, 2019
Zoom recording:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OUFQ1k56vNS-bDO_Id8jibfTWmtmB3GF/view

In attendance: Matt Bauman, Laura Palmer, Don Palmer, Wesson Gaige, Alán Alán Apurim, David Prout, Sharon Barrett, Diane Wood, Emily Ngheim, Bill Stout, Mary Hendricks, Kevin McCormick, Janis Richards

{MB dropped off, reconnected a couple times, but no audio}

7:12
Review of agenda & call for additions
Alán Alán - will we be discussing any king of database?
Laura-yes, it will be in the party operations manual, a resource I would like to get in everybody's mind.

7:15
Has everyone gotten a chance to review the annual meeting notes?
Does everyone have access to the notes by Mary Hendricks?
(some discussion of how to access it on the Google drive)
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W6H6v0JnjOZPWyOz99cpoq5yE_1F_UrtQ_qsc8eXI/edit

7:18 MB reconnected, shortly after disconnected
7:24 Diane – does not see the list of national delegates, should be included
Laura – Mary’s notes are very detailed.
Mary – If I missed something please correct it. I apologize.
Wes – I scanned a copy of the tally sheet and it’s in the Google folder. The 9 people can be copied from there.
Laura – it’s also on the elected officers page on the site.
Laura – did Matt or Kevin or anyone have particular questions specifically related to the bylaw amendments before we launch into the larger document?
Kevin – Wes sent me a link to the old bylaws, which I included in [?] to make them the new bylaws and other people have joined in. I assume that’s what we’re working with?

Laura – it’s the amended bylaws that we have to get into the SOS office, so it might be more productive to focus on that first, and then spend time on the lower priority jobs.

7:29

Alfred – does anyone want to make a motion to approve the amended bylaws as seen in Mary Hendrick’s notes?

Laura – are there any unresolved questions in your minds about this?

Don – Could we make sure that “counties or groups” is added everywhere that just “counties” used to be (per the vote)?

Wes – article 1 section 3b – My question was what we agreed on Sunday morning relative to this one.

7.32 [Matt Bauman & Sharron Barret join back in]

Don – We dropped the end of the sentence at “conflict resolution” to leave it open. We do want people to commit to conflict resolution, but we don’t want the party to dictate which methods must be used.

Wes – Does everybody agree?

(It was agreed that that was what was agreed upon, so Kevin deleted the rest.)

Alfred – Shall we approve the amended bylaws? Any objections?

[none]

7:39 MINUTES

Laura – the minutes look really great, they look really detailed. I think they may preserve some argumentation & one of the many things we glance over in the orientation manual that we’ll get to is some discussion of the minutes. it is an internal document and it’s OK, but I would suggest we come back to this after some orientation.

Laura introduces the orientation manual, reads over the list of contents. We start with Systems Information.

7:42 Laura suggests using a template for SEC agendas, begins discussing Nationbuilder

7:45 Kevin has finalized bylaw changes and saved it.

7:50 Discussion of Slack as main hub of communication

7:52 [Emily joins]

7:53 Laura explains some of the different categories in our Slack workspace

7:55 Social media should be discusses at length at a later time.
7:56 Candidate Development Process explained by Laura
8:03 discussion & feedback

Alfred finds the resource to be fantastic, thanks Laura for introducing it. What is a good first step?

Laura – complete Green Screen survey on the site
Diane asks what type of candidates would be included in this.
Laura – all; from local to senate/house. Filing time is Nov./Dec.
Diane is grateful for the process & thanks Laura.

Filing fees are high, do we start accepting people now, who want to run?
Laura – filing fees are new, but if a candidate is considered to be a priority, the SEC may decide to help.

If they don't have the funds yet, it should not keep them from entering the screening process.

Diane – so they could start applying now?
Laura – yes.
David – the filing fees may be unconstitutional and worthy of a challenge.

Could that be something the party may want support? A challenge to the filing fees?
Laura – Yes, Texans for Voter Choice is working on that.

Alfred, Janis, & I are meeting attorneys on Wednesday to discuss this.
David – If someone wants to run for office as a Green, but does not have the fees, a collection of

signatures could be used instead.
Emily – I want to find a candidate who will look at reforms to electoral college to make government more representational. A campaign can be used to publicize the idea.
Laura – Yes, it would be good to find a candidate who could advance that concept.
Emily – I’d like to have an answer to people’s question about [the likelihood of a Green winning].

Alán Alán – I agree. I think we should all agree to pronounce “electoral” correctly.

We should research available positions well in advance to increase Green candidates.

A database of available positions would be helpful.
Laura – Yes. We will be able to compile something like that.

Quick aside – usually secretary will make adjustments in agenda document.

Is someone keeping minutes?
Don – Matt, are you taking notes?
Matt – Yes.
Diane – Suppose someone wants to start running now, but they do not raise enough money. Are they required, legally, to do something with that money? What happens to it?

Laura - I can’t answer that completely, yet. 1st a campaign must be filed with the campaign treasury appointment with the Texas Ethics Commission. Since it’s new to us we’re still figuring it out.

For many local races, the fee is only $500 & most people can raise that much, but the statewide offices, it could be significantly higher & the state party might help with that, but we’re still trying to feel our way through it & should wait to address that at a later time.

8:25 Finishing-Up SEC Orientation

Resources & Appendices, Filing Deadlines & Reporting Requirements, Consensus Process

Secretary duties – in 2016 there was some controversy over how much detail should be maintained

Platform & Bylaw Amendment Process, Convention & Ballot Petition Procedure

Some of these could be expanded or updated.

8:30

Alfred – perhaps we should delay approval of minutes until everyone has a chance to look them over more

Laura – It wouldn’t hurt to give us more time for that

Diane – Still don’t see the listing of the national delegates.

8:32

Alfred – we should devote some time to reviewing the minutes

Wes – Yes, but that can be done on slack. No need to extend the meeting for it.

Alán Alán – My name is misspelled in the election results. Also, the names should be separated by commas.

Matt – making adjustments, needed clarification for delegates

Don – Laura is the 9th

Janis in at 8:40


-It had already been published, but we opened for discussion of the post.

Wes – posted this on Facebook & it got a whole lot of traffic, including a new supporter

We have a place for a media committee. It would be the purpose of that group to deal with things like this; should we publish this, where should we publish it, etc.
I would like to suggest that Kevin, Laura, & myself be on that committee. If something were to come up tomorrow, we would want to respond to it quickly, & would need an active committee for that.

If anybody else would like to be on that committee, let us know. If you know someone who is not here, let them know.

Diane – That could be done by the SEC via email pretty easily. Has someone answered David Noonan’s request to announce our ballot access?

Wes – I sent him the link to what Laura wrote & what we put on our website. I don’t know if he has done anything with it, but I know he has it.

Laura – this could also go out to an email blast format or repackaged as a press release.

Alfred – I think we need to get the Green Screen updated before we start sending out larger email blasts.

Laura – Getting candidate information is a real high priority for me. At the same time we need to get some kind of fund-raising going & should maybe get the word out about that first, then announce that we are looking for candidates.

Alfred – I say go ahead & release it, but we do want to make sure that candidate screen process is available.

Laura – Who would you want to send it to? All supporters in the database? Media contacts? Would you want it formatted to go out to both of them?

Alfred & Diane – both

Laura – unless there are objections, that is what we will do.

Kevin suggested changing title. It has been changed to “Back on the Ballot,” but the URL remains.

8:49 Transfer of Electronic Communications Access for SEC members

Alfred – It seems like there were several things that need to be transferred over to the new cochairs & such.

Wes – I think I did that on Monday, but I would have to review my emails.

Alfred – It seems like there were a couple things, like making Janis & myself the co-chairs on TXGreens.org

Wes explained the updates that he made, aliases updated, etc.

8:53

Laura – Wes copied me on those emails, but there a bit more floating around. Beyond that, I think we have all the SEC members subscribed to the Slack & have login permissions for Nationbuilder.

Wes – I believe so. If someone doesn’t have access, they need to let me know.
Laura – Beyond the Nationbuilder permissions, I would suggest that someone or maybe more than one member of the SEC take charge of the social media accounts. This might be a larger conversation for later.

Wes – That’s one of the things I would see the media committee doing.

8:57

Alfred – Wes, I believe you said that both Janis & I need to submit financial statements to the state ethics commission?

Wes – Yes

Laura – Any co-chair of a party with ballot access needs to file those. The forms can be easily found on the Texas Ethics Commission’s website. More urgently, we need to file the campaign treasure appointment.

Alfred with work with Don to transfer treasurer permissions & file appropriate forms.

Transfer of Treasurer will take affect at the turn of the month, June/July, 2019

Janis – Does the party treasurer need to file as a campaign treasurer?

Laura – I haven’t checked since 2015 or so.

Janis will call Texas Ethics Commission tomorrow & check with a paralegal.

9:01 Poll of Donors about sharing contact information with GPUS

Wes says GPUS has requested a list of our donors. We need to approval from the donors.

Diane added that GPUS will also send us their list of Texan donors. Amounts will not be included.

Kevin says bylaws include a bit about donor information being shared with GPUS.

Wes says we need to send email to donors advising them of this & requesting their approval.

This should be noted on the site, Finance / Fund-raising committee should do that.

Alfred volunteered for the Committee, Don Palmer did also. Laura says Travis Christal had expressed interest. More volunteers would be welcome.

9:10 Planning for upcoming election year

1) Request for ideas online without criticism; editing comes later
2) What are our organizational mission, vision, goals, and objectives?
3) What ideas above can we do to move towards those things?
Alfred requests we put something on email or slack, brainstorming.

Kevin – candidate screening implies that the party would help candidates more than it has in the past.

We may want to think of ways we can help candidates more, call for people to be campaign treasurers, make sure party members know what offices are available.

Laura – David Collins & I have begun to gather-up resources for this. I absolutely welcome more help.

9:15

Alfred asks if anything else needed to be covered.

Laura suggested using the template for meeting agendas, going forward.

Alfred asked for feedback & assessment of meeting, particularly from those who have not spoken much.

David said it was longer than he expected. Wes said they often go longer, maybe 3½ hours.

Diane thought it went very well, especially considering the amount of information to cover.

Janis said Alfred is doing a great job and is looking forward to working together.

Wes has a couple concerns – GPUS secretary needs to know election results & appointments. Matt will work with Wes to make that happen.

Alfred – minutes will be discussed on Slack & notation on Google doc.

9:23 Meeting ended.

Video link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OUFQ1k56vNS-bDO_Id8jibfTWmtmB3GF/view?usp=sharing