

General Meeting Introduction

Note: the facilitator is not required to read this introduction word for word, however, s/he should attempt to provide enough information to set the tone of the meeting and to ensure that new members are adequately informed.

I. Background

Welcome everyone to the (*this month*) General business meeting of Harris County Green Party. My name is (*name*), and I will be the facilitator of this meeting. (*Name*) will be my co-facilitator.

The Green Party is a non-profit, grass-roots political party dedicated to building a just and sustainable future. We are an alternative to the corporately controlled two-party system.

All of our goals and objectives are based on our Ten Key Values. These are: Ecological Wisdom; Social Justice; Grassroots Democracy; Nonviolence; Decentralization; Community-based Economics; Feminist Values; Respect for Diversity; Personal and Global Responsibility; and Future Focus

The Green Party is not a dues paying organization. Anyone who generally agrees with the 10 Key Values is a welcome member; however, we do ask that you attend at least one meeting before participating in any membership vote.

New members, please sign-up before you leave, and pick up a "New Member Packet" which will provide you with additional information.

II. Meeting Structure

The General meeting is a facilitated meeting. As the facilitator, it is my job to keep us focused on the agenda. My co-facilitator will aid me by keeping the stack. If you wish to participate in the discussion, please raise your hand and we will place you next in the stack to speak. Sometimes issues are brought to the general membership in order to reach a resolution. Whenever there is such a discussion, we strive for consensus. Sometimes you will see people "twinkling" which is a way of showing consent without interrupting the speaker. When it seems that we are reaching consensus, I will ask if there are any "principled objections" or reservations to the motion. If there are none, we will have reached consensus. If there are objections, we may postpone the discussion until the next meeting or we may take a vote on pressing issues. We require a 2/3 majority of voters to pass a resolution.

Typically, the General meeting is a business meeting where we catch up on what is going on in the Green Party. That means that there are lots of announcements and requests for volunteers. The real meat of our work (and fun) is done in the smaller workgroups. We will hear from them later in the meeting, and we will give information on how to get involved. Workgroups is where we work for social and political changes. The second Monday of every month is the Steering Committee meeting where we set the agenda for this meeting; everyone welcome to that meeting, and if you want to get on the agenda, you should speak to one of the Steering Committee members.

III. Introductions of General Membership

Now we will go around the room and briefly introduce ourselves (first and last name only please).