

Green Party of Minnesota  
Coordinating Committee Meeting  
March 11, 2017

DRAFT

**Minutes**

Members present: Brandon Long, Jim Ivey, Andy Schuler, Lena Buggs, Deanna Murphy via skype/conference call

Staff present: Betsy Barnum

Guests present: Amber Garlan, Ben White, Clayton Ternes

**Treasurer's Report**

The decision made last month (made online) to balance the annual budget still needs to be communicated to Julie. The decision was to make up the \$4,113 in projected expenditures that was not covered by projected income, by amending the budget line for "monthly auto deposits" from \$8,311 to \$12,811, an addition of \$4,500. This amount is the goal to raise during three special fundraising drives that will be done in April, July and October. Jim will let Julie know about these changes.

Dee is moving forward with plans for the first phonebank fundraising push in April. She is recruiting people to come to Minneapolis to do it, probably at Dave's Place. Betsy has sent her a file with contact info for volunteers who have indicated they want to phonebank.

**Finance Committee Report**

The budget includes a total of \$800 for expenses related to the winter membership meeting. Since that meeting was not held this year in favor of three regional meetings to help build locals, it was agreed by consensus to give each of the three regions \$260 to help them cover expenses.

**Membership Committee Report**

The 1<sup>st</sup> CD group has been adding people to to the database through their own social media efforts. This is increasing membership in state party as well as their own local.

**Organization Committee Report**

No report.

**Communication Committee Report**

Brandon made an in-kind donation for advertising on Facebook to try to boost the audience. There are now 4,987 "likes" for our page. The GPMN also has 2,608 followers on Twitter and 103 on Instagram. Two emails were sent to our list. There has been no Sunflower Seed as yet for last month.

Andy Schuler is working on graphics for a possible animated video on the order of some being produced by the GP in England.

## **Politics Committee Report**

Brandon has continued meeting with representatives from the Libertarian and Independence parties on shifting state primaries earlier so there is more time for signature gathering to get candidates on the ballot. They will meet with Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer, chair of the elections committee, to discuss a third-party bill that would contain a number of provisions to make ballot access easier for third parties, including reducing the threshold for achieving major party status from 5% to 1% as it is in other states. It may be more effective, some think, to insert these provisions one at a time into other bills rather than trying to pass one bill with all of them.

Litigation is also a possibility regarding the primary date. Brandon will do some publicity regarding this.

Lena is now vice president of the Ramsey County League of Local Governments. She also mentioned that Janice Rettman of St. Paul County Commission may want to step down and encourage Lena to run for her seat. In St. Paul, Elizabeth Dickinson is already getting a lot of attention in the mayoral race.

## **CD Reports**

2<sup>nd</sup> CD: Jim referred one new person to AJ Janssen.

5<sup>th</sup> CD: Betsy reported that Minneapolis Greens have endorsed 3 candidates so far and will have 2 or 3 more screening on March 25. Those endorsed are Cam Gordon for City Council Ward 2, Samantha Pree-Stinson for City Council Ward 3, and Charles Exner for Park Board District 3. All are strong candidates with well-developed platforms and are committed Greens. The next meeting will consider Terry White for Ward 8, Doug Mann for Mayor and possibly another Park Board candidate. The local is also moving forward with strategic planning and has three teams developing plans for outreach/communication, supporting candidates and electeds, and campaign messaging.

6<sup>th</sup> CD: Dee reported that the local is having difficulty meeting due to distance and conflicting schedules. They have considered putting their energy instead into local organizing in their respective communities. Brandon suggested that it's okay for St. Cloud to be the 6<sup>th</sup> CD local for now, until more people are involved and there can be involvement from the other parts of the CD. Brandon raised the question, is the 6<sup>th</sup> CD an officially recognized local now? Dee will talk with Sharon about this.

8<sup>th</sup> CD: There was no report from Itasca Greens. Betsy has been trying without success to make a contact in Duluth willing to organize the third regional meeting there. JT Haines is not interested. Kris Osbakken and Garner Moffatt have not responded. Betsy will keep trying.

**GPUS Report:** No report.

## **Administrator's Report**

Attached.

## **Report on "Road Show" Planning**

Groups in St. Cloud and Winona/Rochester are going well.

The St. Cloud event will be Friday, March 31, on campus. Professors are being asked to give their students class credit to attend—this is done for many campus educational events. Dee will use some of the state money (see Finance Committee Report above) to give \$20 gas cards to presenters who will be coming from a distance to be part of the program.

The Winona/Rochester event will be the weekend of April 29, the week after Earth Day. The theme is “Energize! Organize! Engage!: Planting the Seeds for Grassroots Change.” They are planning a four- or five-hour event including lunch with speakers and workshops from a variety of organizations working on issues that resonate with Green values.

Both these events look likely to attract a good audience and achieve the goals of the CC for the regional focus.

### **Campaign Coordination for 2016 Election**

Brandon created a private Facebook group for endorsed candidates to talk with each other.

Even though the elections this year are local, the CC can help their campaigns. Donating money to the campaigns would be one way to help, but the committee can look at other ways of letting the candidates and the public know that the party stands behind its candidates. In past years the CC has printed and mailed flyers with information on all the endorsed candidates together. Emails and social media promotion of the campaigns can also help.

*It was agreed by consensus to form a coordinated campaign committee.* The committee will be chaired by Lena and Brandon. Dee also volunteered to participate. The committee will find out from the candidates what would help them the most.

Whether to allocate \$500 for the committee will be considered at a later meeting.

### **Summer Meeting**

Due to not wanting to conflict with Pride, which is June 17, the *CC agreed to move the summer meeting to June 24.* The time will be 10-4.

*Lena will find a venue in Minneapolis for the meeting.*

The business for the summer meeting is bylaws changes and electing the at-large CC seats. There is time to recruit people to run for the seats that will be/already are empty. The summer meeting can include workshops or other activities. To be determined.

For a timely process for members to propose bylaw changes, the CC needs to send out the invitation by April 3. That gives one month for members to make proposals, three weeks for the Core Documents Committee to go over them and contact proposers, organize them by topic, etc., so changes that will be considered at the summer meeting can be posted by May 24.

An email blast will be sent by April 3 with a limited postcard mailing to people who are not emailable. This message will include the date and place for the summer meeting.

For the official invitation to the meeting and announcement of proposed by law changes, we will do an email blast and follow up with a postal mailing to those who don't open the email. Betsy will work with Jim to find the least expensive way to do this postal mailing. Andy S. will design the postcard.

### **Social Media focus**

Betsy said she has been hearing from more than one quarter that some people see our communications as being too focused on bashing the Democratic Party.

Brandon pointed out that the email about Keith Ellison not being elected to head the DNC got 11 times the number of views as the one about our three endorsed candidates in Minneapolis. Many people are tuned in to the Democratic Party not serving its base, and those are people who are waking up. The newsletter, on the other hand, is always about the Green Party, and a substantial number of social media posts are also. They perhaps don't get as much notice.

The CC feels that our media presence has a healthy balance.

### **FEC Committee**

Brandon will bring this back to the CC at a later date if it looks like something beneficial.

### **Volunteer Proposal**

Betsy proposed a process to engage people coming into the GP through NationBuilder who are indicating they want to volunteer. Part of the proposal is that the CC devote some effort to recruiting a volunteer who can be a volunteer coordinator for the time being, until there is enough money coming in to make it a paid position. Names will be considered at the next meeting.

Meanwhile, Betsy will get the process going. She will send a letter to all those who have clicked "volunteer" when they joined the party on the website in the past four months or so—about 70 people. The letter will include contact info, so they can contact someone about the kind of volunteer work they want to do. In addition, she will send Jim a reworded automatic response that people from now on will get when they say on the website that they want to volunteer. The new response will also contain the contact info for the different volunteer gigs.