

Green Party of Minnesota Coordinating Committee Meeting

April 8, 2017

APPROVED Minutes

Members present: Lena Buggs, Andy Hamerlinck, Deanna Murphy, Andy Schuler
Staff present: Betsy Barnum
Guests present: Juniper Murphy

Treasurer's Report

Betsy did not print the budget comparison so it could not be determined if expenditures are outpacing income or if the CC is meeting its budget. Hereafter the budget comparison will be printed for each CC meeting.

Finance Committee Report

Deanna is organizing a phonebank April 28 with a goal of raising sustaining donations by \$125 per month. It will be held in the CC meeting room at 6 pm and people will bring their own cell phone and laptop. Jim will be asked to be there as well, since he is familiar with CallHub and the database in NationBuilder. Andy H. will write a script for callers to use. Fundraising events have \$188 in the annual budget so pizza can be provided for callers. After this event, phonebanks may be able to be done by volunteers calling from home. This first one will be debriefed to make sure the process was good and resolve any issues that came up. The CC will hold a special meeting Saturday, April 22, at 10 am at 4200 Cedar to make a fundraising plan to be able to increase Betsy's hours from 8 to 12 per week. Betsy will send everyone the budget comparison from Julie Madden for the first three months of 2017.

Membership Committee Report

No report.

Organization Committee Report

Andy is putting together a document that tracks the alternative parties, so we can decide whether and how much to pursue connections with them. In the Twin Cities, the number of parties with Socialist in their name is making it necessary to know how they operate, how they differ and whether they are interested in having any relationship with us. The GP is also working with Ken Pentel on proportional representation.

Communication Committee Report

No official report. The CC discussed the potential of using local cable access to run videos of candidates or of events like the St. Cloud forum which was video recorded. Deanna will research this, find out if political parties can put shows on, and whether we can plug our candidates into this medium.

Politics Committee Report

Lena talked with Raeisha Williams, candidate for Minneapolis City Council in Ward 5, about Williams's plan to run as a DFL candidate. Samantha Pree-Stinson had a similar conversation with Nekima Levy-Pounds, who is running for Mayor. Williams and Levy-Pounds had a press conference on the day of DFL precinct caucuses to announce their decision not to seek DFL endorsement but rather a

“People’s Endorsement.” They both stated they are still DFL candidates and they are not seeking Green endorsement.

Two or three Soil and Water board seats in Ramsey County will be up for election next year. There may be a special election in November for a board member who is resigning if the board does not agree on making an appointment. The GP should see if we have any potential candidates for the special election in that district.

CD Reports

2nd CD: Paula Overby wants to run as a true independent candidate for US House. She would not put a party on the ballot but would seek endorsement from the GP and the other alternative parties. The CC may talk to her about being the Green statewide candidate next year.

4th CD: Elizabeth Dickinson needs a campaign manager. Doorknocking is under way. Lena is Elizabeth’s volunteer coordinator.

5th CD: Two new potential candidates have come forward interested in running for Park Board in Districts 1 and 6. There will be an endorsing meeting sometime in May to consider them. If they are endorsed it would bring the Green field in Minneapolis to 7. Some of the candidates are off and running; the steering committee is struggling somewhat to support those who are less skilled at campaigning.

6th CD: The local is official. Because of the difficulty of having meetings, the 6th CD local may meet only once a year while Deanna puts her effort into forming a St. Cloud local with a core of 5 or 6 who are interested. The St. Cloud local could function as the 6th CD local for now, if the St. Cloud group is okay with it. Deanna will call a meeting to discuss this, and Andy H would like to be included and would use the NB database to invite people in St. Cloud.

8th CD: The Itasca County local has disbanded.

Jim Rittenauer of Milaca has contacted the CC with his interest in running for state House as a Green in 2018. He has run as a DFL candidate before and was unhappy with how he was treated.

In the absence of enough interest in Duluth in setting up a regional event, the CC will organize an event and facilitate it, using our data lists to invite people. A subcommittee should form with Andy H and Betsy, perhaps Jim Rittenauer, to see whether he wants to be involved.

Administrator’s Report

The CC agreed by consensus to extend Betsy’s contract for another six months, continuing at 8 hours per week.

Coordinated Campaign Committee

A mailer featuring all of our endorsed candidates could be sent out. We can use the checkoff funds for this, which total \$1,800 and tax season is not quite over yet so it could grow.

Annual Meeting

Lena is narrowing down locations to, probably, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church.

There is a budget of \$800 for food and \$500 for space, which will be free.

Agenda for this meeting will focus on bylaw changes, election of four or five at-large CC reps, and election of two GPUS delegate/alternate pairs, or four people to these seats. Andy Schuler and Sharon LeMay have one more year in their terms.

Betsy has put a notice inviting submissions of bylaw change proposals on the Bylaws page of the website. She would like to have something on the front page so people know it's there, as well as some social media messaging about this. There will not be a postcard on this, but the CC may decide to send a postcard 30 days before the meeting with info on place, time and agenda as well as a pointer to where people can look at the proposals that will be considered at the meeting.

Database Sharing Agreement

Postponed to the next meeting. No one has been able to locate an example or template to use.

Strategy for 2018 Election

The CC is generally supportive of the Purple Movement, the idea of having smaller parties each take one statewide office (excluding governor) and agree to run a candidate only in that office, so each party has a better chance of achieving 5% or at least 1%. Andy H will call Paula Overby to ask her what next concrete steps are for deciding which party gets which office. Brandon has been meeting with representatives of the other alternative parties. When these meetings happen, Deanna would like to be involved.

Winona/Rochester Greens

The CC approved by consensus paying \$150 for the W/R GP to participate in the Rochester EarthFest with the Southeast Minnesota Peace Alliance.

Miscellaneous

An additional \$27.50 for an unexpected tech fee for the St. Cloud event was also approved.

Democracy Convention

David Cobb, who is involved in this Liberty Tree Foundation event happening at the University of Minnesota in August, suggests that the GPMN might want to be part of the host committee. It is nonpartisan. Betsy will find out from David what being on the host committee involves and whether our candidates could participate.