

Green Party of Minnesota
Coordinating Committee Meeting
August 12,2017

Minutes
APPROVED

Members present: Jim Ivey, Brandon Long, Andy Hamerlinck, Addy Free, Brian Mueller (skype), Deanna Murphy (skype)
Guests present: Paula Overby, Adam Schneider
Staff present: Betsy Barnum

July minutes approved.

Finance/Treasurer's Report

Recent donations using PCRCP are not broken out but have been significant. Fundraising emails have been going out and getting good response. A definite plan to raise sustaining donations enough to support the administrator position is needed. Brian, now Finance chair, will work on a budget for next year by the September meeting.

Membership Report

Some volunteers who were helping to clean up the database have stopped, so a few more are needed. Volunteers who have helped received thank-you notes.

GPUS is looking into whether a national NationBuilder could help states and campaigns save money, versus each state and campaign having its own NB account. Jim will report on this at the next meeting.

Organization Report

Nothing to report. All effort going into the State Fair booth.

Communication Report

Social media statistics: FB 5,180; Twitter 2,803; Instagram 137.
Sunflower Seed newsletter will go out soon.
Addy and Brian are working on a way to track the effectiveness of emails and other contacts. Website analysis has been done for the first time to track number of users and sessions. Desktop users go to the website more often than mobile users, and also donate more.
We could use the newsletter to invite volunteers for specific projects.

Politics Committee

Paula, who is now Samantha's campaign manager, has met with Chris Grey, Ginger Jentzen's campaign manager, to iron out perceptions of friction between the campaigns for Minneapolis City Council Ward 3.

A discussion about the relationship between the “left” parties should be part of the September CC agenda.

1st CD

The 1st CD leadership is talking with Paula about launching her campaign in Winona. There has been good media coverage of Green events there in the past.

4th CD

Elizabeth Dickinson received endorsement of Women Winning. She turned down their check. Signatures were turned in to get her on the ballot.

5th CD

The fundraiser held July 29 was successful. A membership meeting is planned for Sept. 16. Open Streets Franklin will have a table for Cam and Charles.

6th CD

The state party can help with the cost of reserving a room for a kick-off meeting in St. Cloud to start a local. The Health Care Caucus has been reaching out to members in the 6th CD to meet with Rep. Tom Emmer. This could generate some names to invite to the local formation meeting. Ken Pentel has said he may be able to come.

8th CD

Paula may go to Duluth Aug. 19 to meet with Catherine Wegner.

GPUS

No major proposals right now.

State Fair

Seven shifts still need to be filled.

New banners and trifold brochure are ready to print.

Mike Whalen and Andy Hamerlinck will set up and take down the booth.

Coordinated Campaign

Rules for check-off fund do not allow candidate-specific mailings for local campaigns, only state-level offices. We can use check-off money for many things we don't use it for, however, such as the banners and brochures for the state fair booth. We can also use it for membership meetings. We should get an opinion from the Campaign Finance Board for each specific expenditure to make sure.

What we could do:

- Support efforts that are “party-building” to help CD local growth.
- Spend from the regular bank account for a GOTV mailer. 5th CD local can split cost. A budget and proposal for the project will be submitted next month. A graphic designer needs to be found also
- Sunflower can do articles about each candidate.

Dee will check on GPUS Outreach Committee's ability to help with money for local candidates.

PAC Proposal

Approved by consensus to set up a committee to discuss and develop a process for deciding whether we need to revise our Constitution to clarify the policy. Andy and Deanna will be on the committee. The next Seed will include an invitation to members to participate on the committee.

The focus will be on how to do a better job of educating members and ourselves about what our policy is and what PACs we do not allow to donate, and whether there are any that we can accept money from. It is also important to be clear with potential candidates from the start so the policy appears on screening forms. The committee's work will include reaching out to David Schultz, our attorney, who is a national expert on campaign finance.

2018 Strategy Follow-Up

Betsy will resend to Brandon the list of people who signed up to continue the conversation from the annual meeting.

Paula requested access to database without waiting until the official endorsing meeting next year. A policy on allowing not-yet-endorsed candidates to use data will be presented at the next CC meeting. Brian, Jim, Brandon and Addy will work on this. A modified data-sharing agreement will also need to be developed.

Youth Member Election

The policy on youth member election in the CC policies was modified to allow election of a new youth member at any time during the term. Kashish Jain was then elected to fill the last month of the current term, and will be elected next month as the policy calls for, to a full one-year term as the youth member.

Intern Project

The project has been listed at Macalester but there have been no applicants. It would be good to list the GP with other local colleges and universities as an intern opportunity.

Travel Reimbursement

There is currently no provision in GP core documents for a mileage reimbursement for CC members who must travel a distance to attend meetings. The fundraising committee will add this to the budget, using standard mileage rates for government.

Plan CC Meeting Outside Metro

Deanna will check on availability of a room at the regional library in St. Cloud for Oct. 14 or Nov. 11.

Biennial Convention 2018

The tentative date will be March 24. Even though our core documents say within 10 days of the summer solstice, this date is more in keeping with the political process for making endorsement decisions next year. Caucuses are Feb. 6, and the filing deadline is in May.

A location will be chosen later.

Web Hosting

Jim and Andy Exley are looking at options for a different host as the state party takes over responsibility for paying the costs. They will report next month.

Health Care Caucus Web page

Brian, Jim and Addy will brainstorm on how to create a place within mngreens.org for the caucus. Brian can build the page for them when they let him know what they want on it, and identify their purpose. The CC will determine what the cost will be, both to locals and to caucuses that have sites within the GPMN website. So far they are not being charged.

Request for Comment on New Presidential Primary Rules

Jim will write up a brief comment to send outlining how the considerations for the primary system leave third parties out.

Association for Black Economic Power

Addy will check with Julie to see if we can pledge that we will move the check-off fund from Highland Bank to the new credit union when it opens. Right now they need pledges to meet requirements for establishing the credit union. Addy will bring a proposal to move the check-off fund to next month's meeting.