

Green Party of Minnesota
Coordinating Committee Meeting
September 9, 2017

Minutes
APPROVED

Members present: Jim Ivey, Brandon Long, Andy Hamerlinck, Brian Mueller (skype), Deanna Murphy (skype)

Guests present: Adam Schneider

Staff present: Betsy Barnum

August minutes approved.

Finance/Treasurer's Report

There has been no significant change in sustaining donations.

Brian would like to simplify the budget with fewer breakout items and streamlining the budget. He will talk with Julie about shifting the staff compensation items to the office category.

Brian will give CC area chairs a due date for submitting budget requests for the timeline of budget approval for next year at the December CC meeting.

The CC will use the IRS's mileage amount for reimbursing travel expenses as specified in the core documents. The amount is \$.53 per mile.

Proposal: Reimburse Deanna for \$184.17, the cost of the rental car she used to get to St. Paul to the state fair, where she worked in the booth on four days. Deanna will email the receipt to Julie.

Passed by consensus.

Deanna also spent about \$180 on a car to travel to the Democracy Convention, where she staffed the table shared by GPUS and GPMN. She will apply to the GPUS Outreach Committee for reimbursement for that expense.

Proposal: Betsy count the extra hours she put in on the state fair booth as comp time to offset hours during her upcoming vacation. **Passed by consensus.**

Membership Report

All candidates have submitted data-sharing agreements.

Proposal: The CC should buy SoS voter information lists, at a cost of \$45-50 twice a year. Begin by getting it now, and hereafter purchase it in January and July of each year. This would allow us to keep the database updated and make it more useful to candidates. The information is

registered voters and which elections they have voted in. Since Minnesota is a non-party registration state, there is no information on which party anyone voted for. **Approved by consensus.**

Organization Report

Nothing to report. All effort has been going into the State Fair booth and aftermath.

Communication Report

Social media stats: 5,185 on Facebook, 2,813 on Twitter, 140 on Instagram, showing a steady increase in each.

Sunflower Seed was sent out.

Two more emails are planned to solicit donations via PCRFP.

Politics Committee

Nothing to report.

1st CD

Brother Ali is speaking soon at Winona State. Brian will go and connect with students there.

A packet of trifold brochures will be mailed to Brian and also to Deanna to use at this and other events.

4th CD

The 4th CD will have its regular monthly meeting this month, and thereafter through the election will do action days for Elizabeth instead of membership meetings.

Elizabeth received the endorsement of Clean Water Action.

5th CD

Issues between Socialist Alternative and Samantha's campaign remain somewhat of a problem. SA approached Jill Stein and a Green candidate for New York City Council, Jabari Brisport, to complain that Sam will not say "vote Ginger second" even though Ginger is saying "vote Sam second." Their effort to get Brisport to endorse Ginger was not successful. GPUS is aware of a difficulty between the campaigns and is not intervening. (For further information see "**Left Parties**" item below.)

Charles filed his pre-primary campaign finance report and no fine was assessed.

6th CD

Several new young people signed up at the state fair from Forest Lake and Stillwater. Deanna plans to have a discussion with them via Skype.

8th CD

Paula is talking with Katherine Wegner to find a time to meet.

GPUS

No major proposals right now.

State Fair

The CC needs to do a thorough examination of the booth and significant revamping as we have done more or less the same thing for many years. This year, there have been feelings from many that it needs to be done differently to be worth the \$1,200 rent and significant volunteer investment.

There were some rough spots in the volunteer recruitment process this year. Signup.com does not have space for a mailing address so some people could not be mailed their free ticket. It is uncertain whether it automatically generated an email reminder as it is supposed to do. Some volunteers dropped out without returning their tickets, some did not show up. This is not unusual. Betsy worked two shifts where no one had signed up or the person who was coming couldn't make it due to car trouble.

How best to handle volunteer recruitment needs to be thoroughly discussed and decided well before next summer.

Booth design also needs more planning to take more visual advantage of the sightlines people have as they walk toward it. Some have suggested having an outdoor booth, and this should be researched again as to cost and requirements. For outdoor locations a booth needs to be constructed, set up, taken down and stored for 50 weeks of the year.

Two decisions need to be made at the next meeting if not before.

One: Do we want to continue with the booth? The mailing will come from the state fair very shortly asking us to commit. Betsy will put a note on Slack when it arrives and what the deadline is for committing.

Two: We need to plan comprehensively starting now. A committee needs to be formed that will come to the CC with proposals for location, booth design, whether to sell merchandise, volunteer recruitment and training, etc.

Committee: Deanna is willing to be on it. Adam volunteered and indicated his certainty that Kashish would also. Dee will set up a skype meeting with Adam and Kashish.

“Left parties”

The GPMN has been working on building relationships with other so-called “left” parties for several months. GPUS has as well (note the “LeftElect” panel at the Democracy Convention that was moderated by Deanna and had Paula on the panel). We have sent letters, attended events and even joined some of the socialist parties with presences here, Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and Socialist Party of the USA (SPUSA).

Having a Green candidate running against an Socialist Alternative candidate (Sam and Ginger) has made relations with SA complicated. The CC will follow up with SA after the election.

Data-sharing with candidates who are not endorsed

This comes up because Paula asked last month about getting access to voter information in order to campaign for the Green endorsement.

We also have three people so far who have indicated interest in running for governor as Greens. None of them have asked for data but we need a process for screening them.

Jim researched what other parties do and presented two different models. Progressive Dane, in Madison, WI (group of Greens and progressive Democrats) endorses with a small group of leaders rather than the membership. Once this is done, the candidate has access to their database. The DFL in MN requires that a prospective candidate pay \$500 and sign a data-sharing form.

One possible approach is pre-screening, using an adaptation of the existing process the CC uses when it endorses candidates who have no local to endorse them. After some discussion, it was felt that pre-screening with a purpose of keeping any interested person from coming before the membership seeking endorsement for statewide office would not be in keeping with the pillar of grassroots democracy. So pre-screening would only be used to determine access to the database before endorsement. It could also give the candidate access to being profiled in the e-newsletter and other publicity advantages.

Andy H will draft a proposal on a pre-screening process for database access. Since Paula is eager to get started, this needs to be done before the next meeting so it will be an email vote, within the next week. Once the process has been approved, the CC can set a date with Paula to do the pre-screening.

Coordinated Campaign

Proposal: The CC will allocate \$250 to the 4th CD and \$250 to the 5th CD to support their candidates' campaign efforts. The CC can't use the checkoff funds to support local campaigns, even if more than 3 candidates are featured. So the \$500 comes out of the general fund.

Approved by consensus.

PAC Proposal

Daivd Schultz is willing to do a talk to membership about PACs, with a focus on the issues that have caused recent controversy. This will be Oct. 23. It will be recorded for those who can't attend. There will be followup meetings in November with interested members.

Election for Youth Seat

Kashish Jain was elected to a full one-year term starting next month. (Kashish was missing this month due to taking the ACT.)

Youth caucus

Deanna would like to start a youth caucus in Minnesota. The Youth Caucus is strong on the national level. The requirements for a youth caucus would be the same as those for the recently formed Health Care Caucus.

Kickoff for black and brown caucus

Ajamu Baraka has been in contact with Samantha and his visit is planned for Oct. 14 at Nekima Levy-Pounds' office. Sam is arranging panelists. Baraka will be the keynote speaker.

Proposal: Spend \$300 for chair rental for event and food. **Approved by consensus.**

Checkoff funds

There will be a discussion on Slack to clarify what this money can be used for. There has been some confusion on interpreting the CFB information.