

Green Party of Minnesota  
Coordinating Committee Meeting  
November 11,2017

Minutes  
APPROVED

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

Guests present: Yan Chen

Staff present: Betsy Barnum

September minutes approved.

**Finance/Treasurer's Report**

Brian submitted a proposed budget for next year reflecting the need to raise \$3,300 over this year's income to stay in the black next year. The bank account is currently okay, but it was agreed to do a year-end funding push. Since this may be our last chance to push PCR, that will be the focus of the appeal, focusing on the huge inflows of money in the recent local elections in both cities. Jim will setup CallHub in case any phoning can be done to follow up.

To stabilize the party financially, Betsy and Brian proposed creation of a permanent (rather than ad hoc as we have been doing) fundraising committee made up of people who are not on the CC or otherwise already volunteering significantly for the party. The committee would develop a fundraising plan with concrete goals, a clear plan for how to meet them, and organize phonebanks, events, email appeals and other means of raising money, especially raising sustaining donations.

Betsy suggested recruiting a chair for this committee from among people we know who have fundraising experience or do it for their job, even if they aren't Green. The committee members can be recruited from our lists of people who want to volunteer.

By next month, Betsy and Brian will assemble this committee and propose its duties. The CC will determine when to ask for a completed plan. Betsy will be point person for the committee.

**Membership Committee**

As campaigns submit data back to the state party, Jim is making sure it gets entered. Terry has already submitted his. Elizabeth and LaTrisha both used NationBuilder, so connecting with their data will be easy.

As we do more phonebanking and, in future campaigns, if there is any robo-calling, it will be important to distinguish to the extent possible between landlines and mobile phones so we are

not violating anyone's "do not call" request. We will start by flagging everyone who has "opted-in" and build the reliability of the database.

### **Organization Committee**

The annual fall CC retreat will be Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 am-1 pm at Betsy's house. The purpose is to set up the calendar for next year, goals for each committee, and discuss the budget so it can be quickly approved at the December meeting. Andy H work with Betsy on an agenda.

### **Communication Committee**

Twitter 2,852; FB 5,198; Instagram 148

Sunflower has not gone out for two months, due to election involvement.

Media hits for our candidates have been excellent for Elizabeth and Paula in Winona.

The Communications Committee could use a group to do some of the tasks now being done by Brian. Pulling together the Sunflower Seed is a good example. Brandon does hope to involve the person who designed the new banners. Brian and Betsy may be able to include this in their calling for the fundraising committee.

### **Politics Committee**

Election wrap-up: Greens kept the council seat of Cam Gordon in Ward 2 Minneapolis, won a park board at-large with LaTrisha Vetaw, who will essentially replace retiring Annie Young as the Green on the Park Board.

Plans for running statewide candidates: The CC favors Paula as our one statewide candidate for 2018. Anyone who wants to seek GP endorsement for any office may indicate their interest and screen, and if the membership wants to endorse, they can. The CC is not preventing this, only recommending that the party follow the Purple Movement strategy for its potential of achieving major party status for the Green Party of Minnesota. Deanna stated her disagreement with this plan and said she will consider whether to step down as Politics Chair in light of this disagreement.

For next year: It is not too soon to start researching the State Senate and House seats where the incumbents will be running unopposed. We may need to develop a firm strategy for recruiting candidates for state legislature, county commissions, soil and water boards and other offices that are up next year.

### **CD Reports**

1st CD: Paula's campaign launch will take place Nov. 15 in Winona. Winona Greens are inviting groups to table.

Good buzz happening around Paula. A media release in the metro area should be done to get some coverage.

4<sup>th</sup> CD: Strategic planning is coming up. The local is considering changing up its format of monthly business meetings to have occasional social or speaker meetings.

5<sup>th</sup> CD: Membership meeting is being planned in January. Recruiting some of the candidates who just ran and their campaign teams to the steering committee.

6<sup>th</sup> CD: Deanna starts grad school in January, plans to resurrect campus greens with grad students..

### **GPUS Report**

The GPMN has 2 seats on the national's Ballot Access committee, which works to ensure that GP candidates are on the ballot in all 50 states. Amber Garlan and Yan Chen have volunteered. Brandon will send in their names to make it official.

David Cobb has reached out to generate interest in scheduling a Movement School for Revolutionaries in Minnesota. The national Outreach Committee may be able to help with funding. Deanna will ask David to submit a proposal with timeline and budget before the CC retreat Dec. 2 for consideration on the calendar.

### **Betsy's contract.**

CC approval of a one-year extension happened via email before the previous contract expired on Oct. 31. Betsy will make the date change and print new copies for Brandon's signature.

### **Office space**

Betsy has found that office space will cost at least double what we are now paying and probably more. She is looking at co-working options, including one that would make GPMN the anchor tenant in a co-working space (currently the office of the GOP in Seward). The space we need has to include a meeting room or access to space to conduct phonebanks and meetings.

The fundraising plan needs to include goals that would enable an office move as soon as possible.

For the time being, Betsy will check with Scott and Rebecca Cramer of Northern Sun, where GP phonebanks have been done in the past.

### **Group video call technology**

Skype has the best options so far. Dee, Brandon, and Jim will pick a night to practice and see how it works.

## **State Fair booth**

Andy H Met with Adam Schneider to discuss the space. They propose that we request a change from our current space to the Eco building (first choice), the Education building (2<sup>nd</sup> choice) or downstairs in the Grandstand (third choice).

*Proposal: Commit to doing state fair.*

*Agree to apply to shift locations.*

*Approved by consensus.*

*Betsy will return the form with our 3 ranked choices for new space.*

Our current license allows us to sell a variety of things. Whether to do that, and what, will be decided later by the committee as they also come up with new messages and design for the booth.

## **PACs group**

David Schultz's educational talk about money in politics drew 8-10 people. Minnesota has good laws requiring reporting of PAC donations so it is clear who the money is coming from.

Andy will schedule a meeting to explain all this and summarize David's points on PACs. Members who come can offer their thoughts on what the committee should recommend to address the questions about PAC money that have been arising recently. One possibility is a simple change to the GPMN Constitution distinguishing between PACs that have money from corporations and PACs whose money does not come from corporations. Other ideas may also be brought in to the conversation.

## **Scott Raskiewicz**

Betsy will call him.

## **Annual meeting**

Caucuses are Feb. 6. We are not required to hold them. Do we want to have caucuses, a membership meeting on January 27 somewhere in the metro, or both?

Brandon will put a poll on the website asking members which they would prefer. Jim will follow up with Paula to see her views on not having caucuses since she is the statewide candidate seeking endorsement.

The CC will decide via email by Nov. 23 whether to do caucuses or a membership meeting.

## **Black and Brown Caucus Kickoff**

Discussion tabled to when Samantha is here.

**Nonviolence Pledge**

Approved by consensus to sign on to the peace activists' pledge to use nonviolent tactics in all public actions and demonstrations.

**Next meeting**

Next meeting will be at Macalester in the Campus Center. We don't have to pay if we take our chances on a room being open when we get there.