

Green Party of Minnesota
Coordinating Committee Meeting
December 9, 2017

Minutes
APPROVED

Members present: Brandon Long, Brian Mueller, Samantha Pree-Stinson (skype), Kashish Jain (skype), Andy Schuler
Staff present: Betsy Barnum
Guest: Adam Schneider

November minutes approved.

Committee Reports

Finance/Treasurer

Spending was somewhat lower than income in November, but overall we are still falling short of our budgeted needs. Betsy and Brian have been working on assembling a fundraising committee to develop and implement a plan for 2018 to increase donations, both sustaining and one-time.

We received some good advice from Joe Kolar about major donor stewardship. Betsy will get names of major donors to Brandon so he can call them for thanks. Betsy will contact Joe to see if he would like to help us with the fundraising committee and plan.

Membership

No report.

Organization

The Organization Committee will be disbanded and an Outreach Committee created in its place. The formal approval of this change will be on the January agenda.

Communication

Social media statistics: Facebook followers 5,261; Twitter 2,889; Instagram 151.

A graphics volunteer made an animated version of Andy S's meme on proportional representation.

A press release was issued in the names of the chairs of the Green, Libertarian and Independence parties urging Gov. Dayton to appoint a person of color from one of the smaller parties to Al Franken's seat when he resigns. This got some media coverage.

The Seed newsletter has not been published since June/July. Getting back on track is a goal for 2018. Sam and Brandon will meet to tighten the structure of the committee. One idea is to focus

more on what our electeds, Cam and LaTrisha, are doing in positive ways. A regular livestream or podcast of an interview with a Green or supporter is another possibility.

Politics

Andy H will contact the five people who have expressed interest in running for governor as a Green—Gil, Loner Blue, Scott Raskewicz, Trahern Crews, Thomas Harens—to let them know of our process for endorsement.

CD Reports

CD 1: Paula was happy with media coverage of her campaign launch in Winona. Her website now reflects more Green values and content.

The 1st District is working on local outreach in Winona to engage people more.

CD 4: Plans include fewer business meetings and more social meetings to get new people involved. The focus is on recruiting candidates for soil and water, working on \$15Now and police insurance.

CD 5: A membership meeting will be held Jan. 6 with Steering Committee elections and strategic planning. Megan Kuhl-Stennes has announced her candidacy for Hennepin County Commission, District 4.

Andy S wants to educate Golden Valley on proportional representation, since some people won the recent council races with less than 30% of the vote.

CD 6: no report.

CD 8: Brandon will contact JT Haines in Duluth (Andy Dawkins' campaign manager in 2014) to talk about how to find others in Duluth to revive the local there.

GPUS report: According to Jody Grage of GPUS, our current GPUS delegates are Deanna, Andy S and Josh Miller. Our current alternates are Tim Nolan and Barb Huning. Thao Xiong is listed as “retired alternate.” All of these except Andy S were elected last summer. This means we need to elect one to replace Thao. Betsy will contact Josh and Tim to see if they are still involved. If Josh is not, his alternate should step in now to represent us in GPUS decisions. Next summer we will need to elect one delegate-alternate pair for a two-year term, and replace any others that are inactive at that time.

Superbowl protest

A group called Justice League of NYC asked for support of their planned Superbowl protest. Betsy will try to find out what kind of involvement they are looking for. Meanwhile, the CC felt that the GP would do better to work with local groups who are planning actions. There was interest in working with the transit union on its plans, possibly a strike during the Superbowl, as well as in protest of the decision to limit LRT to people with Superbowl tickets on that day.

Sam will check with a group of black activists, organizers and faith-based folks who are meeting weekly to see if they have plans for the Superbowl and to see what they know about the Justice League NYC.

Brandon will contact the transit union about how we could support them.

Budget

A 2018 budget (Proposal #4 on Brian's document) was adopted by consensus. It reflects a significant increase in funding over this year, including doubling sustaining donations. The additional amount will go to increasing administrative hours from 8 to 10 per month, and upping the amount available for rent so the office can move to an accessible location. NationBuilder monthly fees may double from \$135 to \$268.

The Sunflower newspaper was removed from the budget, as it has not been produced for several years. NationBuilder may double.

Andy S will look into how much ads on videos could generate. He will bring proposal for this if it looks worthwhile.

Meeting or Caucuses

Having a membership meeting instead of caucuses was approved by consensus. The date of Jan. 27 had already been decided.

The agenda will include:

Opening the platform revision process, which would happen at caucuses

CC and GPUS elections for interim seats

Presentations from our electeds, Cam and LaTrisha

Theater of Public Policy (Brandon and Sam both know members of the group)

Tabling by groups we invite, such as \$15Now, Physicians for a National Health Plan, Land Stewardship Project (re: fracking ban in Winona), with time for a brief pitch from them and the possibility of connecting these issues with the Theater for Public Policy improv performance.

Brandon will make arrangements with TPP.

Brian will contact LSP, Brandon will contact 15Now.

Betsy will find a place where we can either have a potluck or bring in food.

Black/Brown Caucus kick-off

The kick-off event where Ajamu Baraka was keynote speaker was a success. The group is planning its second meeting and will pursue meeting the requirements to become a recognized issue caucus of the GPMN. The caucus group is already becoming known in the community, with people calling to ask for its involvement in issues. One example is the Minneapolis School Board's plan to eliminate the Office of Male Achievement.

Movement School for Revolutionaries

The GPMN has other priorities right now and won't be able to fully sponsor this event but would publicize it and invite Greens if one is planned here. Rose Brewer, a professor at the U of M, is part of the team that delivers these workshops, and she may be planning one for the spring.

Next Meeting

The next (Jan. 13) and following meetings will take place at 4200 Cedar. The time will remain the same, 1:30-4:30 pm. Betsy will make sure the internet is working so we can skype distant members in.