

Green Party of Minnesota  
Coordinating Committee Meeting  
February 10, 2018

Minutes  
APPROVED

Members present: Andy Hamerlinck, Andy Schuler, Yan Chen, Brian Mueller (skype), Dee Murphy

Guests present: Bruce Sikkema, Adam Schneider, Trahern Crews

Staff present: Betsy Barnum

Agenda approved.

Minutes from Jan. 13 meeting approved.

**Treasurers report**

Income: \$2,140. Expenditures: \$1,027. The expenses for rent, staff and cost of the winter meeting are not reflected (\$1,029). With those included, total expenditures are \$2,056. Ending balance \$2,868.

**Finance Committee**

Betsy will ask Julie about the history of what comes in via checkoff funds for the past few years.

As the party moves forward into more intentional and planned fundraising, it will also be important to ask for more detailed reporting of donations by how they came in, e.g. during a fundraising appeal at a meeting, after an email blast, at a fundraising event, etc.

**Membership Support Committee**

NationBuilder has recently switched GPMN from the “Organization” level to the “Leader” level, which a loss of some functionality. We have been grandfathered as an Organization at the lower fee for several years, and now must pay twice as much for these services (\$268 per month vs. \$135 per month). This increase was not figured into the budget for 2018 passed last month.

A proposal should be brought next month to determine the level of NationBuilder to pay for. Returning to the Organization level will require an additional proposal as to how to raise the \$1,600 per year to cover it. Possibilities mentioned include charging the locals who use NB for their websites \$20 to \$30 per month, and making a special fundraising appeal.

Betsy will ask Jim to send a letter to the locals to test their willingness to pay for the website hosting.

**Outreach Committee**

No report.

### **Communications Committee**

A meeting was held last month to involve more volunteers in communication work. Sunflower Seed was sent out last week. A #Metoo statement was posted on the website and social media with Green Party women commenting on sexual harrssment.

Andy Schuler is still working on an animated video about the history of the Green Party.

### **Politics Committee**

A deadline of Feb. 15 was set for prospective statewide office candidates to submit their response to the screening questionnaire. So far, only Paula Overby has submitted it. There are three others, all of whom have expressed interest in running for Governor. Trahern Crews said he does intend to submit the questionnaire. None of the others have.

All who submit the questionnaire and are present at the Biennial Convention on March 24 will have the opportunity to be endorsed. This decision will be made by the members who come to the convention and vote.

Dee questioned what looked to her like favoritism in some candidates in 2017 getting more social media exposure than others. She also questioned the amount of social media exposure being given to Paula who is unendorsed. A policy on equity in how the state party features candidates in any election cycle could be needed.

There was also a suggestion that any time a public statement for the party is released, it should be seen and discussed by the CC. This policy proposal can also be brought to a future meeting for consideration.

### **Congressional District Locals Report**

#1: New members have come to meetings with new ideas, such as a local arts scene podcast sponsored by Green Party of Winona County. John Bell has submitted his screening questionnaire to seek endorsement for Congress in the 1<sup>st</sup> CD. Winona LaDuke was in town on Wed. and will be celebrating her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in Winona in August 2019.

#4: Insure the Police will be held tomorrow, with Michelle Gross from Communities United Against Police Brutality. A social gathering is being planned in March. The 4<sup>th</sup> ward City Council seat in St. Paul is open, but no candidates have stepped forward so far. Public comments are being sought on a Use of Force Policy by St. Paul Police Department.

#5: Two candidates want to screen for local office. A screening committee will be chosen on Feb. 24, followed by an endorsing meeting on April 14. Andy S attended the DFL precinct caucus in his neighborhood in Golden Valley, and his resolution on Proportional Representation passed by a 90% majority.

#6: There was a discussion meeting in early February. Dee stated that she will not resign from the CC if Paula gets the endorsement, as she had previously said.

#7: Jed Bendix is continuing to organize a local in Willmar.

## **GPUS Report**

Dee will contact Josh Miller and Tim Nolan to see if they still want to be involved. Both were elected last summer.

## **Introduction of new CC members**

Wendy Thoren, Yan Chen and Chelsea Palmer were elected to the CC at the Winter Membership Meeting to fill out the last 6 months of terms that will conclude in June 2018.

Betsy will find out how to get their email addresses added to the CC email list, and to get them access to the GPMNCC area of GoogleDrive. They will also be added to Slack.

## **Winter membership meeting recap**

- Forty-five people attended (estimate—will find exact number)
- Venue received mixed reviews, overall positive for being unique and possibly leading to a relationship between the GPMN and MTN.
- The Danger Boat improv comedy received mixed reviews. Comedy was refreshing, different, and the way they listened to small groups first got members talking with each other and thinking about where we are strong. Some felt it was too focused on entertainment and not enough on education.
- Betsy will ask Samantha for a copy of the video that MTN recorded of the meeting.
- Fundraising exceeded goals by several times.
- The tribute to Annie was moving.

## **Fundraising plan**

Tabled to March meeting. Dee proposed to add language requiring a confidentiality agreement for phonebankers so no Green Party data could be shared or used for any other purpose. Her concern was a blocking one so the plan was not approved. Discussion of the confidentiality concern will continue at the next meeting.

In regard to selling merchandise at the State Fair, it will be good to have a copy of our contract that does allow us to sell items to show to fair officials who may try to tell volunteers that we are not allowed to sell anything. This has happened in the past.

## **Biennial Convention endorsement process**

A threshold for endorsement of a 2/3 supermajority was discussed. We have no written record of what threshold has been used in the past, and our core documents do not specify. Andy H will ask Cam, Seth, Jim and Amber if they remember what was used in the past, and will return with a proposal at the March 10 CC meeting.

If there is only one candidate seeking endorsement, the choices are the candidate or no endorsement.

If there is more than one candidate seeking endorsement, IRV or RCV with a 2/3 threshold are options, as is a single ballot with the possibility that no candidate will reach the threshold. The whole process will be adopted at the March 10 meeting.

**Lavender Pride**

We have been offered an “early-bird” ad rate in the Pride edition of Lavender Magazine if we reserve by Feb. 28. The ad would be 1/12 of a page and cost approximately \$250 (Betsy will get exact amount). She will also look into splitting the cost with the 5<sup>th</sup> CD. A concern was raised that this item is not in the budget so it will be necessary to determine where the money would come from.

**Approved by consensus.**

**MTN membership**

**Tabled.** The membership, \$260 per year, would give the GPMN use of the facilities. Any Green Party member could get training on how to use the equipment, opening some doors in media and communications capacity. We could also have meetings there.

**T-shirts**

Betsy and Brian will investigate costs and logistics and prepare a proposal for the March 10 meeting.

**Volunteer Coordinator**

The 2018 budget allows for two additional hours per week for Betsy, a total of 10. Betsy would be willing to have those two hours instead be used to hire a volunteer coordinator for two hours a week.

Since Betsy is still working under the contract approved in October 2017 for eight hours per week, a decision on what to do with those two hours will need to wait until the fundraising plan is approved. If the CC decides to hire a volunteer coordinator, the choice of person and the contract with that person will need to be approved by the CC.

**Revisit process for GPUS committee appointments**

Tabled.

**Mediation**

Tabled.

**Next Meeting**

Saturday, March 10, 1:30-4:30 pm  
4200 Cedar Ave S., Minneapolis