

Pacific Green Party of Oregon
Winter Gathering, Jan 24, 2015
Minutes

The meeting began at 10am at the Westminster House in Corvallis.

The attendees were: Christina Lugo, Chris Foulke, Bobbi Hall, Leslie Melnyk, Delbert McCombes, Jim Rankin, George Hutchinson, Alex Polikoff, Scott Green, Vernon Huffman, Blair Bobbier, Mike Beilstein, Charles Newlin, Tim Dehne, Pat Driscoll, Yaney MacIver, Jerry Budreau, and Dana Allen.

The group had approximately 45 minutes of icebreaker/socializing time to get to know each other from 10-10:45am.

All seats for the SCC were considered vacated; nominations and then elections for State Coordinating Committee were held. The following were elected (term length in parentheses): Seth Woolley from Portland (1 year), Bobbi Hall from Corvallis (1 year), Suzia Aufderheide from Ashland (1 year), Christina Lugo from Portland (2 years), Vernon Huffman from Corvallis (1 year), Scott Green from Portland (2 years), and George Hutchinson from Corvallis (2 years).

Elections: 2014, 2015 and on

Discussion on this issue went on for more than an hour. Scott, Pat, and Blair urged all of us to more closely follow the rigorous party rules as outlined in our bylaws for screening candidates--particularly utilizing existing written process and the nominating committee that the SCC is responsible for staffing. Charles noted that we will have to balance our desire to have more candidates running for more offices with our need to more strictly vet candidates to maintain party credibility and adherence to our party core values and platform. Chris noted that we would benefit by insisting on an earlier declaration of candidates. Christina supported that and noted that an earlier nomination date might be at least three months earlier than our second nominating convention. She also noted that it is our responsibility to insure that we have functioning nominating and election committees. George thought that we should stick to just one nominating convention and not even consider late entry candidates. Mike noted that we do need more candidates and that he might be willing to forego ideological purity in the event more were interested as running as Pacific Greens. Jerry noted that internet vetting was not necessarily effective in determining candidates' positions and was personally repelled by some of the environmental positions the party's candidate for Governor espoused (after being nominated). The consensus sentiment was that mistakes in vetting were made in 2014 Bobbi and should not be repeated.

For the coming 2015 and 2016 election cycles Charles stated that we must start now on 2016 campaigns. Yaney and Vernon pointed out the benefits of the NationBuilder program to aid campaigns and recruit candidates. Pat observed that NationBuilder is a webpage platform and mentioned several other web sources for solid campaign construction information. Alex and Vernon both emphasized that party focus needed to be more on local elections, as the potential for election victory was much greater and the most effective door-to-door organizing utilized, which Christina also noted and utilized in her Senate campaign. Bobbi noted that IRV would encourage more Greens to run (as voters would not think they were wasting their vote with ranked choices) Bobbi also wondered whether we might send candidate recruitment postcards to all Pacific Greens, other progressives, and even unaffiliated voters. Alex and Christina again urged us to use the cheapest and most effective organizing tool-- face-to-face and door-to-door communication.

Afternoon session: 1:50-4:30

A motion was made (by Seth, seconded by Scott) to appoint Michael Meo as the Pacific Green Party spokesperson regarding two issues of police accountability and the Portland police involvement with the FBI Joint Terrorism Taskforce. Motion passed with a full consensus.

Treasurers Report

Pat observed that 19% fewer funds were contributed this election cycle than the past several; that the Party's sustaining membership had declined by 27%. Pat stated that it is up to activist members to give him information/stories of our activism which he will post on our website and FB page, as well as arm Carlotta Adams with up-to-date activities of party members as she continues her direct phone fundraising and outreach for the Pacific Green Party. Pat was directed by a consensus to delete our current Mailman server for a new server (Mail Chimp) for more reliable list posting service.

Endorsed Party Issues and Initiatives

Community Food Rights: Dana Allen informed and updated the group of the May 2015 election status of Benton County's Measure 2-89 (with supportive information also provided by Vernon) . 2-89 would establish a right to a local food system, right to seed heritage, rights of natural communities (including right of terrestrial and aquatic systems to exist, persist and maintain themselves), and the right to self-government, Further, the measure prohibits corporations or government from using genetically engineered organisms; prohibits corporations or government transgenic risk seed in County unless seed is proven to be free of any genetic modification. The Linn Benton Chapter and an earlier state convention previously endorsed this measure. (Resource: Bentonfoodfreedom.org) Dana also spoke to the state measure along these lines which is in the works. She noted that its passage would allow the Coos Commons group to stop the proposed LNG pipeline and LNP port facilities proposed in Coos County.

2. **Health Care for All** Bobbi Hall brought us up-to-speed on the bill planned for introduction in the Oregon legislature this session. A large rally is planned for Feb. 11th at the Capitol. Buses will be bringing demonstrators/citizen lobbyists to Salem from Corvallis, Eugene, and other points. Bobbi stated that both of Benton County's legislators supported the bill, but that party members outside of Corvallis needed to contact their legislators to support. 1/4 of Oregon's citizens are covered by Medicare (OHP) now.

The attendees reached consensus that the SCC is to endorse the bill when HCAO/MVHCA has an acceptable bill from the legislative drafting office and has assigned a bill title and number. Previous state conventions had endorsed both the concept and bills introduced in the last legislative session on this issue.

3. **IRV** A bill is to be introduced in the state legislature. There is currently support from a number of Democratic and Republican members of the Oregon legislature. Article II Sec 16 in the Oregon Constitution allows IRV. The bill would be enabling legislation that could be passed by the legislature or referred to the voters in a future election. Previous conventions have endorsed this measure, and it is now included in the Pacific Green Party platform.

4. **\$15/hour Minimum Wage** The state legislature is to take up this issue. (\$15 Now is the

organization's name). This minimum wage issue was endorsed by a full consensus of this convention.

5. The several energy initiatives written by activist members of the Salem Chapter are close to having the 1000 signatures necessary to turn into the state legislative drafting office. This would result in a ballot title and draft of the measures allowing further revision and then submission as measures which the tens of thousands of signatures are needed to place them on the ballot in 2016 for a vote require. It is hoped that the Salem Chapter will keep in touch with the SCC and attend the next convention to update us and inform other party members of various work we might perform to aid these previously endorsed initiatives.

The Winter Gathering was adjourned at 4:30pm. --George Hutchinson, PGP Secretary