

GPSC General Meeting Minutes for 2/17/05
Meeting held at Environmental Center 7-9 p.m.

Tim Morgan, Co-Facilitator; Veronica Lopez, Co-Facilitator, Ann Tompkins, Notetaker;

Present:

County Council Members: Tim Morgan, Veronica Lopez, Ann Tompkins, Susan Chunco, and Jared Laiti (At Large Rep to Coordinating Council of GPCA)

Previous Attendees & Regulars: Tim Smith, Regional (Representative to the Coordinating Council of GPCA); J. Pat Geis; Wendy Weidenheimer; Matt

Rogina;

New to General Meetings: Bob Coulombe, Diane Coulombe, Brian Jones;

Quorum Established.

Treasurer's report: 6/30/04 to the present \$1,075.52 Balance
+445.09 Deposits
\$1,520.61 Total
- 773.50 Expenditures
\$747.41 Current Balance

- The expenditures include the Post Office box, plenary reimbursements of \$70 in the past six months; North Bay Progressive ad of \$156; and the Progressive Festival table at \$37.50.
- It is to be noted that in the past our requests for donations have usually covered the cost of \$20 per evening at the Environmental Center, but that recently we have fallen short on several occasions, and had to pay out of our treasury.
- Health and Harmony Fair is coming up in a few months, and we are called on to get volunteers to work for the Fair in return for which we can have a table and free passes for those who sit at the table. **Susan will** look into the dates and other needed information for this opportunity.
- About Supplies: materials for tables were ordered once from the GPCA, and delivered, but the check was never cashed despite a follow-up call. We need to re-order. (Susan will?)
- The Citrus Fair will be held in Cloverdale, J. Pat Geis suggested. **Susan will** also get this info.

We stopped to put times and order to a list of suggested agenda items, as this had not been done in advance. **Agenda Approved.**

Regional Meeting Announcement: Tim Smith is our Regional Representative, elected at the January 30 Regional Meeting held in San Rafael. Also elected were Cat Woods of Marin as the First Alternate, and Tim Morgan as the Second Alternate. Thanks to Tim Morgan and others who contributed to working out the procedures for that election and prepared the meeting, which was attended by about 30 people from Sonoma, Marin and Napa Counties.

Working Group Reports:

Green Talk and Outreach Working Group (GT&O/WG):

- **Our regular Green Talk:** March 3, First Thursday, 7-9 p.m. at the Environmental Center will show the video **The Future of Food**, followed by informal talk and refreshments. Everyone invited and bring a friend! No admission but donation requested. The announcements have been made to KPFA and to KRCB in timely fashion. We are trying still for more local publicity.
- The Working Group is discussing a year long plan, using the Ten Key Values as a basis for the monthly activities. We are still trying to get a three month plan set so that advertising can be done well. We welcome Brian Jones to this working group, and **invite additional volunteers.**
- We are developing a plan and a script for telephone contacts to be made to the entire list of registered Green Party voters (over 7,000!), with a system for report back and entry into our own database for the responses we get. We seek to let every registered Green know that there is an active organization in this county, to seek their involvement interests and desired level of activity, and to obtain an email as the main means of communication at this time, etc.
- We hope to recruit some new activists, to broaden the website traffic, and establish a GPSC presence.
- Next GT&O/WG meeting: (changed since General Meeting!): North Lights Cafe, in Cotati, at 5:30 p.m., preceding 6:30 attendance at North Bay Spokes Network meeting.

Public Communications and Internet Technology Working Group:

- This group deals with our list serves, website, and media contacts. Tim Morgan, Steve Devereux, and Skaidra met recently. They decided to make sure that there are at least three people available to be designated speaker representatives for the GPSC to be available when needed. The suggested candidates were Sam Pierce, and Daniel Solnit. Dave Henson was suggested as another possibility. Gender balance was called for.
- Next Meeting: Mar. 21, Monday at 7pm at Aroma Roasters.

By-Laws Working Group:

- Has been meeting regularly, and is making progress but still more to do before present the proposed draft. Ann Tompkins, Tim Morgan, Gregory Wonderwheel and Tim Smith have carried the main regular work.
- Next Meeting: Was announced for Thursday Feb. 24, but has been changed (Call 707-542-3037 to confirm date and place, and time).

Regional Rep Report

- Tim Smith reported on the recent Annual Retreat of the Coordinating Committee of the Green Party of California. There are 11 regions, with a total of 16 reps (some have more than one rep), and there are also 4 At- Large reps (elected at plenary meeting). Jared Laiti is an At Large Rep since the San Francisco Plenary in early 2004. There were about 30 in attendance and it would have been about 40 if everyone eligible had been able to be there.

- There was a long agenda, but a dispute that has its own long history took up most of the time of the first day. There are two counties that are also regions (a factor of number of members in the area). LA as a county should have 17 on their County Council but have in fact 8.
- The meeting got through the budget, which must go for approval to the April 30-May 1 Plenary. This next statewide meeting is again scheduled to be held in Southern California.
- The budget includes some \$4,000 for fundraising, as seed money it help local fundraising. Asked if the GPCA was being able to raise enough money, the reply was that there had been some loss of income around the effort for direct mailing in 2004.

Retreat for GPSC: Ann reported back on the prices given for overnight and day use of facilities at Occidental Arts and Ecology Center. The simple sum-up is that it is too expensive for GPSC at this time. A short discussion touched on Coddington Center as having rooms that are available for very little money (\$25/day or so), the possibility of Waldo Rohnert Park School and the Betsy Eberhardt place in western Sonoma County. **Veronica and Tim Morgan will** look into possibilities and report back. No specific plan as been reached about having a retreat, but there is a desire that it be in the County, and that there be an option for an overnight, if possible. Economy is crucial for many of us, and for our treasury.

Election of County Council Member: Seven seats exist on our County Council. **Jared and Justin have promised to go to Registrar of Voters to be sworn in.** Mike Sandler has recently been automatically resigned per our bylaws, having fulfilled his promised service.

- **This meeting agreed that between 2/17 and 4/21 we will seek candidates** to run for the open seat, and that those in attendance **on 4/21/05 at the General Meeting will elect** the person to fill that seat. This election **will be advertised on-line and in other ways.**
- Matt Rogina asked what the County Council position entails. Tim Morgan listed off several of the administrative type duties listed in our By-Laws. Tim Smith said he see the task as “facilitators of activism.” Tim Morgan added that: the County Council doesn’t lead or direct but deals with administrative tasks.”
- Asked who elects the County Council, the reply is that registered Green Party voters elect at the time of a Primary Election, but in between there is the power of appointment and/or election in the General Meeting. The current GPSC By-Laws can be found at http://www.sonomagreenparty.org/pdfs/Bylaws_current.pdf Phone and voicemail messages can be handled there, too.

Fundraising & Future Planning:

- For a large fundraising meeting, Tim Smith proposed that we invite John Perkins as a speaker. He is the author of the book, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, a really important and revealing exposé. He is doing much public speaking and is not available until April. Discussion led us to **agree to set up a sub-committee under the Green Talks and Outreach Working Group**, with Susan Chunco, Brian Jones, Tim Smith, and J. Pat Geis to work on this proposal and report back to the working group, and then the next General Meeting.

- Brian pointed out that GT&O/WG has also been considering fundraising. **Matt Rogina will connect with Brian** to share his major donor fundraising experience. Diane proposed giving out a flyer to inform and appeal to businesses, a method she has had good experience with.
- Ann, who has been designated at GPSC representative to North Bay Spokes Network, will attend the next meeting (now scheduled for **Wednesday, Feb. 23rd, North Lights Cafe in Cotati at 6:30 p.m.** but regular meeting is on third Mondays, at that place and time.) This should be helpful for doing careful publicity and coordinating with other groups in North Bay.
- Earth Day, April (24?) 2005: What Green Party participation will we have? The Sonoma State Green party Club is not able to help very much. It is **agreed** that **Rick Fabrick will work on this event with help from Tim M., Tim S., Susan, and Brian.**
- **CALENDAR 2005 (our first effort - THIS IS JUST A BEGINNING!):**

JANUARY-FEBRUARY: CANDIDATES (for JUNE? What candidates?)

FEBRUARY: 2-17-4/21 GPSC ELECTION OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER
Planning for Earth Day in April (24?)

MARCH-APRIL: 3/1-4/30 Signature gathering (on what?)

APRIL: EARTH DAY AT SSU

APRIL 30- MAY 1: Green Party of California, Statewide General (Plenary) Meeting

MAY: GPSC RETREAT/ADVANCE!

5/17 - Alameda County Green Party requests all kinds of support for electing a local candidate

MAY 1- SEPTEMBER 1: TABLING AT SANTA ROSA WEDNESDAY NIGHT MARKETS

JUNE: HEALTH AND HARMONY FAIR - VOLUNTEER WORK BEFORE &
TABLING DURING THE EVENT

6/5 Sunday- Day in the Park - Peace and Justice Center...

JULY: 4TH OF July - (Diane will report back on this at March General Meeting.)

SEPTEMBER - THIRD Weekend? Petaluma Progressive Festival - tabling plus?

NOVEMBER: Special State Election - 8-10 Propositions to learn about, decide, and take stands.
Then to educate and work for or against.

“GETTING OUR STUFF TOGETHER”: This as a call for knowing where our GPSC materials are, and generally taking care of planning agendas, and other items of administrative concern. **We agreed** to call a meeting of the County Council members to handle these details. **Tim Morgan will** poll the six County Council members to arrive at a time, date, place and agenda, and send out the call.

Additional comments:

- We should be prepared to respond to polls on Green Party items. We struggled with that last year and have not satisfactorily resolved how to handle it. We should see Skaidra’s proposal re email endorsements.
- Keep in mind that about 120 days before June 2006 we would need to get CC candidates signed up so we can have a contested election again.
- Veronica said that we should support local candidates. Let candidates speak at the opening of any big speaker event. Connect to find out what kind of support local candidates want.
- Wendy called for getting more members active. Brian agreed we need to be more visible; we need more publicity. (The secretary adds in that we should find Ms. Sowers, who attended the November Green Talk and wanted to dress us up as carrots and celery, or some such, to get media publicity for the GE-FREE Sonoma. We need her ideas, energy and active help!)
- Veronica wants GPSC to DO SOMETHING to HELP people...and has various ideas which need to come to another meeting.
- It was urged that we get our telephone listing into the telephone book...and that the deadline for next phone book is in March 2005.
- We listed topics of interest...GE-FREE Sonoma Campaign (sufficient signatures were gathered and turned in, for which we salute Daniel Solnit, Dave Henson, and all the signature gatherers!) but education work still needs to be done; support to United Farm Workers; WATER (**J. Pat Geis will** report back on this for March General meeting); and various local initiatives re taxation of properties (make small businesses pay their share) in our various county cities & areas... and this list will continue to have additions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Tompkins, Notetaker