

Notes for GPSC General Meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2003:

Updates:

Treasurer -- The PO Box has been renewed; A contribution to the Petaluma Progressives for the recent Progressive Festival was made

Regional Rep -- The minutes of the last regional meeting will be posted to the listserve; there may be a new regional rep because Star may have resigned.

Working Group Updates:

Outreach -- A group of West County Greens may start having meetings, and need help getting organized. Jim volunteered to help. This may be the GPSC's first local.

Patriot Act -- There was a good turnout at the Patriot Act forum at SRJC, with approximately 135 people attending, and the crowd was enthusiastic. Many petition signatures were gathered. The City Council meeting to place the anti-Patriot Act resolution on the agenda is this coming Tuesday, come at 3:30 if you want to speak, although it is uncertain how much speaking will be helpful at the agenda setting stage. The meeting begins at 4 PM. Bring collected signatures for the Santa Rosa petition (not the Sonoma County wide one) to the World Stewardship Institute directly across from the Environmental Center. A \$25 donation to the coalition that put on the Patriot Act forum was approved by consensus. The phone banking effort for the Patriot Act work needs volunteers. The next meeting of this working group will be Oct 27, 7 PM at the! World Stewardship Institute.

Election Reform -- This group is just getting started, and looking into doing work on the voting machine issue as well as IRV, etc. Considering possibly attending county Board of Supervisors meetings, just to get a feel for the current process and climate at that level. Eventually try to talk to all Greens in the county about this issue.

Green Talks -- Monday, Oct 27, at 7 PM, presidential candidate David Cobb will possibly attend the event at New College in Santa Rosa. Refreshments are planned. The other Green talk will be on the first Thursday as usual in Nov, 7 PM at the Environmental Center. The next meeting of this working group is the second Thursday, the 13th of Nov.

Bylaws -- The possible new quorum rules proposed by the GPC may be hard to implement as we currently have no locals and the proposed definition includes a certain proportion of local representatives present. The idea of consensus is also open to interpretation. Problems with this working group's consensus seeking process were raised and referred back to that working group for discussion. It was proposed to move the next meeting to Thurs the 30th of Oct.

IT Working Group -- There is a new calendar on the web page. The next step is a bulletin board forum for the working groups. Send events you want posted to the calendar to IT@sonomagreenparty.org

Due partly to the conversation about the process issues in the Bylaws working group, the group had an interesting discussion on the pros and cons of consensus seeking process. A possible Green Talk on consensus process was proposed, but if this is to occur it will be a job for the next coordinator of that working group because plans are already in place for the next several months.

Campus Greens -- A chapter of the Campus Greens has been chartered by Sonoma State University and is starting to get active. Help from the GPSC was offered to the new group. Members of the group are invited to attend GPSC meetings. A possible Campus Greens working group was proposed, but some felt it was too early for that step. A proposal was made for a Campus Greens liaison to be approved as part of the Outreach Working Group to serve as liaison to Campus Greens organizations in Sonoma County, and was consensed to. James Swinger was nominated, accepted the nomination, which was seconded and then consensed to.

Nov. 4th Election -- A parcel tax for Petaluma and other minor proposals that could be important locally will be on the ballot. Currently GPSC has no recommendations on any of these items. Monte Rio and Camp Meeker both have Parks and Recreation board seats open. One candidate running may be Green, and they have been contacted to see if they want to seek our endorsement. After some discussion of the best procedure for approving an endorsement, it was consensed, as a one time process for this case, that the County Council would make the final endorsement decision after a candidate interview and a possible discussion on the listserve. This is also the day for San Francisco's Mayoral election, in which Green Matt Gonzalez is running, and victory seems possible with some campaign work.

The deadline for candidates to file for the County Council elections is Nov. 10, and you can get your papers from the registrar of voters beginning Nov. 5. Signatures must then be gathered. The registrar will be contacted to inquire about the possible use of preference voting (IRV) in this internal party election. Requirements are that you are a registered Green in Sonoma County, you will attend meetings, and you will not advocate for other than Green parties or candidates.

We discussed the pros and cons of a mailing versus an insert in Green Party voters' sample ballots. The proposal is for a fundraising postcard or letter to mobilize for the March primary. It was decided that we need an analysis of the cost of the two possible options before we can decide, and this should hopefully be presented at the next meeting.

Meeting Space -- The state is required to provide space for one meeting per month for official political parties, while the Environmental Center charges \$20 for each meeting. The SSU library also has meeting rooms which can be reserved for free. Also the Environmental Technology Center at SSU may be a good option.

We also decided to allow the San Francisco Greens to put something in our email newsletter regarding the Matt Gonzalez campaign and his need for campaign work, as long as they don't directly solicit contributions of money in the message.

Note Taker: Jared Laiti