

GREEN PARTY OF SONOMA COUNTY
Notes from the Meeting of January 15, 2004

Facilitators: Tim M. and Ann

Notetaker: Skaidra

Attending: Morgan, Luc, Nathan, Steve, Sam, Justin, Amber, Tim S., Amber, Richard, Ryan.

Explanation of abbreviations: GPSC (Green Party of Sonoma County); GPCA (Green Party of California); GPCA-CC (Green Party of California Coordinating Committee); WG (Working Group); IT WG (Information Technology Working Group); CC (County Council); SRBORDC (Santa Rosa Bill of Rights Defense Committee);

TREASURER'S REPORT

No update.

REGIONAL REP UPDATE--Ryan

Ryan has taken the place of Deborah Richardson as our regional representative following Deborah's resignation. Ryan has been in contact with the GPCA-CC about the situation. He was one of three regional representatives (one rep and two alternates) elected in March 2002 (the others were Kate Taylor and Robyn Oetinger). Ryan's term will end this March, and a regional meeting is needed in order to elect new representatives. The custom has been to elect from each county in the Northbay Region (Sonoma, Marin, Napa). March 6, the date of the plenary in San Francisco, was suggested as a time and place for a regional meeting. Saturday, February 28 was also suggested, but the plenary date was preferred w/the assumption that a large attendance might be encouraged by the concurrent local plenary. Ryan will attend the next Marin meeting and make contact with the Napa coordinator to discuss the possibilities for the regional meeting. He will also be attending the GPCA-CC retreat at the end of January.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

--Tim M.: Encouraged everyone to read the Avocado Declaration, available on our website.

--Sam: Announced that he has obtained our latest registration database update from the Registrar of Voters and passed it along to Tim M.

OUTREACH WORKING GROUP REPORT--Sam

WG has received donation check for \$500 to cover initial costs of the planned fundraising letter, but have not yet sent out the letter. Next

meeting: Thursday, January 22 at Richard's house.

ELECTORAL REFORM WG REPORT --Richard
No new update.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP REPORT --Tim M.
Significant changes have been made to the website. IT WG still needs submissions from CC candidates for the website. Michael has been working with Tim to make the website updates. The IT WG currently has five members. Listserve proposal later in the agenda. Next meeting: Friday, January 23 at Aroma's coffeehouse.

TABLING WORKING GROUP REPORT --Tim S.
Last meeting people said events and tabling partners were priorities in motivating them to do some tabling. Tim suggested we might table in areas with high pedestrian traffic rather than at events, as a more effective way of reaching beyond the progressive community. Tim is thinking about how to implement a "buddy system" for tabling. Tim asked whether we might be interested in a reward-based contest for registration and most people said it would not effect their interest in tabling or voter registration personally, though some thought it might be worth trying anyway. No meeting planned.

BYLAWS WORKING GROUP REPORT --Tim S.
Proposal for revised section on the recognition of locals later on this agenda. Next meeting Thursday, January 29 (fifth Thursday) at Ann's house.

PATRIOT ACT WORKING GROUP REPORT--Steve
SRBORDC is currently looking toward a possible county resolution in opposition to the USA PATRIOT Act and related executive orders. Education of the public is seen as a priority in the resolution process, even where the passage of a resolution is unlikely. The GPSC collected approx. 800 of the 1500 signatures gathered for the proposed Santa Rosa resolution. Next SRBORDC meeting is March 22.

GREEN TALKS WG REPORT--Skaidra
Next Green Talk will be Thursday, February 5 covering topics on the March 2 ballot. Candidates for Congressional District 1 Pamela Elizondo and Bill Meyers plan to attend and will give short statements along with the eight candidates for CC, followed by a question and answer period. Summaries of the state propositions will be given with time for discussion on each. Next Green Talk WG meeting: February 12 (second Thursday) at Ann's house.

CAMPUS GREENS REPORT
No report.

FUNDRAISING WORKING GROUP REPORT--Tim M.

There may be a Matt Gonzalez fundraiser in Sonoma County this March. The Fundraising WG was incorporated into the Outreach WG at the previous meeting.

CONSENSUS PROCEDURE REVIEW--Tim S.

Discussion and review of the consensus procedure. Tim S. stressed the need to deal with concerns during the consensus process in a more specific, transparent, way. He stated that concerns should be posted on the board so that everyone can see them. Questions were raised about co-facilitation and co-presentation the way the GPCA runs plenaries--Do we need the same format for meetings? Skaidra stated that facilitators can have different styles as long as they explain their preferences at the beginning of the meeting. Nathan stated that it was good to get experience running the formal meeting process in preparation for meetings at a later time when attendance and/or stress level is higher. Ann and Sam expressed interest in proposal presenters having more "ownership" of their proposals. Richard asked whether the consensus process applies to WGs. (Skaidra said "yes," Justin and Sam said "no.")

PROPOSAL: BYLAWS AMENDMENT TO ARTICLES IV, VI--Tim S.

Suggested changes to Article IV were accepted with the exception of Article IV Section 3.01 describing minimum requirements for locals. Proposed deletion of locals in the quorum requirement in Article VI was not approved. Stand-aside concerns about the bylaws changes included strong concerns that quorum still requires the presence of representatives of all recognized locals and that without Article IV Section 3.01 we still have no process for recognition of locals at this time. The amended section of bylaws now reads:

Article IV Locals

Section 1. Definition

1.01 Locals are defined as active affiliations of individuals in Sonoma County organized to promote Green values.

Section 2. Duties and Authority

2.01 Only locals officially recognized by the GPSC may claim Green Party affiliation.

2.02 Officially recognized locals shall designate representation to the GPSC General Meetings.

Section 3. Recognition

3.02 Locals shall be required to send a representative to a GPSC General Meeting at least quarterly to maintain officially recognized status.

3.03 A local which meets minimum requirements may request official recognition at a

GPSC General Meeting.

3.04 The GPSC General Meeting shall have the option, upon consensus of members present, to officially recognize, or rescind official recognition, of a local.

3.05 In the event the GPSC General Meeting is to determine official recognition (to approve or rescind) of a local, the local in question shall be given a minimum of 21 days prior notice of such consideration.

PROPOSAL: LISTSERVES--Tim M.

We reviewed current listserves and agreed to create a multi-announcement listserv moderated by the Public Communications WG, to develop a policy for the current (Yahoo Groups) GPSC Coordinators' listserv, and to create a BBS on the website at some point. It was agreed that the proposal for a GPSC discussion list would be dropped at this time in favor of a non-affiliated Green discussion list.

PROPOSAL: FORMATION OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP--
Skaidra

Approved the formation of a Public Communications Working Group responsible for developing GPSC message for website, voicemail, email newsletter, and other mass outlets. Skaidra, Michael, and Tim M. are the founding members and will plan a WG meeting in the near future.

DISCUSSION: GUIDELINES FOR GPSC MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER-Steve

The following deadlines for submissions to the monthly email newsletter were discussed:

Deadline for receiving submissions via mail: Wednesday before General Meeting

Deadline to present submissions, approval of submissions: General Meeting

Deadline for receiving completed, approved articles: Tuesday after the General Meeting

Draft newsletter distributed on Coordinators' list: Thursday after the General Meeting

Newsletter finalized and issued: Fourth Friday of the month

Steve will work out newsletter policy details with the Public Communications WG.

DISCUSSION: STRATEGY RETREAT-Skaidra

Jim suggested at the Green Talk WG meeting that the March Green Talk might be a good time to start discussion on strategy for the upcoming general elections and through 2004, but that we might also consider a long "strategy retreat" on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The group was generally supportive of this idea.

DISCUSSION: SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION-

Tim M.

Tim M. and Skaidra have/will both register for the presidential nominating convention. When we have clearer directions regarding how many delegates we have as a county, we should talk about how to select our delegates and any possible fundraising effort to support their trip to the convention.

DISCUSSION: NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION JAN 25 FORUM-Skaidra
Approved the promotion of January 25th Candidates' Forum on California's War on Drugs featuring Green Party Congressional candidates Pamela Elizondo and Bill Meyers.

DISCUSSION: PROCESS FOR MARCH BALLOT ENDORSEMENTS-Skaidra
Skaidra pointed out that we are behind schedule on March ballot endorsements, and that as a result ballot endorsements will need to be the primary focus of the March general meeting and will be public for a very short time. She urged people to research the propositions and candidates in preparation for the March general meeting. State propositions will be discussed in the February Green Talk. There was support for the idea that presenters of the state propositions during the Green Talk should draft proposed endorsement statements based on the discussion at the Green Talk.

=====

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, February 19, 7pm at the Environmental Center, 404 Mendocino Avenue
Facilitators: Tim M., Tim S.

AGENDA: MARCH BALLOT ENDORSEMENTS