

(Draft) MINUTES OF GPSC MEETING OF 4/14/06

Present: Council: Ann Tompkins, Susan Chunco, Tim Morgan, Jared Laiti, Bill Patterson, Jared Laiti, Suzanne Retta

Members: Tim Smith, Matt Rogina, Scott Kender, Sharon Abrahams, Mark Stensberg, Gregory Wonderwheel

Guests: Chris Fierro (D)

Scott Kender and Suzanne co-facilitators

Vibes Watcher: AnnT

Notes Taker: TimM

Timekeeper: Susan

Meeting started at 7:15 p.m. quorum was present.

Introductions

Reports

Treasurer's Report by Susan: No report. No activity on the bank account during the month.

Bylaws: AnnT – No monthly meeting – Intent is to present bylaws changes in the future one by one.

Regional Rep – Deferred to Ventura Plenary discussion

PC/IT: TimM – No report

C&C – BillP – Discussed the recent GPCA candidate training session. Bill has posted a critique on email: (ed. note – I'm reposting it here for posterity.)

“Folks,

The following represents my personal critique on our candidates training session of March 19th in Petaluma, co-sponsored by the GPCA and the GPSC, candidates and campaigns working groups, both local and state.

While it appears that all went well in our session; i.e., we kept session sections going in ordered succession; kept on time; and heard many helpful suggestions and ideas; I still, after several days of thinking on it, am troubled and uneasy about what I observed and felt at these proceedings--and leave the experience worried by the party's focus and strategy for the future.

I am led to believe, from what I observed, that we're being led by a group of aspirants who think that Federal and State candidacies is the way to build our party; notwithstanding the fact that they can be perceived (especially from the general public's and media view) as quixotic (impracticable) candidacies; quixotic because they are un-winnable. We still, I argue, have not matured nor have we built, adequately, a party that can WIN at the level that these candidacies persist in conducting, plus, they may be exhausting what little resources we have.

I, personally, was hoping that some of the candidates that would appear at the session would be those running for local (small political-unit), winnable campaigns, non-partisan in nature. Instead, the only candidates appearing were largely, nay, all were the familiar ones; running campaigns that they cannot WIN. I've heard their arguments; that we need to fill our party's ballot slots with candidates (any candidate) to show the public that we exist (albeit barely); and/or that it is the way to build a party. Or that

we need to “get our message out” in any and every way possible; in spite of the fact that we don’t have the money to do so (by TV).

I have been, and continue to be, led by the belief that we can build a truly effective, believable political FORCE, capable of truly contesting the dominant powers (those centered in the liberal-progressive-Democratic Party) by building a cadre of ELECTED green officials, who’ve won their positions of fiduciary responsibility; have learned the skills of governance, and who then are ready to progress further up the ladder into our state legislature and federal congress by running candidacies that are experienced and that are more WINNABLE.

Another disappointment from the session, for me, was that there was no mention made of any initiative (referenda) campaigns. These type campaigns, mostly local, can really change the political landscape (I’ve learned this personally), because they involve those interests and concerns of the people at a very grass-roots level. Concerns which affect them in their daily lives. Why did we not have a section of the session dedicated to how to WIN these type campaigns?

Please understand that, while I state above my concerns, and that I think we need to mature and face POWER with a determined effort to enter the corridors of power to represent a radically different agenda, one that insists upon Ecological Wisdom and Sustainability for our’s and the earth’s survival; still, I truly admire the courage of those conducting their campaigns at any and all levels, and wish them well.

Be assured that I look forward to being a part of a united effort in the building of a truly effective political force to counter the dominant duopoly-party power structure!

Bill Patterson”

Bill also stated that there were no local declared GP candidates at the session.

Announcements

15th Annual Cinco De Mayo Dinner/Dance – May 6th Sebastopol Community Center 6:30
Cocktails 7pm buffet dinner 8pm dancing till 11pm. \$25 pp. Call Chris 707-829-7612

Decision Items

PROPOSAL FOR PARTICIPATION CINCO de MAYO FESTIVAL,2006

It is proposed that the Green Party of Sonoma County agree to participate and support the event of May 5, 2006 in the Roseland district of Santa Rosa. The Green Party will participate by applying for a table space to promote the party, register eligible voters and provide citizenship and immigration information. It is also proposed that the Green Party have a presence at the festival to show our support of the Latino community and the immigration issues affecting them.

Logistics so far:

Someone is working on translating a flyer with immigration services telephone numbers. This is a program started in Los Angeles and has been very successful. People can call and speak with civil rights attorneys and immigration attorneys. It is called the 911 for immigrants. It is proposed that we distribute this informational flyer.

We can gather more signatures for the wage initiative.

Have voter registration forms and target young Latinos eligible to vote.

Make gift basket to raffle and raise money.

Sell bottles of water.

Sell t-shirts.

Contact has been established to have SALVA group located near our table.

They do immigration services also and can help with bilingual volunteers.

This proposal is agreeable to suggestions or changes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Reta

Discussion by group – Tim Smith, Mark Stensberg, Scott Kender and Tim Morgan volunteered to support Suzanne Reta tabling etc. Food is a question to be determined later. Decision on this requires approval by the members to authorize a fee of \$25 to 50 for registration. The group consensed to authorize the expenditure.

Selection of Ventura Plenary Delegates and Alternates

After discussion of the plenary (4/29 & 30) in Moorpark it was proposed by the group that the possible attendees

SusanC, BillP, SharonA, and JaredL be consensed to as delegates

With

SuzanneR, ScottK, TimS and TimM were consensed to as alternates.

TimM and JaredL agreed to provide the delegates with information about obtaining financial support for travel.

Support of \$45 for delegates registration fees was consensed to by the group. This support would be dependent on the delegates need.

Because there is no agenda packet to consider it was not possible to provide any direction to the delegates on plenary items.

Discussion Items

Location of next meeting – BillP. Next meeting will be at the State Building in Santa Rosa – 50 “D” Street at 6:30 until 9pm on May 18th.