

Minutes of GPSC meeting of 9/16/04.

Present: Council: Ann Tompkins, Susan Chunco, Tim Morgan, Jared Laiti (alternate for Veronica Lopez).

Members: Matt Rogina, Rick Fabrick, Gregory Wonderwheel, Evelina Molina (arrived 7:30)

Guests: Davin Cardenas, Omar Medina (School Bd. candidate), Elmer Gomez (sp?)

Jared and Matt co-facilitators.

Susan vibes watcher.

Gregory minutes taker.

Meeting started at 7:00 p.m. without a quorum.

Introductions.

Treasurer's Report by Susan. Bank account has \$1,121.16. Fee for progressive festival was paid this last month. Voice mail bill and \$60.00 for picnic were paid last month. An asked if the money in the account is dedicated for certain expenditures. Susan said there are the regular monthly expenses of voice mail and P.O. Box and meeting fees at Environmental Center. Also there was a \$500.00 donation from Larry Robinson that was dedicated to printing expenses, but it seems there hasn't been an accounting of printing expenses and needs to be done to see if the money has been used for that. Susan says the usual expense is for outreach activities but also for sending people to General Assembly plenary meetings. Otherwise there are no restrictions on deciding what to spend the money for.

Outreach Working Group report: Susan says progressive festival is big upcoming event for outreach. Tabling discussion with Rick saying he can table after 2:30 to end of festival. Tim said he can set up in the morning.

Daniel Solnit has the canopy and will return it before the festival. Tim announced that Green Party Presidential Candidate David Cobb may be able to come to the progressive festival and speak. Not in concrete but almost a done deal. Susan says that the "three factions" of Greens should be represented at the tabling. She says the three factions are Cobb supporters, Nader supporters, and no-candidate supporters. Gregory says why should Nader material be on the Green party table since we have our presidential candidate in David Cobb? Several people thought that a meeting after the convention decided to support allowing Nader supporters to be included in Green Party events. No one remembered when the decision was made. Jared said it was a free speech issue and who wants a script to read from? Jared pointed out we didn't have a quorum so no decision could be made anyway.

Green Talks working group report by Ann. Susan is only other active person in this WG so more people are invited to join, please. They showed the film "Outfoxed" and there was a pretty good turnout. Mostly people who were not familiar faces to Susan. Rick has

a video of the Green Party Convention which is a couple hours. [Evelina had entered during the discussion about 7:30 p.m. and said she was a Green so we had a quorum.] People thought the whole video would be too long and Rick said he would review it and see if it could be shortened.

As hoc Mediation /Conflict Resolution Committee report by Gregory. The committee is composed of four people: Tim Morgan, Susan Chunco, Robin Latham, and Gregory Wonderwheel. The committee met on September 10, 2004 from 7:00 p.m. to about 9:00 at Susan's home. No recommendations are made at this time. The next committee meeting is set for Thursday 9/23/04 at 7:00 in Sebastopol at Robin's home. We reviewed some of the history of events and conflicts which led up to the formation of the committee. Without going into details or names, some of the conflicts discussed had arisen over the use of the GPSC Coordinator's email list, the Raven Theater event, and the Nader-Cobb controversy at the convention. We are developing a consensus on the following items (in no particular order):

- Process at meetings needs improvement. Much conflict would be reduced or not arise if we remember to stick with the process and the roles at meetings. For example we need to remember to appoint vibes watchers for meetings. Consensus process needs continued education. Some physical materials may help such as a written consensus booklet and a chart for meetings outlining the steps in our consensus style decision making.
- Focusing on individuals or personalities seems too "therapy" oriented and focusing on process seems a better way to contextualize conflicts or potential conflicts.
- It is important that the email discussion lists behavior be kept to appropriate meeting values. There is no official vibes watcher on an email list so everyone needs to remember that. There are several lists, but the GPSC coordinators list especially needs to be for local Green Party work and not for free-for-all discussions.
- Work groups need to be better briefed in their functions and roles in carrying out the working group's mission. Who is responsible for what needs to be clarified and understood. Evaluation tools need to be developed so work groups and evaluate themselves and others can provide feedback.
- When we are in meetings we need to remember to focus what is best for the group.
- We need to honor people's work and involvement and give more appreciation to others.
- We need ways to bring up items which could lead to potential conflict in a safe atmosphere in order to clear the air. We are brainstorming about how this may be done, perhaps on a quarterly basis.
- We need to have better evaluation of meetings.
- Roles in meetings need to be clear. Functions of roles, who is delegated to fulfill the role, and evaluating the role all need to be clearly understood.
- We would like to find ways to emphasize and remember our common ground and reasons for unity. -end-

Tim added more detail to the idea for a quarterly review saying it would be at the GPSC meetings for people to discuss issues or concerns they had.

Omar Medina, candidate for SR School Board, talked to the group. He said he is a “local product” of the school system. He is currently a student at SSU. He said there are seven candidates for four seats. He said he wants to make positive changes in the school board. He seemed to be an inexperienced public speaker. His campaign manager Devin was there and said Omar was on the Elsie Allen High School ASB. Omar’s campaign is about bringing up Chicanos in the political system. In answer to questions Omar said his single main issue is around bilingual education. He also wants to help more parents be involved. Jared said that we usually don’t discuss endorsements with the candidate present and we would discuss endorsement over the internet.

Evelina Molina gave a presentation wearing “two hats.” She said she is a recent transplant to Sonoma County from Napa. She talked about Hermandad Mexicana Latinoamericana which is a nonprofit organization providing advocacy for immigrant community. They are having an open house for their new Santa Rosa office on Sunday 9/19/04, at 1027 Santa Rosa Ave. from 3pm to 6pm.

Her second hat was for MAPA. The executive director of MAPA is Nativo Lopez who recently announced he changed his political party registration from Democrat to Green. Lopez will be at the event on Sunday and will be available around 7:00 to sit down with Greens at the Willie Bird restaurant on Santa Rosa Ave to talk with him.

City Council updates. Matt said he has developed his flyer.

We lost quorum at 8:15 when Evelina had to leave.

Regional Reps to CC report by Tim. Tim said that we need a North Bay Region rep to the CC. The North Bay Region is Sonoma, Marin, and Napa. Sonoma and Marin have active Green parties but Napa seems to be inactive. Tim only knows of one person in Napa who is active. The process in the GPCA bylaws is to have reps elected by the regional caucus at the General Assembly plenary. Our North Bay Region is given one rep seat out of 16. There are 4 At-Large reps and Jared is one. But we have a vacancy now with the rep and the alternate both having resigned. The GPCA bylaws allow for an alternative process. Tim said he spoke with Michael Borenstein who is the CC liaison to this region who suggested that an informal way of selecting a rep could be done at a regional meeting. A person named Kate Taylor from Marin has let people know she is interested. Tim is also interested. A letter stating the process must be sent to the GPCA CC. This could be done within 6 weeks by the end of October. Tim says he believes more than one alternate may be chosen and that it was proposed that if the rep is from one county that there should be two alternates from each of the other counties.

Gregory voiced strong unresolved concerns that it was premature to be talking about candidate before a process has been adopted and our members are told about the process and given a fair chance to put their names in nomination. Gregory was also concerned

that there was no proposal in writing so we can't propose amendments. Also Gregory said his reading of the GPCA bylaws shows only one alternate is chosen since it says "the alternate" fills a vacancy. If there were more than one alternate the language wouldn't be "the alternate." Jared pointed out that without a quorum we could not even formally introduce a proposal. The next GA is in December so it seems that if no rep is selected before then that the regional caucus there may fill the vacancy.

The Propositions were discussed. Unfortunately without a quorum nothing could be decided about these either. Jared said we can vote to endorse on the internet. Endorsements need to be sent to GPCA by Sunday. Gregory Asked if there is a written protocol for doing internet voting and no one knew of one but several said it has been done. However no one could state the rules for it. Jared went down the list of propositions and briefly described each and comments were made by others.

In free discussion at the end, Rick said we should consider endorsing proposals for non-citizens to vote. Ann suggested that facilitators be appointed for 3 months at a time to provide more continuity and stability to meetings so a new facilitator doesn't have to pick up for each meeting.

Gregory asked isn't the council responsible for the agendas?

Meeting ended without co-facilitators being selected for the next meeting.

Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Appendix to Minutes:

Written notice of alternate:

From: "clrsight001" <pazesposable@h...>
Date: Wed Sep 15, 2004 11:33 pm
Subject: Alternate

County Council,

I am sorry to inform the group that I will also be absent from tomorrow's night meeting. I designate Jared Laiti to be my alternate for the County Council Meeting on Sept. 16, 2004. I authorize Jared to either hold unresolved concerns and/or to vote. I entrust Jared to exercise his best judgment on any issues that may come up.

Thank You,

Veronica Lopez