

Green Party of Michigan State Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 6, 2015 * Michigan Migrant Legal Aid office; 1104 Fuller Avenue Northeast; Grand Rapids

Decisions & Actions

attendees:

Sherry Wells (moderator)	Art Myatt	Chris Silva
Lou Novak	Rita Jacobs	Jennifer La Pietra (& Serenity La Pietra)
Tom Mair and Susan Odgers	Gerard Akkerhuis (Grand Rapids)	John Anthony La Pietra
c/o Lou via Livestream	Paul Homeniuk	Doug Campbell

Sherry Wells (the only co-Meeting Manager present) is moderator; John Anthony La Pietra volunteers to take notes (as he will anyway) Paul Homeniuk (as Membership Secretary) confirms that all present are already members of GPMI & have voting rights
agenda approved by ***CONSENSUS***; **minutes** of last meeting (2-page "decisions and actions" version) considered
Sherry Wells says Candace Caveny's requested minutes change not strictly OK as process – but nobody objects; ***CONSENSUS***

Treasurer's Report – Lou Novak (hard-copy handout) . . . accepted by ***CONSENSUS***

expenditures: political – \$600 to Committee to Ban Fracking; administrative – \$958.14 for SMM expenses & signs (details available)
income: membership fees & donations \$1,163.79 . . . Lou thinks \$1,050 from the last SMM
account balances (5/31): political \$6,056.76 + administrative \$103.23 = total \$6,159.99
we can move from political to administrative, not the other way around; new on-site button puts donation into political as default

Reports, Updates to Reports Submitted & in Packet, and Related Proposals

SCC – Art Myatt (in packet)

Art was hoping for an update from the Locals Liaison as to **what locals exist and who their SCC reps are**
the body agrees with Art that locals should tell about SCC reps too – in future reports . . . ***CONSENSUS***
Art also wants the **Social Media Committee dissolved** – people have been active, but no real *committee* activity
after discussion of GPMI's two presences on Facebook (one page and one group) and other social media, ***CONSENSUS***
Lou suggests inviting Social Media Committee members to join Media Committee (already been approved); ***CONSENSUS***

Membership – Paul Homeniuk (in packet)

he wants approval to use **wooden ID card**, get some design ideas from Jamie (WSU design student interning with Fred on newsletter)
discussion of design processes, party vignette (official symbol on the ballot), and previous suggestions to change it
Paul finds GPUS graphics & shows them; general agreement that SCC didn't like them, but couldn't decide what to do instead
CONSENSUS on moving ahead with getting designs – SCC (or SMM) to settle design of card

Locals Liaison – Rod Reamer & Tom Mair (in packet)

Elections Co-ordinator – John Anthony La Pietra (in packet)

discussion of **2015 elections** (local, mostly non-partisan); GPMI **endorsement** in non-partisan races (by SMM/SCC or a working local)
Tom Mair is considering running in Traverse City; it might be good to schedule a proposed SMM there so we can campaign for him
discussion of **precinct-level database** – how it works and how we could use it to target precincts Green candidates might do better in
Paul Homeniuk has a neighbor who works with databases, can ask him what getting the files into usable form would take
some city & county clerks will give us the data, says Chris Silva; strong locals could ask them; also, some places have info online
Chris Silva reviews the status of the **multiple marijuana ballot-petition drives**
he's campaign manager for MI Legalize, so biased, but thinks it's the best; a "craft-beer model" (a good metaphor for MI)
informal agreement we'll check the language of all the petitions, but likely support the one Chris Silva's working on
other petitions: ***CONSENSUS*** on taking a position against the petition for an initiative to **ban local prevailing-wage ordinances**
warning what it would really do – keep poor people poor & make more of them, not get govt out of private lives (as circulators say)
Chris says there's also talk of a petition for a Constitutional amendment to adopt a **graduated income tax** – may get a circulating firm
if so, fracking-ban & marijuana people may be able to get those circulators to get signatures for their petitions too, at lower cost

Platform Committee – John Anthony La Pietra

by the example of recent successful updates, we should start the 2016 platform process around fall 2015 – put on agenda of next SMM
Issue/Policy Research Committee – should we form one? ***CONSENSUS*** on having SCC (which is doing it now) to do more of it

Media Committee – John Anthony La Pietra

discussion of updating committee membership (as was done for By-Laws); new by-laws require a stated purpose for each committee

National Committee (GPUS) – Doug Campbell (and others)

Linda Cree had proposed on SCC list if GPUS could support some people going to GPUS meeting in St. Louis (\$200 x 2)

Doug's thinking of going, and \$200 would help; prioritize helping another GPUS NC rep or alternate go – ***CONSENSUS***

GPUS hasn't decided yet whether to join in the lawsuit against the Commission on Presidential Debates

GPUS's national Platform Committee just woke up June 1; Doug encourages someone to re-submit his process-reform proposal

John Anthony La Pietra says GPUS's Electoral College plank amendment never got submitted to the GPUS Platform Committee

Lou Novak is willing to submit it this time (or if he's not eligible as an alternate, get someone else in the delegation to be the name)

Ian Swanson has resigned from the party, so we have a vacant GPUS National Committee rep seat

Activism Reports (by pillar)

GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY

Court Cases: Rev. Pinkney still in jail, appeals continue; Chris Wahmhoff still out, in Minnesota today on other pipeline activism

Homrich 9 (Detroit water shut-off truck protesters) cases delayed; People's Water Board and other activists keeping the issue hot

Voting: GPUS supported SB 13 to end straight-ticket voting mechanism; Art Myatt called sponsor Marty Knollenberg to inform him

no word back yet, but at least he's been informed; Art suggests that we all contact our State Senators personally

Sherry said her local clerk said at poll-worker training that primaries are the people paying for Republican/Democratic conventions

Proposal 15-1's defeat and ramifications for GPUS: 80-20 margin & 25% turnout point up the independence of voters, says Sherry

voters aren't necessarily against tax increases – they just don't like the Legislature; we should run State House candidates in 2016

John Anthony wrote his St Rep, HB 4540 co-sponsor David Maturen (R-063), against the bill (new FOIA loophole for pipeline info)

Voter Registration of 18- to 21-year-olds: not just college students but all college-age folks, says Sherry

she would like Greens to do registration drives & leafletting on campuses – wants a little more organized effort to approach youth discussion of automatic registration (as in some other countries, and in North Dakota); some say this is our natural position

Gerrymandering: Chris Silva says there's always a ballot committee promoting a more non-partisan process (like other states have)

but it never goes far; Sherry asks Chris to help us contact that committee, support idea, and forward it to MI Third Parties Coalition

NON-VIOLENCE / SOCIAL JUSTICE

Black Lives Matter and related killings: buttons authorized at last meeting are here; a \$1 donation or so would pay Fred back

Sherry also notes one bit of good news on the subject – 6 officers indicted in Baltimore for that killing

Detroit Water Shutoffs; Detroit Foreclosures: Wayne Co Treasurer has twice postponed foreclosures, due to citizen activism, says Lou

(Detroiters Resisting Emergency Management et al), action June 8 to push for another "extension of moratorium" as activists say

Sherry heard at a Democratic Socialists meeting that tax payments are applied to latest bill, not most delinquent

Prevailing Wage: [talked about already, under elections & petitions above]

Education: chair of MI House Education Committee supports dissolving DPS; already done in New Orleans, now only charter schools

pre-STEM (Science/Tech/Engrg/Math) Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Aerospace HS successful, but now its students are black, who cares?

Educational Achievement Authority – not a failure by its intent/design; just looks like one to people who hoped for better schools/etc

literacy issues: Michigan's support system isn't very good – all local and mostly not paid; maybe a statewide summit is needed

Sherry compares Cuba's experience in boosting reading percentage – that would be easier in Detroit & similar communities

Chris: public-policy problem is politicians can't think long-term; if education hasn't worked for people, why should they support it?

Trans-Pacific Partnership (& T-TIP): resistance in House to fast track/Trade Promotion Authority, even if some would back the treaties

ENVIRONMENT

Let's Ban Fracking: all but three attendees haven't signed the petition yet; most are circulators themselves

Alliance to Halt Fermi 3 (ATHF3): now that NRC gave DTE license to build Fermi 3, resistance shifts to MI Public Service Commission

if they don't give DTE a Certificate of Need, DTE can't make customers pay however many billions construction winds up costing

Fundraising & Communications Committee mtg 6/15, potluck 6/18 across from Monroe Co Courthouse; for details, ask Art Myatt

Pipelines, Tar Sands: get a report from Chris Wahmhoff when he gets back from Minnesota pipeline activism

HB 4540 (see above) related; John Anthony La Pietra notes HB 4234, another proposed new FOIA exemption (police body cams)

Petrol Coke: also related to tar sands/etc – can't be piled up on Detroit riverbank, but goes elsewhere

Roads/Mass Transit: new state budget road \$\$; road salt as destructive as overweight trucks, new type of asphalt isn't as durable; etc.

Proposed By-Laws Revision: detailed discussion, section by section – ultimately, adopted by ***CONSENSUS***

to take effect when Sherry Wells & John Anthony La Pietra (SMM's moderator & note-taker) certify final form (polished by By-Laws)

but ***CONSENSUS*** also on postponing elections of newly [re-]defined party officers until next time

Next SMMs: Tom Mair's suggested dates for fall in Traverse City area are all in September (12, 19, or 26)

but the only response to Sherry's earlier online request suggested after the election in November; left for Meeting Managers to settle