

Minutes
GPVA Business Meeting
19 May 2018

14 MEMBERS AND 2 GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:
(An asterisk * denotes a local representative.)

Arlington: Kirit Mukherjee (treasurer)
At-Large: none
Blue Ridge: Charlie Jordan*
Charlottesville: Jen Wingard*
Fairfax: Jonah Thomas*
Fredericksburg: Sean Imanian*, Chris Fink (webmaster)
Hampton Roads: Jeff Staples*, Declan Mathis, Bryce Davis
Loudoun: none
Lynchburg: B. Sidney Smith (Secretary)
New River Valley: Steven Gillespie*, Judson, Tom Adams
Richmond: none
Shenandoah: Tom Yager*, Tamar Yager

Guests: Marjorie Leach-Parker, Sierra Club State Chair;
Kris Smoot, Kentucky Greens.

Meeting convened at 10:10 am

facilitator: Steve Gillespie
time-keeper: Ryan Wesdock
vibes-watcher: Chris Fink

Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was deferred to the LC, because they final version had not yet been posted.

REPORTS

Co-chairs: Bryce Davis, Tamar Yager; no report.

General Secretary: Sid Smith reported that the Loudoun local had not held a meeting in over a year, and should be considered inactive. A complete report is still needed from Blue Ridge Greens. All other locals have met within the last year, and their local representatives have been confirmed.

Treasurer: Kirit Mukherjee reported that there was approximately \$1015 in the general fund and about \$100 in the federal PAC. The low funds in the PAC are not a concern because we do not have any candidates for federal office this year. We are currently unable to accept donations on the Nation Builder site, and he and Tamar are working on it. In the meantime the old site is still being used for donations. Sid noted that if locals can get their college chapters going because student groups can pay for speakers, which is a way to raise funds if the speaker is a party member. Ryan Wesdock strongly endorsed this idea based on his experience at Virginia Tech.

Webmaster: Chris Fink reported that the new Drupal website is almost complete, with almost all of the data from the old website having been migrated, and the rest will be completed within a week or so. The local's websites that GPVA has been hosting have also been migrated to their own subdomains on the server, making them more secure. The new site will become the ".org" site as the old one is discontinued. Member interested in helping the IT committee should join by subscribing to the

email list. Also, Chris will put a tutorial on the new website to help people use it. In response to a question, Chris reported that Arlington, Blue Ridge, Hampton Roads, Lynchburg, and Loudoun locals were not having their websites hosted by GPVA. Tamar noted that the Nation Builder site would continue to be used for e-blasts until the contacts database and functionality was migrated to the Drupal site. Chris also noted that he has served as the unofficial archivist of the GPVA, and kept all of the paper files. He has now digitized most of these, and will be turning over the archives to the General Secretary. He encouraged all members to send any materials they have to Sid as the new archivist.

Press Secretary: Ryan Wesdock

GPUS Delegates:

Arlington: Kirit reported that 18 months ago Arlington submitted a petition for designation of a historical district, and last week a decision by the county was deferred pending a new zoning policy. This was disappointing. The local has planned many events and coordinated with Our Revolution on events of mutual interest.

Blue Ridge: no report

Charlottesville: Jennifer Wingard reported that the Charlottesville local is now active and growing.

Fairfax: no report

Fredericksburg: Sean Imanian reported that the local is working to increase its membership and funds. To that end they have started a donation program. The local is also working on an election reform bill for the city council. A community picnic is being planned for June, and a local food program is in the works. A number of other initiatives are being considered by the local. In response to a question, Sean reported that he and Jennifer Wingard have been working with some new members of a Reformed Piedmont Greens. Sid noted that once they have designated a local

Hampton Roads: Jeff Staples reported that the local has been growing, and ran a candidate for city council in Chesapeake, who received 4500 votes in a very large field of candidates. The local is in alliance with the Hampton Roads Light Brigade which is attracting attention to the local. The pipelines are the primary issue for the local. They intend to set up an encampment in the path of the ACP in Suffolk. The local will be in the July 4th parade as the "Defending Democracy Marching Unit", and they are participating in "Clean Up the Bay."

Lynchburg: Sid Smith reported that membership is a problem, and new members are needed.

New River Valley: Steve Gillespie reported that fighting the Mountain Valley Pipeline is the dominant issue for the local.

Richmond: no report

Shenandoah: Tom Yager reported that they went all out for Will King last year and learned a lot from the campaign. The local is planning to meet soon and prepare for the 2020 election cycle. The local is also reaching out to groups in the area to build membership.

OLD BUSINESS:

Confirmation of LC interim decisions: The decision of the LC to authorize a GPVA YouTube channel was confirmed by consensus.

Committee-committee recommendations: Sean Imanian reported the CC's recommendations as: Steering Committee to be dissolved as redundant, Activism to be dissolved and replaced by a Political Response Team, Local Organizing to be kept, Candidate Exploration to be kept, Finance to be kept, Structural Reform no recommendation.. After reviewing the recommendations, Chris Fink proposed that we discuss each committee separately rather than voting on the recommendation in its entirety, and this was generally agreed to. Sid noted that there was no general recommendation about the Platform Committee. There was consensus for the following:

- Dissolve the Steering Committee
- Keep the Finance Committee
- Keep the Candidate Exploration Committee

Sid outlined the idea behind the Political Response Team, as a team to respond quickly to opportunities and events that the GPVA should be involved in or take a stand on. Ryan noted that it is important to be proactive rather than reactive in general, but that indeed there are many missed opportunities, and the PRT would be a good way to ensure they are not missed. Tamar also spoke in support, and said that a co-chair should be on it since they have a duty under the bylaws to be the public representatives of the party. Sid affirmed this, and moved that Activism Committee be dissolved, and that a proposal be developed for the Political Response Team to be considered and voted upon at the next meeting. This was agreed to by consensus.

Chris Fink suggested that we keep the Committee-Committee be kept active until they have recommendations on the committees that they didn't address, and that conveners be identified for all the committees being retained. Sid pointed out that the CC had lost a large number of its members, and will need new members. Sid volunteered to work with the CC and Sean to help the committee finish its business. Recommendations will be needed for the Structural Reform Committee, Platform Committee, and Local Organizing Committee.

The following conveners were identified: Platform, Sid Smith; Local Organizing, Tom Yager; Candidate Exploration, Jeff Staples. It was agreed that the Structural Reform Committee does not currently need a convener, pending the CC's final recommendation.

(Charlie Jordan asked that his need to stand aside from all decisions, owing to his inability to hear clearly what is going on, be noted in the record.)

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment of Press Secretary Ryan Wesdock to the national Media Committee was agreed to by consensus.

Review of plans for midterm elections: Bryce reported that Hampton Roads Greens has been approached by two congressional candidates asking for endorsement, but the local has determined to wait until after the June primary to see who will actually be on the ballot. Ryan Wesdock pleaded that locals be sure to let him know about any local candidates so that he can help promote them. Charlie Jordan suggested that the GPVA should be running a candidate for US Senate this year. Sid pointed out that getting a candidate on the ballot as a Green would require 10,000 signatures and many other resources that we don't have. For this reason the party consensed at our summit in 2017 to put our energies into local candidates. Steve Gillespie noted that we don't need a candidate in a race in order to criticize other candidates.

Endorsement of the ILGP sex worker amendment to the GPUS platform: Ryan Wesdock

spoke in favor of the ILGP amendment, noting that the proposal would change the national platform from the nordic model (involving criminalization of sex work but not of sex workers) to complete decriminalization of sex work. Kris Smoot, in response to a request from Chris Fink, provided clarification on the problems with the nordic model.

(Time for discussion was extended for 10 minutes by consensus, with comments limited to one minute.)

Jen Wingard spoke against the proposal out of concern that the proposal doesn't put any additional protections for children and others being trafficked, and that sex work is largely exploitative, especially of women. Jeff Staples expressed concern about public health, even of the consumer of sex work. Jonah Thomas said that the proposal is an improvement, but seems to endorse sex work. Ryan disputed that the proposal endorses sex work. Tamar suggested that rather than taking a vote on endorsement, we should seek to inform the delegates of the sense of the party. Tom spoke against proposal, saying that those forced into sex work are basically raped. Sid noted that the ILGP solicited GPVA's co-sponsorship of the proposal in 2017, and that at that time the state party was sharply divided about it. For this reason GPVA did not sign on as a co-sponsor, and probably is not able to endorse the proposal for the same reason. He also noted that the proposal is extremely controversial in the National Committee. Ryan reiterated his desire that a vote be taken, even if it is just to inform the delegates of the party members' opinions. A non-binding poll of members present was agreed to, and taken with the following results: 7 in support, 2 opposed, 5 abstaining.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1, REPORTS

Fredericksburg: Minutes of the most recent meeting are at
<http://www.fredericksburg.vagreenparty.org/system/files/committee/FGPMinutes1804.pdf>

Richmond: Minutes of the most recent meeting are at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/richmondgreenparty/permalink/1370992822937700/>