

# Indiana Green Party

## MINUTES - APRIL 2002

### Indiana Green Party Meeting

April 13, 2002, 2:00 pm  
East Washington Street Library Branch  
2822 E. Washington St., Indianapolis

Present: Maureen Barlock, George Fish, Ed Grandstaff, Tracy Carson, Heather Drake, Peter Drake, Isabel Piedmont

Introductions

Minutes of the March 9, 2002 meeting were approved, with revisions, by consensus.

### I. Reports

#### A. Secretary's Report

Isabel reported that she is maintaining a database of IGP members and supporters. Supporters are those who sign up at IGP events and those who are on the Ingreens e-mail list but are not yet full members. We currently have 317 supporters and 23 full members.

#### B. Treasurer's Report

Heather reported that the treasury holds \$487.98. T-shirt sales did not generate a lot of revenue, but were a good idea nonetheless, as they will raise awareness of the IGP. The last shirts were sold at the Nader talk at DePauw University last month.

#### C. Platform Committee Report

Peter reported that the Committee had gotten together many different party platforms from various states and is beginning to study these. George said he would definitely contribute to this study and evaluation of the different sample platforms. Peter suggested the following tentative structure of the Committee's report to be submitted at the summer Congress:

- Section 1) How other platforms have been structured, ideas on structure.
- Section 2) The 4 pillars: general issues, Indiana issues.
- Section 3) Appendix: web sites of all platforms studied.

#### D. Technology Report

Neither Tom Brown nor Jenett Tillotson, our two tech coordinators, were present. But Tom had sent the following e-mail report to the coordinators before the meeting. The report was not read at the meeting but is included here for the record.

Tom's Report:

The short of it is that we have completed the transformation of the web site from proprietary file formats to 100% open standards formats. In particular we converted all files to Server Side Includes (SSI) and no longer use the corporate

owned Miva file format. Jenett is learning basic Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) technology. She is also reworking the index (home) page and the calendar page. The appearance of the web site has not changed much but the technology has. Pages even load a little faster. The site will continue to use the older Miva format until we inform the host to flip the switch to the converted files. The IGP archive site uses the new technologies and was converted first.

Jenett and I ran the new files through many browsers on various quality monitors and display sizes, including a complete review with a text-only browser on a monochrome display. The results are stunningly good. Our web pages look as good on text-only browsers as on graphic browsers and are as easy to navigate in each. Of particular importance is the ease with which blind users and low tech users can access our web site.

IGP supporters are encouraged to check out the website and give feedback to Tom ([tbrown@michiana.org](mailto:tbrown@michiana.org)) or Jenett ([jtillots@pharmacy.purdue.edu](mailto:jtillots@pharmacy.purdue.edu)).

## **E. Common Bonds Report**

No report given since our representative to Common Bonds (Neil Smith) was not present.

## **F. ICFEL (Indiana Coalition for Fair Election Laws) Report**

No report given since our representative to ICFEL (Bethany Hayes) was not present.

# **II. Old Business**

## **A. Melton for Congress Campaign**

Jeff Melton was not present, but Peter passed around his campaign flyer. While he was at it, Peter also passed around the first edition of the national Campus Greens newsletter.

## **B. Newsletter Proposal**

Ed passed around a sample first page. He proposed that the newsletter be 3-5 pages, back to back. He got a quote from Kinko's for 3 double-sided pages on colored paper: 57 cents per newsletter. Tracy suggested formatting the newsletter for 11" X 17" paper and then folding the sheets. Ed said he has no union printer contacts or other cheaper options, but asked others to check around for cheaper (and perhaps more labor-friendly) options than Kinko's. George said he would check with the editor of the Indiana Peace and Justice Center newsletter to find out whether the printer who does that would be a good option for us. Isabel said she would check couple of places in Bloomington as well. Ed agreed to do the typesetting for the newsletter and be the contact person, so George and Isabel said they would get back to him about printing options.

The group decided that the first edition of the newsletter should come out in June. We agreed that, to save money, we would not use envelopes, just fold and staple (or seal with stickers). Those present suggested the following content:

- Candidate statements
- IGP Summer Congress
- Platform Committee report
- Calendar- through Sept.
- Donation box
- Membership form (could be combined with donation box)
- List of local contacts
- Welcome from the co-coordinators

As indicated during the March meeting, the newsletter committee will consist of Ed, Tracy, and Isabel, as well as George, who agreed to join during the current meeting.

It was difficult to project the full costs of the newsletter, but Heather said that the Monroe County Greens newsletter was 6 pages, and it cost about \$200 to make about 400 copies. Postage was not included in this estimate, but would add about \$128 (first-class postage, since bulk mailing is not cost efficient at this point). Isabel guessed that we would have about 200 addresses to mail it to, so the IGP newsletter costs should be around \$164.

It was agreed that the submissions deadline would be May 25, and that we would aim to get the newsletters assembled and in the mail about June 8. Ed will send out call for submissions to Ingreens. When it's ready, the newsletter will be put on the IGP website. If he doesn't have enough content by May 25th, Ed will email the IGP officers for help.

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. Summer Congress**

Tracy announced that the annual IGP Summer Congress will take place July 27th, 10 am to 7 pm at the Glendale Library, 6101 N. Keystone Ave., Indianapolis. Some of the main agenda items are the election of new officers, the report of the platform committee, proposals from members, selection of candidates for state-wide office, selection of representatives to Common Bonds and ICFEL. Given our current treasury, we expect to have no registration fee. Tracy reported that the reserved space is air-conditioned, which was a relief to those who sweated through last year's Congress. Proposals for items to be discussed at the Congress must be submitted to Tracy by June 12 (45 days prior to the Congress), and the list of submitted proposals will be publicized by the IGP officers on Ingreens and on the web site by June 27 (30 days prior). Nomination of individuals for the IGP officer positions will also be encouraged, though not mandatory, before the Congress.

There were already some suggestions for proposals made at the current meeting (but these must still be submitted in writing to Tracy):

- 1) Isabel noted that the terms of IGP officers are not specified in the bylaws. She proposed to add 1-year term specification for IGP officers.
- 2) Peter proposed that a Tech coordinator should be an officer on the Coordinating Committee.
- 3) Another suggestion was made: to clarify in the bylaws the nominating process for candidates and officers at Congress.

Tracy noted that each IGP local should send a least one delegate to the Congress. We need to have a record of who is/are the official delegate(s) from each local. Heather suggested that each member should register with the IGP secretary who their delegate will be. Isabel suggested requiring pre-registration for the Congress (no payment, just inform us you're coming). Peter reminded the group that only IGP members have a vote at the Congress, but the way our bylaws are now, people can become members the day of the congress and vote the same day.

Tracy suggested we invite a keynote speaker to the Congress: someone who would be inspirational but who would speak for free. Tracy suggested John Gibson, former Our Party candidate for mayor of Indianapolis, but she is open to other suggestions. Tracy also recommended we have some kind of entertainment during the Congress to keep people's energy up. As far as lunch during the Congress, this will be no problem since the library is in a mall, so there will be plenty of places to buy food, or participants can bring their own and eat it in the food court.

The group put together a very tentative schedule:

- 10:00-12:00 Proposals discussed, voted on
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-2:00 Platform committee report
- 2:00-2:30 Entertainment
- 2:30-3:30 Elections, speeches
- 3:30-3:45 Break
- 3:45-4:30 Guest speaker
- 4:30-5:30 Reports from locals

The details were relayed to the IGP officers to work out. Tracy will send a message on Ingreens soliciting proposals. All proposals should be sent to Tracy via email or to the IGP PO box.

## **B. Black Expo**

Tracy reported that the Indiana Black Expo, the largest Black expo in the nation, will take place July 15-21 in Indianapolis. Since the least expensive booth IGP would be eligible to rent would cost \$3,000, it was decided that we could only participate if we teamed up with one or more non-profit groups, who could take advantage of the less expensive booth rate of \$450 for non-profits. Tracy pointed out that we will not be allowed to just go in and hand out flyers. George volunteered to ask the Indiana Peace & Justice Center and other progressive groups in Indianapolis whether they are interested in splitting the cost of a booth. He'll report back to Tracy.

## **C. Accessibility Seminar**

Heather reported that the Family and Social Services Administration of the state of Indiana has invited IGP to a "Building Accessible Campaigns" presentation Tuesday, April 23, 10:30-12:00 in Indiana Govt Center South. We must RSVP by April 19th. Heather will send this announcement to Ingreens to see if anyone is interested in attending as a representative from IGP. George took the opportunity to express his concern about accessibility to public discourse and voting for those with mental health problems. Heather encouraged him to discuss this on the Ingreens-discuss email list.

## **D. Announcements**

George passed around two pamphlets of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy in Socialism and one pamphlet on renewable energy sources and energy policy proposals. Tracy announced that the next Marcogreens meeting would be 7:00 pm April 18th at the old firehouse on Mass Ave. See [www.Geocities.com/marcogreens](http://www.Geocities.com/marcogreens) for more details.

# **IV. Reports from Locals**

## **A. Marion County: (Marcogreens)**

Tracy reported that she is working on Marcogreens website and that the Marion County local was thinking of nominating candidates for this year's local elections. Marcogreens will hold a congress within the next couple of months.

## **B. Monroe County: (MCGP)**

Heather reported that MCGP held a forum on the difficulty of making a living in in Monroe County (focused on the "Social Justice" pillar). The Julie Roberts for County Council campaign is gearing up, and the next MCGP newsletter will be out in May.

## **C. St. Joseph County: (SJVG)**

Report submitted via e-mail by Tom Brown.

### **1. St. Joseph County Prosecutor Race**

The SJVG met Monday, Apr. 8. We were contacted by one of the candidates running for county prosecutor, Tony Zirkle, and invited him to speak to us. After his presentation he did a Q&A with the group. The local decided not to endorse Zirkle but to leave the decision up to each member. One complication is that Zirkle chose to run as a Republican in order to split votes on the Republican primary ticket and directly challenge the present Prosecutor, Chris Toth. Since Indiana voters can vote in one primary election only, Greens who want to support Zirkle in the primary election will forfeit voting in the Democratic primary. The prosecutor's race is the most interesting race this year and

demands voter attention. Supporting Zirkle as a Republican is a choice for Greens since there is no Green candidate. Zirkle had flirted with the idea of running as an independent in the general election but decided to confront Toth in the Republican primary.

## 2. Upcoming activities:

The SJVG will table at Earth Day in South Bend and at U. of Notre Dame. The two events are on respectively successive Saturdays, Apr. 20 and 27. A committee of SJVG members contacted environmentally friendly businesses regarding participating in Earth Day for South Bend.

One of our members volunteered to contact the educational director of the local NAACP chapter about joining a group to oppose closing one of South Bend's west side high schools. Diversity and social justice issues are involved. The school redistricting plan is currently under federal review.

Another member will research the new state law requiring landlords to provide housing which is safe and meets all building codes.

A member volunteered to attend the Safety Committee of the Near Northwest Side Neighborhood Association (NNN) as a neighborhood resident and Green. The Safety committee is focusing on crime and crime prevention. Federal HUD funds are available for overtime police foot and bicycle patrols in qualified neighborhoods. The NNN is working with the South Bend Police Dept. to set up patrols and to conduct a crime survey of the neighborhood. Part of the survey will identify poorly maintained rental housing, building code violations and problem properties.

The environmental committee asked for ideas regarding educating the public on combined sewer overflow (CSO) issues. Even though state law requires officials to notify the public whenever there is a likelihood of a CSO event, no such announcements have ever been issued in St. Joseph Co. There are 41 CSO permits (outlets) in South Bend.

The chapter is discussing plans to recruit new members this year. The core activity will probably be tabling every Saturday at the local Farmers Market.

## **V. Other Business**

Peter announced that Heather and Peter will be leaving Indiana in August and thus will not be seeking re-election as treasurer and co-coordinator, respectively, at our summer congress.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.

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