

Indiana Green Party

MINUTES - DECEMBER 2001

Indiana Green Party Meeting

December 8, 2001
Indianapolis Public Library-East Washington St. Branch
Indianapolis, Indiana

Present:

Peter Drake, co-coordinator
Heather Drake, treasurer
Isabel Piedmont, secretary
Bethany Hayes (Marion Co.)
Skywolf (Neil Smith, Marion Co.)
Rebecca Riall (Monroe Co.)
Jeff Melton (Monroe Co.)
Julie Roberts (Monroe Co.)
Tom Brown (St. Joe Co.)
Donald Georgette (Unaffiliated)

Introductions

Approval of Minutes of Nov. 10, as amended.

Approval of Agenda, with additions.

Secretary's Report:

Isabel passed around copies of the IGP membership form for comment. The only suggested revision was to indicate that the membership was for 2002. Isabel then brought forth three sample designs for IGP stationery, which were handed around, and the group voted for one of the designs with proposed revisions. She also reported that 28 people had attended the IGP Congress this summer and/or the subsequent IGP meetings (not including the current meeting). This was given as an unofficial membership count.

Treasurer's Report:

Heather reported that we have \$175.50 in the treasury. She presented a draft IGP budget for 2002, listing estimated expenses and income. She also said that the "Regular Party Committee Statement of Organization," which still needed Tracy's signature, would complete the paperwork to have the IGP recognized as an official party by the state.

Announcements:

1. Skywolf announced that the Marion County Greens will meet Dec. 14, 7 pm, at the Old Historic Firehouse at 748 Massachusetts Ave. in Indy for a regular meeting and potluck. IGP officers and candidates were invited to attend.
2. Skywolf also announced that a new progressive bookstore will soon open in Fountain

Square in Indy. The store will include free meeting space for progressive groups.

3. Rebecca announced that there will be a speaker from the Revolutionary Afghan Women's Alliance giving a talk in Bloomington on Jan. 22 at 7 pm, at the Monroe County Public Library auditorium. The Monroe County Greens are a co-sponsor of this event.
4. Skywolf announced that there will be a rally outside the city/county building in Indy starting at 7:30 am on Tuesday, Dec. 18 in support of a woman with mutiple sclerosis who was arrested because 2 grams of marijuana and a pipe were found in her home. The woman is 80% paralyzed and uses the drug to ease her pain. Another important focus of the rally will be to inform jurors of the "Fully Informed Jury" clause in the state constitution, which allows them to determine whether or not a law is just before determining whether the person is guilty of breaking the law.
5. Bethany reminded the group that there is a nightly vigil for peace between 4:30 and 6:30 pm at the corner of Michigan and Pennsylvania in downtown Indy.
6. Rebecca announced that Ward Churchill, an American Indian activist and professor at the University of Colorado, will give a lecture in Bloomington this coming March. Churchill is the author of two books on the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program, especially the ways it was used to disrupt Black, Indian, and (white) radical groups, actually resulting in the death of about 75 people in the U.S.

Reports from Locals

Bethany reported that the Marion County Greens were finished with section 1 of their bylaws, and that section 2 would be discussed at their Dec. 14th meeting. They plan to complete their bylaws and hold officer elections in January.

OLD BUSINESS

IGP Bylaws

Isabel reported that the IGP Bylaws had been unanimously approved by a vote through the Ingreens e-mail list. The party now officially exists, and members can sign up and pay dues.

Local Organizing Kits

Peter presented the new and improved organizing kits for new Green Party locals in the state. The new kits include instructions for gathering signatures to get state candidates on the ballot in addition to information on starting a new local. An organizing kit was handed to Skywolf for the Marion County Greens and to Donald, in hopes he may be able to organize a local in his area.

Petition Drive

This discussion was about the petitions on which signatures will be gathered to get a Green Party candidate on the ballot for the Nov. 2002 elections.

1. When do we turn in the petitions? The official deadline is June 30, but since this will be a Sunday, we were not sure whether they are due the following Monday, July 1, or

the preceding Friday, June 28. It was agreed that all petition sheets should be turned in by June 28 just to be sure.

2. Does it help to turn in the petition sheets as you go, or is it better to save them and turn them in en masse at the end? Heather reported that in Monroe County, the clerks begin certification of the forms as soon as they come in, but Bethany said that in Marion County, the clerks do nothing with the forms until after the deadline. So apparently this varies by county. For a given county, it would be best for that county's organizer to check with the county's Voter Registration Office.
3. Tom said that, although he was told that we could begin collecting signatures right away, he thought it would be safer to wait until January 1. Signatures collected earlier may be subject to a court challenge.
4. Skywolf volunteered to put the petition forms for Tom and Jeff on the web in pdf format so it would be easy for county organizers throughout the state to print them off. Peter emphasized that each petition must be two-sided, even though signatures are only gathered on the front side of the form.
5. Peter's instructions for gathering signatures included obtaining a stack of voter registration forms from your county so that people could register to vote on the spot. Only voters registered in the state of Indiana can sign the petition, and each petition form must include only those registered in a specific county, since the form must be sent to the county election board for certification.
6. Looking at the voter registration form, it was agreed that if a person was previously registered in one Indiana county and then moved to another Indiana county, it's very important for that person to fill out the "Where were you previously registered?" section. Else their name will remain on the voter lists for the old county.
7. Jeff said that his zip code was incorrect on the petition forms that Peter had pre-typed, so the pre-typed forms were not handed out.

IGP T-Shirts

Isabel reported that she had still not received enough pre-orders to make the printing of T-shirts profitable for the IGP. She hoped that, once we had official members, we could send a mailing out to sell the shirts.

Ad in Citizen's Action Coalition Booklet

Skywolf reported that the joint IGP/Marion County Green Party ad was published in the program booklet of the CAC's annual meeting and banquet earlier that day.

NEW BUSINESS

Affiliation with Green Party of the US

1. Skywolf brought forward the proposal that IGP should affiliate with GP of the US.
2. The national Green Party groups were discussed:
 - a. GPUSA, the oldest group, seems to be losing state members and becoming increasingly

disorganized after its July 2001 Congress in Carbondale.

- b. GP of the US gained recognition by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) recently, and this group claims the most state members. It also seems to be the most organized.
 - c. Skywolf said that the Green Alliance was formed this summer to try to bring GPUSA and GP of the US together. Tom said the Green Alliance is a caucus within the GP of the US which is more focused on activism than party politics. Skywolf said he thought the Green Alliance was developing into an independent Green movement.
 - d. Ralph Nader's new movement is Citizen Works, to be found at www.citizenworks.org
3. Skywolf offered the following arguments for IGP to join GP of the US:
- a. GPUS has taken a pro-active stance against the war in Afghanistan.
 - b. It is recognized by the FEC.
 - c. Of the other alternatives, GPUSA is dying and the Green Alliance is just muddying the waters.
 - d. Ben Manski, who was a major player in organizing Greens for the Nader campaign here in Indiana, is now an officer of GPUS.
4. Heather asked whether there is a cost for affiliating with GPUS. Nobody knew the answer to that question.
5. Heather also asked how IGP would benefit from such an affiliation. Skywolf responded that the IGP website would be linked from the GPUS website, and that GPUS would help with our secretary of state race. He also emphasized that we would be joining a majority of states. Currently 33 are affiliated with GPUS and only 4 are affiliated with GPUSA. Heather responded that she thought GPUS would help with our state races anyway, regardless of affiliation.
6. Donald asked whether this was an urgent decision for the IGP. Discussion ensued as to how such a decision was to be made, according to the IGP charter. We agreed that the decision would have to be made by an IGP congress, and thus it was necessary to either wait until our Summer 2002 congress, or call a special congress. There was general agreement that the question should be decided before the annual congress in the summer.
7. Agreement was reached by consensus, with some reservations but no blocking concerns, that a special congress should be called for sometime in March. Since a special congress can only be called by 33.3% of all IGP members, and since there are no official members of the party, the decision to hold such a congress must be delayed until there are at least handful of members of the party.
8. Skywolf said he would try to get Ben Manski to attend the special congress, and that, while he was at it, he would ask Ben again to relinquish ownership of the Ingreens e-mail list and also ask him to put a link to the IGP on the GPUS web site. (We thought this might be possible even without affiliation.)
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Review of Commitments:

In addition to a review of commitments, Heather asked whether anyone had the database file of individuals who helped with the Nader campaign. Skywolf said he thought he had a copy and would get this to Heather to help organize the secretary of state campaign. Also, Bethany mentioned that she is still working on a potential lawsuit regarding the rejection of signatures to get Nader on the ballot by Marion County officials in 2000.

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