

# Indiana Green Party

MINUTES - JANUARY 2002

## Indiana Green Party Meeting

January 12, 2002

Indianapolis Public Library-Irvington Branch

Indianapolis, Indiana

Present:

- Peter Drake, co-coordinator
- Tracy Carson, co-coordinator
- Heather Drake, treasurer
- Isabel Piedmont, secretary
- Tom Brown (St. Joe Co.)
- Bethany Hayes (Marion Co.)
- Skywolf (Neil Smith, Marion Co.)
- Larry Meehan (Monroe Co.)

Approval of minutes of Dec. 8 meeting, as amended.

Approval of agenda, with the addition of the topic "IGP Platform."

### **I. REPORTS**

#### Secretary's Report:

Isabel reported that she had finished the final version of the IGP letterhead, which is available from her on hard copy or via e-mail in an MS Word document.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Heather reported that IGP has \$396.40 in its treasury, mostly from membership dues. The web hosting and other outstanding bills had been paid. Heather was happy to report that the Nader coordinator mailing list had been found, and that she plans to use the list for fundraising purposes.

#### Technology Coordinator's Report:

The Acting Tech Coordinator, Tom, reported that the IGP web server, currently located in the Rocky Mountains, is going to move back to Indiana soon. The web service provider is planning to offer an e-commerce service at low cost to nonprofits and groups like IGP, which the Party may want to consider in order to accept on-line donations. Tom also reported that Larry has allowed the Party to use some of his server space for data storage.

Isabel and Peter had web page suggestions for Tom. Isabel asked whether Tom could move some of the older information on the very long front page of the website to another area, such as one entitled "old news." Peter suggested that Indiana Green Party candidates should be given a more prominent spot on the front page.

#### Outreach Committee Report:

No report because the committee chair, Steps to Freedom, was not present.

#### Elections Committee Report/Platform Issue:

No report because the committee chair, Tim Grome, has moved out of the state.

Skywolf proposed that the IGP begin work immediately on a political platform, which is a requirement for joining the Green Party of the US. Heather felt we should delay this activity until after the ballot access petition drives. Peter suggested that, at this point, each of our candidates should write their own platforms. Skywolf, however, felt it was important to get started right away and offered to write the first draft himself. Peter reminded him that the platform would have to be approved at the regular IGP congress in the summer.

Tom also felt that an overall IGP platform was less important than individual candidate platforms at this time, since each election race will have a specific focus. For local candidates such as Julie Roberts, the state platform would not even be very relevant. A consensus was reached, with Skywolf objecting but not blocking, that the development of the IGP platform should wait until after the petition drive.

#### Energy Issues Committee Report:

Larry had no report, but he did ask for advice as to how to pursue energy issues. Bethany and Skywolf suggested he go to the Environmental Lobby Day in Indianapolis on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, and Skywolf showed him a flyer with the details.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS**

#### Petition Drive:

Peter gave the members from Marion County instructions as to what to do with the petition forms. He said to keep one-sided copies of the forms that are turned into the county clerk's office and to keep a record of how many forms were submitted, and then how many signatures came back as verified. Tracy volunteered to keep track of the number of submitted forms and verified signatures. This will help us keep track of how close we are to our goal for Tom's ballot access campaign. Tom and Heather emphasized that, if it becomes obvious that we won't get enough signatures for Tom, we should shift our focus to local campaigns.

Peter then proceeded to give us a pep talk about the petition drive. We need to get more signatures faster if we hope to reach our goal. For Tom's campaign, we need to get about 2,000 signatures per week.

Peter then proposed that IGP commit funds to produce a flyer telling about the Green Party and all of the Green Candidates in Indiana (currently 3). He proposed a tri-fold sheet with the Ten Key Values, IGP contact information, and resources for further reading on the outside, and candidate information (one panel per candidate) with a photo of each in the inside. Peter said he would be willing to create this flyer. The consensus was that this was a good idea, and he should proceed. Heather said this flyer could be included with the fundraising letter she is planning to send to the old Nader mailing list, which has about 500 names.

Peter then made a specific proposal for approval: IGP should provide \$100 to cover the cost of duplicating the proposed two-sided flyer. Heather mentioned that she thought that

the amount which IGP could spend on any specific candidate's campaign was limited, but Peter pointed out that this flyer would have all three of our current candidates on it, and therefore this spending would not be affected by such limits. Isabel asked how the postage would be funded, but Heather said that that question could be considered later. Peter's proposal passed by consensus.

### T-Shirts

Isabel reported that she had still not received enough T-shirt pre-orders in order to make purchasing T-shirts cost effective for the Party. She had 14 orders, and 18 were needed to get them made at a cost of \$9.95 each. She proposed that, since IGP now had funds, IGP commit to paying \$180 to get 18 T-shirts printed. The group expressed confidence that these 18 shirts could be sold for \$15 each. The proposal was approved by consensus.

### ICFEL

Bethany reported that House Bill 1344, sponsored by Mark Kruzan and a republican representative, was the result of ICFEL's work to mitigate the damage of Senate Bill 329, which was passed last summer. HB 1344 would require a number of signatures equal to only 0.5% of the past election's total votes cast for Secretary of State in order for a third-party candidate to get onto the ballot. The bill would also make the due date for petitions later than in SB 329. Peter said that ICFEL is meeting Weds., Jan. 16 at 3:00 pm, and Bethany said she planned to attend or send a proxy.

Peter mentioned that another election reform bill had been proposed in the Indiana Legislature, through which only 4,500 signatures would be needed to get on the ballot, 500 per US Congressional district. No one had any more information about this second bill.

### Upcoming Special Congress

Peter reminded the group that the Special Congress to decide on affiliation with the Green Party of the US was coming up on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The locals need to select one or more delegates to attend the Congress and carry to votes of IGP members in that local. The unaffiliated caucus also needs to select a delegate or two to carry the votes of any unaffiliated IGP members. Isabel agreed to send a message on Ingreens to remind the locals and unaffiliated members of this procedure.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Skywolf had the following announcements:

Jan. 22 is Citizens Lobby Day, sponsored by the Citizens Action Coalition. This is an opportunity for citizens to speak with their state representatives.

Jan. 29 is Environmental Lobby Day, sponsored by the Hoosier Environmental Coalition. This is an opportunity for citizens to speak with their state representatives specifically on environmental issues.

Common Bonds is already planning its annual Take Back the Earth Day for April 21. The

location will probably be at Broadripple Park, and fees for participation will probably be \$25 for tabling and \$100 for co-sponsorship. The event had about 500 attendees last year, and Skywolf suggested that IGP at least table at the event.

Jan. 18 is the grand opening of the new Solidarity Bookstore in downtown Indianapolis.

Feb. 12 is the next trial date for Jeanne Horton, the woman with Multiple Sclerosis who was arrested for possessing miniscule amounts of marijuana and a pipe. A “medical necessity defense” will be allowed.

An environmental drumming corps is being formed in Indianapolis. For more information, please contact Skywolf.

Tracy had the following announcements:

February is Black History Month. We might think about whether IGP would like to do something special for this occasion.

Jan. 31 is the Progressive TV Coalition Cable Access Festival, 5:30-8:00 pm at the Broadway Methodist Church, 609 E. 29<sup>th</sup> St., Indianapolis.

The Black Expo this summer will have booths available for rental. The cost is approximately \$475 per booth. Tracy suggested IGP may want to pool resources with other progressive groups to have a booth. She will provide more information later.

## ***V. REPORTS FROM LOCALS***

### Marion County Greens

Skywolf reported that the next meeting would be Thursday, Jan. 17, 7:00 pm in the Massachusetts Avenue historic firehouse. Peter asked whether Skywolf or Tracy could please check with Warren Fritz whether he is still interested in becoming the IGP tech coordinator.

### St. Joe Valley Greens

Tom reported that the next meeting would be Monday, Jan. 14. Membership is currently very low, with about four active members. Tom and Dave Vollrath are planning to hold a Green-oriented business fair on Earth Day weekend in April. Tom is also still pursuing his computer recycling program.

### Monroe County Greens

Peter reported that the IUB Campus Greens seem to be springing back to life to help with the ballot access petition drive. The local is very involved with the petition drive and Jeff Melton’s and Julie Robert’s races.

## ***VI. REVIEW OF COMMITMENTS***

Tracy said she would work on the media/fundraising kit for campaign coordinators. Others reviewed the commitments they made during the meeting.

## ***VII. NEXT MEETING***

Peter proposed that the next meeting be held in Evansville to reinvigorate the local there.

The general consensus was that this is a good idea, provided that the Evansville group welcomes the proposal and reserves a meeting space.

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