

Indiana Green Party

MINUTES - MAY 12, 2001

Attending the May meeting at the Unleavened Bread Cafe were Michael Berndt, Peter Drake, Neal Smith, Tracy Carson, Chris Stafford and Bethany Hayes.

1. Call to order

We got a bit of a late start, waiting for some Fort Wayne Greens, and eating lunch.

2. Approval of agenda

Point 11, below, was added for the purpose of greater coordination and communication with the local chapters.

3. Reading of minutes of April meeting

The major points discussed were the suggestion of changing the state party to a Steering Committee, which was not favored, and the participants agreed to affiliate with GPUSA and ASGP.

4. Financial issues

Fund raising for organization

Peter suggested t-shirt etc. sales with items from Goods for Greens. As to Neal's idea to solicit small business donations, Tracy noted that there were legal issues which complicated such a program. Chris gave the example of size considerations, which determine contribution reporting. Peter noted a possible method of getting around this, as employed by the Hoosier Environmental Council. HEC has gathered significant funds using change jars in local retail outlets. Tracy suggested direct solicitation through letters aimed at folks associated with those on the Ingreens listserv. She suggested that such a campaign should be spread out among as many people as possible. Tracy agreed to write up a letter to that end, pending a reminder from Neal. Chris asked about dues for the party, but this was noted as being dependent on the completion and adoption of the charter.

Michael agreed to set up account by the next meeting. While he had \$11.20 on hand, Neal noted that the IGP owed Common Bonds \$25.00 for the Take Back the Earth Day event. Common Bonds was described as the first progressive coalition in Indiana, including, the Natural Law Party, INNorml, ACE, CAC, OUR Party, the Libertarians, and NUVO (www.commonbonds.org). Bethany noted that CB will set up a debate forum for next election, and that the IGP website (up soon) will be linked in their website, so it was agreed that we should retire this debt ASAP. Bethany also suggested a run of Sunflower sales, where we could raise funds by selling unneeded goods. She agreed to work on this.

5. Meeting format

It was reiterated that a meeting quorum=all present at regularly scheduled meeting. Chris raised the question of representation and feeling of involvement for those

further away, or those who had trouble attending, and it was mentioned that votes could be taken via email, when necessary and feasible. Peter suggested that the meeting location should stay central (i.e. Indianapolis or thereabouts), for which Neal made a motion, Peter 2nd'd, and the group agreed. A 3/4 majority vote would settle quorum when a consensus was not reached.

6. Next campaign

Signature strategy for ballot access

Bethany told the group of a politically active attorney's advice on getting the party going; everyone in the party and any friends run for office, as in LP. Neal suggested a possible backlash from this of running perennial, gadfly candidates. Bethany countered that only one's opponents would use these labels. A petition drive strategy for May was discussed; getting signatures at the primaries, in that people are not always completely partisan, and are generally pro-American, democratic folks. Neal noted that this strategy didn't work well in his experience.

The following offices and their influences were discussed for state efforts:

- Secretary of State: business interests
- School Superintendent: relevance to platform was questioned

In keeping with Bethany reminder that we should focus on local issues, it was decided that a list of local issues and options for signature drive would be discussed at the convention. It was also put to the group that everyone should consider looking into finding a sympathetic attorney, who would be helpful in reviewing all of our options.

7. Strategy to combat pending legislation

With regards to SB329 (Connie Lawson, H-Kromkowski), it was noted that a ICFEL (Indiana Coalition for Fair Election Laws) meeting 12pm Marion Cty. Main Pub. Lib. St. Clair (Corpsey Auditor.) was planned for the 3rd Sat. of each month, SB329 passed by unanimous vote(- abstentions), with the Governor not opposed, despite letters from those in attendance and others.

Bethany noted that such a bill, aimed clearly at third party participation (by moving up the petition submission deadline), was ripe for a lawsuit, which would be good publicity. She also said that an application to that end was already in to the ICLU

8. Convention

The charter was still in the hands of the committee, none of whom attended. Neal said that points 1-3 finished, and Bethany commented that it should be ready by the convention.

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There would be a June announcement, regarding the convention, which would probably take place at the end of July. Others want to have the convention before the GPUSA Carbondale Congress, with a target of July 15-16. The site was still not set, but a possible site is the Old Centrum, in Indianapolis, where the first Green

Campaign Coordinating Committee met, in the summer of 2000.

Bethany was nominated for Secretary of State, but it was understood that this was pending the convention.

9. Bush Protest

Peter Drake requested to speak for the Indiana Greens, which was agreed to. He agreed to send a final draft of the speech to the Ingreens listserve. Carpooling was also to be arranged by posting to Ingreens.

10. Pagan Pride event

Neal noted that the Party was invited to table at this Earth-focused event, to be held September 29, Broadripple Pk., and which may have in attendance some 3000 pagans from around Indiana. At \$25./table, with some 5-600 people there last year, it was agreed that this would be a good idea. Neal agreed to contact Dagonet Duer, to arrange for this.

11. Chapter Reports

It was suggested, by Michael, that all local chapters begin to provide quarterly reports to the state Party, starting with a cycle from January of each year, in Indianapolis (central location), in person. It was agreed that this would help state organizers coordinate activities on various issues throughout the state, including the petition drives.

12. Next meeting

Next meeting is June 9. Tracy will forward report for outreach, INCACP

Submitted by,

Michael Berndt
Secretary/Treasurer