

Indiana Green Party

MINUTES - NOVEMBER 2001

Indiana Green Party Meeting

November 10, 2001
Central United Methodist Church
South Bend, Indiana

Present

Peter Drake, co-coordinator
Heather Drake, treasurer
Isabel Piedmont, secretary
Lance Howard
Jason Jones
Jerri Dunn
Don Brubaker
Tom Brown
Neal Austin
Rob Adams
Dave Vollrath

The meeting began at approximately 2:40 pm.

The minutes from October 13 were approved.

The meeting agenda was approved by consensus, with the addition (from Isabel) of a follow-up item regarding the HEA amendment repeal campaign.

Treasurer's Report

Heather reported that she has the forms required by the State of Indiana for the IGP to be recognized as a political party. Three individuals are required to sign the forms: the "Committee Chair," the treasurer, and the "Custodian of Record." Heather said she could sign as both treasurer and "Custodian of Record," and she asked whether it would be appropriate to ask Tracy Carson, the IGP co-coordinator who is not married to Heather, to sign as "Committee Chair." It was agreed that this was a good idea.

Tom pointed out that IGP candidates will run as Independents next year, and therefore they need their own election committees. Heather agreed, but said that IGP had to submit forms as a party in addition to election committees submitting their own forms to the state government.

Secretary's Report

Isabel had nothing to report.

Technology Coordinator's Report

Nick Hansen has resigned as technology coordinator. Tom Brown has taken over (again) as interim technology coordinator. No one present at the meeting volunteered to take over

this position. Peter said he would help Tom get the authority required to monitor both e-mail lists. Current ownership of the lists is as follows: Ben Manski is still owner of Ingreens, and Nick Hansen is owner of Ingreens-discuss. Peter has been trying to get in touch with Ben to ask him to relinquish ownership to an active IGP coordinator (or interim coordinator).

Peter proposed that no approval be required for individuals to put themselves on the Ingreens e-mail list, which those present approved of by consensus.

IGP Charter Update

Tom Brown reported that the Charter Committee, which at various times has included Steps to Freedom, Tom, Ken Rodgers, and Jeff Sutter, had not finished the revisions mandated by the IGP Congress in August. He said that Jeff Sutter had volunteered to finish the revisions, so Isabel said that she would contact Jeff and ask him to do so. The following timeline was agreed upon: Charter draft finished by Nov. 28, then submitted to Coordinating Committee for approval. Then the Charter will be completely finished and ready to send out on Ingreens for a vote by Dec. 1. The results of the vote will be announced at the Dec. 8 IGP meeting, at which point individuals can sign up as members of IGP.

National Buy Nothing Day

Peter announced that Nov. 23, the day after Thanksgiving, is National Buy Nothing Day. This special day, promoted by Adbusters.com for several years, is a way to make a statement against consumerism. It was agreed that an announcement for Buy Nothing Day would be added to the IGP website.

IGP T-Shirts

Isabel displayed a prototype of the IGP t-shirt, which is a white 100% cotton short-sleeved shirt with the IGP logo (sunflower and cardinal) across the front. The cost of one shirt is \$17, but the price goes down the more you order. So Isabel handed a sheet around for those attending to indicate whether they would buy a shirt, and at what price. Isabel will then contact these individuals after enough people have ordered shirts to make the price reasonable. At that time, prepayment would be required, and Isabel would order the shirts in bulk and mail them to those who ordered them. The group as a whole was pleased with the sample t-shirt.

HEA Amendment Repeal

At the last IGP meeting, the party signed on to a campaign to repeal the amendment to the Higher Education Act which prohibits individuals who have been convicted for drug offenses from receiving federal support for post-secondary education. Isabel asked Peter, who had brought up the item last time, what we had actually done to support this initiative. He replied that IGP signed on to the cause through the Coalition for HEA Reform. It was suggested that further action could be taken, in particular lobbying Rep. Tim Rohmer to vote in favor of the repeal. Members of the St. Joe Valley Greens said they would look into speaking with Rohmer.

ICFEL Update

At the time of the meeting, IGP had two official delegates to the Indiana Coalition for Fair Election Laws, Marge Steiner and Bethany Hayes. Neither delegate can currently attend meetings. Skywolf of the Marion County Greens is serving as interim delegate. Peter

asked if there were any volunteers to serve on ICFEL, but no one volunteered. The St. Joe Valley Greens said they were focusing on lobbying Indiana legislator Tom Kromkowski to allow the bill to come before the General Assembly for a vote. Kromkowski is chair of the House Elections Committee.

Tom's Ballot Access Drive

Tom, who is running for Secretary of State next year, passed around copies of a chart he had prepared which lists all Indiana counties and the number of signatures needed in each to equal 6% of the number of people who voted for Secretary of State in the last election. As discussed in the IGP last meeting, 6% is a safe number of signatures to obtain to ensure that at least 2% are actually validated by county officials. 2% is the amount needed to gain ballot access. The total number of signatures needed statewide is 30,716. Tom had also worked out how many petition circulators and coordinators would be needed in each county to conduct the petition drive effectively. The bottom line: we need a lot of volunteers!

For now, Tom's campaign committee will consist of the coordinating council of the IGP. It was decided that this group will meet with Tom to discuss the logistics of the petition campaign in Indianapolis after the next IGP meeting Dec. 8.

Citizens' Action Coalition Ad

Peter reported that the CAC has offered to sell IGP an ad in the brochure for their annual convention in December. A full-page ad would cost \$120. Heather pointed out that IGP doesn't have any funds. Dave said he would donate \$25 or so for a smaller ad if this were an option. Peter said he would find out if a smaller ad were possible and let Dave know.

Energy Issues Committee

Don Brubaker expressed an interest in joining this committee, since he has experience working against nuclear energy and nuclear waste transport. Peter suggested that Don get in touch with Larry Meehan, the chair of the energy committee. Isabel said she would give Larry Don's e-mail address to get in touch.

Local Organizing Kit

Peter presented the local organizing kit which he has prepared to help new Indiana Green locals get organized. The kit has a lot of good tips and guidelines, and includes some sample brochures. The sample kit which Peter brought was given to Jason, the only person present who did not have a local in his area (Pendleton).

Reports from the Locals

St. Joe Valley Greens

- Jerri said that she would meet with Tim Rohmer to urge him to support HEA reform
- The local held its annual congress earlier the same day, Nov. 10
- The group is working on a local living wage campaign to set a minimum wage of \$10/hour
- The group continues to be on guard and ready to protest if plans for a hotel in Potato Creek State Park go through.

- They are also working on the issue of combined sewer overflows. In South Bend, the wastewater and the sewage are processed in the same system. Therefore, during heavy rains, the unprocessed effluent flows directly into the river. The SJVGs are helping in a campaign to remedy this problem, advocating a separation of wastewater and sewage treatment or at least more storage of wastewater/sewage so that overflows do not occur.

Monroe County Green Party

- The Election Committee is drafting a platform for local candidates in the 2002 elections.
- The local is planning a forum on nonviolence in January.
- The second edition of the MCGP newsletter is due out in a few weeks.
- Continued involvement in issues related to community growth and development.
- Continued support of the Peace Camp in Bloomington, which is often manned by Steps to Freedom by himself (which is why he was not present at this meeting).

Non-Affiliated Caucus

- Jason was the only non-affiliated member present. He is from Pendleton and will try to find other interested Greens in that area.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 pm.

Submitted by Isabel Piedmont

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