

Indiana Green Party

MINUTES - OCTOBER 12, 2001

Present

- Tracy Carson, Co-Coordinator
- Peter Drake, Co-Coordinator
- Isabel Piedmont, Secretary
- Heather Drake, Treasurer
- Jonathan Sauer, Marion Co.
- Tom Brown, St. Joseph Co.
- Rob Adams, St. Joseph Co.
- Bethany Hayes, Marion Co.
- Michael Pratt, Marion Co.

1. Minutes approved

The meeting began at approximately 2:30 PM, and the minutes of the September 8, meeting were approved.

2. Agenda approved

The agenda was approved with amendments.

3. Officer and Coordinator reports

Secretary

Isabel handed out brochures that she created based on the rough draft presented at the Sept. 8th meeting. Tom pointed out an error in the brochure: He has been active with the St. Joe County Greens for about 5 years, not 15 years. These brochures are available from Isabel as a Microsoft Word document (contact ipiedmon@hotmail.com).

Isabel also reported that she finally received two keys for the IGP postal box in Bloomington, and she gave one key to Heather as treasurer.

Treasurer

Heather had nothing to report.

Technology coordinator

Nick Hansen, our technology coordinator, was not present, but Tom reported that he had spoken with Nick about the IGP web site. The discussed putting a form on the web site so that individuals could sign up as IGP supporters and express interest in specific areas of Green Party activity.

4. Committee Reports

Outreach

Steps to Freedom, our outreach coordinator, was not present. However, Peter had spoken with Steps, and he reported that there are individuals in [Brown County and Owen County](#) who may form Green locals soon.

Elections

Tom reported on his campaign for [Secretary of State](#). He is currently at the information-gathering stage and has not yet selected a campaign manager or a petition-drive manager.

Tom said that specific info about the position of Secretary of State is hard to find. He did learn that the day-to-day operations of the state government are led by the [Lieutenant Governor](#), not the Governor.

The Secretary of State is responsible for voter lists, keeping records of all state transactions (including corporate charters), and making state records accessible to the public. The Secretary of State is not allowed to comment publicly on laws or legislative matters.

Tom reminded us that, to get on the ballot, he needs to attain the number of certified signatures equal to 2% of the total votes cast statewide in the previous Secretary of State race. This number is about 33,000. Tom emphasized that we will have to get 66,000 to 99,000 signatures since a large percentage of signatures (up to 50%) will not be accepted and certified by the relevant county clerks.

Discussion:

Bethany said that, in cases of election disputes, the Attorney General's office cannot act unless requested by the Secretary of State.

Peter said that the State legislature passed a bill to fund a state-wide database of registered voters, so eventually it should be more clear who is registered and where.

Peter urged Tom to appoint a campaign committee and a petition committee. The petition committee would focus on the first step in the race: gathering the signatures to get on the ballot. He assured Tom that the IGP and the locals would assist in getting signatures.

Heather recommended that Tom have the petition sheets ready for the December IGP meeting so that they can be distributed to representatives of the locals. Michael suggested we have voter registration forms along with the petitions so people can register at the same time they sign, and thus assure that their signature will count. Bethany mentioned that we would probably have to pay professional "signature-gatherers" to get enough signatures. She also recommended keeping very accurate records of the signature sheets (e.g. copies) in case an appeal for ballot access is needed later, or as the basis for a possible future lawsuit. Rob said he had a list of county clerks and their addresses, which would be helpful for mailing in signature sheets. Isabel suggested that Tom prepare an info sheet about himself which petition-gatherers can show people to encourage them to sign.

In view of all this work to be done, Heather encouraged Tom to appoint a petition-drive manager as soon as possible. Tom clarified that he is not interested in campaigning statewide – at least not before sufficient signatures were collected to assure him a spot on the ballot. Heather urged Tom to be available to speak in different areas of the state during the petition drive, for example, on the IU-

Bloomington campus.

Action:

Tom will draft a job description of a campaign manager to send out on Ingreens. He will also draft an informational flyer about himself, and he will prepare the state application for the petition drive.

Energy Issues

Since neither Larry Meehan nor any other member of this committee was not present, no report was given.

5. Old Business

IGP Stationery

Skywolf, who said he would draft some letterhead stationery, was not present. Isabel said she would work on this project and present it at the next meeting.

IGP T-shirts

Isabel reported that she did not have the IGP logo in a format usable for T-shirts. Peter said he would send it to her as a .TIF file. Isabel went on to report that she had called a local T-shirt printing shop in Bloomington and had found that a screen-printed T-shirt would cost approximately the same as a heat-transfer T-shirt, but that for a screen-printed shirt a minimum order of 144 was required, whereas there is no minimum order for heat transfers. The group agreed that Isabel should have one heat-transfer shirt made as a sample to show at the next meeting.

Although the IGP logo had been agreed on as the motif for the T-shirts, Isabel presented several T-shirt designs which Michael Berndt of Bloomington had e-mailed to her. These were handed around the room as alternatives to the IGP logo, but it was agreed to stick with the IGP logo as the design.

ICFEL

Bethany read the preliminary draft of ICFEL's election reform bill, to be sponsored by House Majority Leader Mark Kruzan in the 2002 Indiana General Assembly. In brief, the bill reduces the number of voters who must sign the petition for a candidate to obtain ballot access from 2% to 0.5% of the number of votes cast in the immediately previous equivalent election. The party which thus attains ballot access would also be allowed to keep that access for a longer time. Tracy volunteered to lobby Black legislators to vote in favor of the legislation. The next ICFEL meeting is October 20.

6. New Business

Local Organizing Packets

Peter has created a long document providing detailed guidelines for new locals to help them organize and become active in their communities. He will send the document to the Ingreens-discuss e-mail list for comments and additions. He would also like to put this document on the IGP web site, which the group agreed was a good idea. Heather said that she would prepare a smaller guide to keeping a

membership list. The group listed a few printed documents which would be a good addition to the local organizing kit (sample brochures, flyers, membership forms).

Pick-Axe Film Showing

Tracy announced that Common Bonds, Butler University Campus Greens, and the Marion County Green Party were sponsoring a showing of the documentary "PickAxe," which chronicles the yearlong struggle of Oregon environmental activists to stop logging in the Oregon Cascades. The showing will take place October 19, 7pm, in Jordan Hall of Butler University. The group agreed that this should be announced to Ingreens.

Higher Education Act Reform

Peter reported that US Representative Barney Frank is trying to repeal the amendment to the Higher Education Act which makes federal funding for college unattainable for anyone convicted of a drug offense. He said that Representative Mark Souder of Indiana originally drafted this amendment, but even he says that it's being misinterpreted. Peter urged IGP to get behind the effort to repeal the bill, and especially to urge Rep. Tim Rohmer to support the repeal. The group agreed by consensus that IGP should support the repeal.

Living Wage Coalition

Tracy asked whether IGP could join the Indianapolis Living Wage Coalition, organized by the Community, Faith and Labor Coalition of the Central Indiana Labor Council. This group is investigating the possibility of a living wage ordinance in the city. By consensus, those present at the meeting agreed that IGP should join. By joining, IGP is simply supporting the principle of a living wage, not any specific program for implementing such a law.

Ingreens-Discuss E-mail List

Isabel brought up the issue that no one seems to be making the distinction between Ingreens, which is supposed to be an announcement list, and Ingreens-discuss, which is supposed to be the forum for forwarded articles and discussion. Peter reported that the technology coordinator, Nick Hansen, has not been able to obtain ownership of Ingreens yet, and that this is preventing him from possibly moderating Ingreens and directing non-announcement posts to the discussion lists. Nick has also had trouble trying to add people to Ingreens-discuss. Until Nick works out these technical difficulties, it was agreed that the purposes of the two lists would not be enforced and Ingreens could continue to be used for discussion.

Tracy agreed to pass on the names and e-mail addresses of those who signed on as IGP supporters at the Earth Charter event to Nick, to be added to Ingreens.

7. Reports from Locals

Marion County – Bethany Hayes

The next Marion County Greens meeting is October 18, 7:00 pm. The Marion Greens are working on their bylaws, and Bethany and Skywolf are serving as acting co-coordinators. Current working groups are the Living Wage Committee, a WG on drug issues, and a WG on health care issues. "Our Party" has officially joined the Marion County Green Party, which has a total of about 20 active participants. The

Marion County local has decided not to affiliate with GPUSA.

Monroe County – Peter Drake

The Monroe County Greens hosted a successful forum on Urban Sprawl in September. They have affiliated with the Bloomington Peach Action Coalition to work toward peaceful alternatives to the bombing of Afghanistan. The local Election Committee is working on party platform for the upcoming county races in 2002. The local is co-sponsoring a concert by Chris Chandler and Anne Feeney October 14, and the Monroe Greens plan to have a table at the Ani DiFranco concert in Bloomington October 20.

St. Joseph County – Tom Brown

The St. Joe Valley Greens are holding their annual congress November 10th at a Methodist Church in South Bend. After party business has been discussed, there will be a brunch, and environmentalist speakers will follow. The congress is scheduled to run from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The St. Joe Greens will also be involved with the “Alternative Christmas” sponsored by the Church of the Brethren, which is a one-day fundraising event for families and community groups in need of support. Socially conscious groups and businesses exhibit at this annual event.

Tom also reported that he has spoken with the local solid waste management district to set up a program of refurbishing old computers to save them from the landfill and sell them at minimal cost to nonprofit agencies.

Rob chimed in to report that the St. Joe Greens have joined other environmentalists in opposing the development of a hotel at [Potato Creek State Park](#).

8. Next Meeting

Since our next meeting date, November 10, coincides with the St. Joe Valley Greens congress, and since Tracy said she can't make it to that meeting in any case, it was decided that there are two options for the location of the next IGP meeting. Plan A is to hold it in South Bend and coordinate it with the congress activities, and Plan B is to hold it in Bloomington. Since many IGP coordinators and committee chairs are from Bloomington, Peter said he would check with them to see if they could make it to South Bend that weekend. If not, then Bloomington seems a logical alternative.

9. Announcements

Bethany said there was an excellent pro-Nader article on the “[Strategic Lesson from 2000](#)” on the Green Party of the US web site.

Peter announced that the adventure gear company Patagonia had just donated \$5,000 worth of gear to the tree-sitters in the [Yellowwood State Forest](#) in Brown County.

Peter had a video of highlights from the IGP convention in August, as filmed by Michael Berndt, which he offered to loan to anyone who was interested.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

*Minutes submitted by,
Isabel Piedmont, Secretary*

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