

Indiana Green Party

MINUTES - SEPT 12, 2001

Present

- Tracy Carson, Co-Coordinator
- Peter Drake, Co-Coodrindator
- Isabel Piedmont, Secretary
- Larry Meehan (Monroe)
- Nick Hansen (Monroe)
- Tom Moor (Evansville)
- Steps to Freedom (Monroe)
- Tim Grome (Martinsville)
- Nick Hess (Marion)

The meeting began at approximately 2:15 pm.

Agenda approved

Secretary's Report

Isabel received one request for info from the Web page, from a man from Rockville, IN. She has been working on the membership form and brochure (see below).

Discussion of IGP Letterhead

This item was tabled until a later date because the man with the letterhead, Skywolf, was not present.

Membership Forms/Literature

Isabel's draft of the e-mail call for membership and membership form were discussed and revisions were suggested. It was agreed that, once the suggested changes were incorporated, she would send this to the current meeting participants for approval.

Isabel's draft of the IGP brochure was discussed. This is a work in progress since certain details that we would like to add to the brochure are not yet know. Isabel will work on this project and submit the final version to the current meeting participants for approval.

Treasurer's Report

The IGP treasurer, Heather Drake, was not present. Bethany Hayes, who served as interim treasurer in July, gave a brief written report to Tracy Carson, who read this at the meeting. The current balance in the IGP bank account (Huntington Bank) is \$191.23, plus the treasury has \$10 in cash, for a total of \$201.23. \$25 was paid to Common Bonds to fulfill a previous commitment. \$19 is to be paid soon to the US Postal Service for the PO Box in Bloomington, and the \$10/month web hosting fee will also soon be due. The IGP broke even on the Congress held Aug. 3-4.

We had a brief discussion about the category in which the IGP belongs as far as the IRS is

concerned. Our current activities put us in category 501 C-4, but specific political campaign committees may be in another category.

Energy Issues Working Group

Pursuant to the IGP Congress, the Coordinating Committee established a Working Group dedicated to energy issues. The primary role of this group will be to coordinate with groups already formed by other organizations, such as those which take action in favor of sustainable energy and/or against nuclear energy and the expansion of oil drilling. Another important issue for this group to address is the development of merchant power plants, such as those in southwestern Indiana. Larry Meehan was elected chair of this working group, and Tim Grome and Steps to Freedom volunteered to join the group. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Larry at lwm@indiana.edu.

National Forest Issues

Peter reported that a member of the group American Lands had sent him a statement about protecting homes near forests from fires and reducing deadwood near residential areas to reduce the amount of fuel available for forest fires. The text is a letter addressed to members of the US Congress and also includes a call to close loopholes which allow payments for the use of forests to be made using trees as currency. Both Peter and Isabel, who had read the statement, said it was very badly written and didn't make sense in parts, and therefore they recommended that IGP not underwrite the statement as written. Peter was asked to reply to this individual that we support the ideas behind the statement but we request a new draft of the document before we can sign on.

Review of Committees

Committees We Have:

1. Outreach Committee

Tracy asked someone else to take over as chair of this committee, and Steps volunteered. The purpose of the outreach committee is to increase the visibility of the IGP and to work with locals and other progressive groups toward common goals. The outreach committee is also charged with helping individuals to form new locals in their area. This committee currently has its own email list with 12 people on it. Steps said he would contact these people and also welcome new committee members. If you are interested, please contact Steps at steps2free@yahoo.com.

2. Bylaws Committee
3. Energy Issues Working Group

Committees We Need:

1. Fundraising Committee
2. Elections Committee

Tim and Steps volunteered for this committee, and it was assumed that our two current candidates, Jeff Melton and Tom Brown, who be on the committee as well. The current goals of the elections committee are to create a state platform, decide on rules for running candidates, and recruit candidates. State representatives will be up for election in 2002, and since we currently have no candidates, recruiting

candidates for these races will be an aim of the elections committee. It was agreed that, if all of a certain state district lies within a single county, then that election would be the domain of the appropriate Green Local rather than the IGP.

Anyone interested in joining the elections committee should contact Tim at timgrome@hotmail.com.

Review of the IGP Congress

Tracy reported that her candidate training session on the first day of the Congress was a success. She said that she would be willing to run such a session again if the need arises. She also reported that the second day consisted of a discussion of the bylaws, which were given preliminary approval; the election of IGP officers; and the nomination of candidates. The next Congress was discussed, and it was agreed that the date should be chosen well in advance so that as many Greens as possible could plan to attend. The Congress should be held on a summer weekend in Indianapolis, a place chosen due to its central location, and dates should be carefully selected to avoid conflicts with other major events in Indy so that hotel rooms would be available.

Discussion About National Green Groups

1. GPUSA letter of protest regarding the National Congress in July

Steps had drafted a letter to the GPUSA leadership to protest (a) the removal of waiver members from the calculation of the number of votes which the Indiana Caucus and the Indiana locals were to receive, and (b) the disenfranchisement of the Indiana Caucus when the two caucus delegates had to leave the Congress and the caucus votes were transferred to Steps, another member of the caucus. It was agreed that IGP would sign on to this letter of protest.

2. Review of the status of the two major national groups

The former ASGP (Association of State Green Parties) has changed its name to the Green Party of the United States (GPofUS). Their headquarters are in Washington DC. GPUSA (The Greens/Green Party of the USA) also still exists, but its headquarters have moved from Massachusetts to Chicago. The GPUSA is currently in financial straits. Steps is part of the negotiating team trying to bring these two national groups together, but he reports that there is still a lot of bitterness between them.

Technology Report

Peter proposed making two Ingreens email lists, one for discussion and one which would be limited to announcements only. Tracy was concerned that the different purposes of the two lists be made very clear to all Ingreens members, and Peter assured her that there would first be a message sent to the current Ingreens list carefully describing the intended change. It was agreed that a separate discussion list would be created, and that the traffic on the current Ingreens list would be reduced to announcements only.

In order to make this change and to coordinate all technology issues, it was agreed that a Technology Coordinator should be elected. This individual would be responsible for the email lists and for the IGP web page. The current owner of Ingreens is Ben Manski, who lives in Wisconsin and is no longer active in Indiana. He would have to be contacted so that ownership of the list could be passed on to the tech coordinator. Tom Brown, who has

been in charge of the web page, does not want to do it anymore, so he would welcome an official tech coordinator who would take over.

Two candidates presented themselves for the position of tech coordinator: Larry Meehan and Nick Hansen. Since Larry is already the tech coordinator for the Monroe County Greens, it was decided that Nick nhansen@blackfez.com will serve as the IGP tech coordinator.

Fundraising Ideas

1. Membership dues (not available until Bylaws are approved and IGP can sign up members)
2. Donations through our web site

There are companies which specialize in processing credit card donations and membership dues through the web. Tracy agreed to look into which company we might in good conscience use for this purpose.

3. Tabling at relevant events
4. Bakesale
5. Personal fund-raising parties

Tracy suggested that small gatherings could be held where refreshments would be served, the a brief program would be presented (video, talk), and then discussion and check-writing would ensue.

6. Sale of T-shirts

Isabel agreed to look into getting white T-shirts made with the IGP logo on them. Tracy offered to help as well.

A discussion followed regarding the types of contributions that IGP should accept. Contributions from individuals only? In that case, we need to be very careful about what type of organization we would use to process donations, memberships, or T-shirt sales from our web site. Some such organizations, such as Pay Pal, agree to donate \$5 to the web site owner for every individual that signs up for their service to process the contribution. Thus Pay Pal becomes a corporate donor.

It was also suggested that a distinction be made between raising funds for educational purposes and raising funds for political purposes. Educational contributions may be tax deductible, although a separate bank account would have to be opened.

Discussion of the IGP Bylaws

The IGP Congress agreed to preliminary approval of the bylaws as they were drafted August 3. At the Congress, a mandate was given to the bylaws committee to revise the bylaws in specific ways. This revision, according to Steps, a member of the bylaws committee, is not yet complete. One issue not yet resolved is how voting is supposed to be conducted in Coordinating Committee meetings. Peter said that he thought the decision made at the Congress was that the CC would try to make decisions based on consensus, but if this was not possible, then a vote of CC members would be taken. That is, only the two co-coordinators, the secretary, and the treasurer would vote if voting became necessary. There was no objection to this proposal, and Steps said he would take this info

back to the bylaws committee.

It was agreed that the bylaws committee should try to have the final version of the bylaws ready by the next CC meeting, on October 13. Steps said that this would not be enough time to finish the bylaws, but he agreed to try to work toward this goal and to relay this soft deadline to the committee. Once the final draft is ready, the bylaws will be sent to all members of the current Ingreens list for a vote.

IGP Newsletter

This item was tabled because it was considered too early to spend time on developing a newsletter.

Announcements

1. Nick Hess announced that a Campaign Finance Reform Forum will be held at IU-South Bend on October 27, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
2. Nick Hess also announced that there will be an Earth Charter Community Summit at Marian College in Indianapolis on Sept. 29, 9:30 am to 6:00 pm. For more information, please phone Jerry King at (317)356-0043. The website www.earthcharter.org tells more about the Charter and the summits around the country to discuss the Charter's aim. According to its pamphlet, "The Earth Charter is a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century."
3. Tracy announced that Sept. 17-23 are "Starbucks Global Days of Action," when activists against Starbucks' use of genetically modified dairy products and limited investment in fair trade coffee will be handing out flyers outside Starbucks locations across the country. The literature is available at www.organicconsumers.org. Tracy plans to distribute flyers in Indianapolis on Sept. 17.

Reports from Locals

1. Evansville - Tom Moor

Three public hearings have been held recently by the Greens of Southwestern Indiana on local issues: the jail, urban sprawl, and traffic concerns. An upcoming forum on environmental health will be held soon. The Greens are also participating in the Race for the Cure for breast cancer, which is particularly relevant in the Evansville area, where cancer rates are high. The group is starting work on their bylaws and thinking of running candidates for local office such as county commissioner. Their next meeting is Sept. 17; they usually meet the next to last Monday of every month.

2. Monroe County - Peter Drake & Steps to Freedom

Peter listed several items on the Monroe County Green Party calendar, including an Adopt-a-Road cleanup, a forum on Urban Sprawl, preparations for the Sept. 30 IMF/World Bank protests in Washington, and the group's next meeting, which is Sept. 18. The IUB Campus Greens are scheduled to have a call-out meeting Sept. 19.

3. Marion county - Tracy Carson

23 people attended the initial meeting of the Marion County Green Party last week.

They discussed fielding candidates for local offices such as major and city council, and they are starting work on their bylaws.

4. Morgan County - Tim Grome

Tim has scheduled an organizational meeting for Sept. 20 to try to establish a Green local. We all wished him well.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm.

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