

Minutes
GPVA Business Meeting
10 February 2019

14 MEMBERS AND 2 GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:
(An asterisk * denotes a local representative.)
(Corresponding timestamps on the recording are listed in parentheses.)

Arlington: John Reader*, Kirit Mukherjee (treasurer)
At-Large: none
Blue Ridge: Charlie Jordan*
Charlottesville: Jen Wingard*
Fairfax: Jonah Thomas*
Fredericksburg: Sean Imanian*, Chris Fink (webmaster)
Hampton Roads: Aaron Brittain*, Tina Rockett, Kyle Rockett, Bryce Davis (co-chair)
Loudoun (inactive): none
Lynchburg: Avery Hill*, B. Sidney Smith (Gen. Secretary)
New River Valley: Steven Gillespie*, Ryan Wesdock (Press Secretary)
Richmond: Montigue Magruder*
Shenandoah (inactive): Tom Yager, Tamar Yager (co-chair)

Guests: none.

Meeting convened at 2:10 pm

facilitator: Bryce Davis
time-keeper: Sean Imanian
vibes-watcher: Kirit Mukherjee

(4:00) Sid proposed moving the officer elections to the top of the agenda in view of at least one of the candidates not being able to stay on the call for the whole meeting, and this was agreed by consensus.

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was deferred to the LC, because Charlie Jordan didn't have access to the internet to be able to review them.

ELECTIONS

(11:25) Jonah Thomas was the sole nominee for both List-serve Moderator and Webmaster. Jonah said that he felt up to these tasks and looked forward to learning more about how to do the webmaster duties. Charlie Jordan expressed a concern that Jonah might find doing both jobs too demanding. Jonah reiterated that he was up to it. Jonah was then elected to both positions by consensus, with Charlie Jordan standing aside.

(18:05) Kirit Mukherjee was the sole nominee for Treasurer, and was elected by consensus.

(21:00) There were three nominees for Co-Chair: Audrey Clement (Fairfax), Jen Wingard (Charlottesville Area), and Tina Rockett (Hampton Roads). Audrey was not on the call. Both Jen and Tina gave statements about their reasons for running and their qualifications for office. Bryce pointed out that Audrey had sent her statement to the business list-serve. A ranked-choice vote was held using

OpaVote.com, with invitations to vote being sent to each LC member by email. The result of the vote was that Tina Rockett was elected.

Charlie Jordan expressed a concern that he couldn't cast a write-in vote, and that the bylaws call for all members present to vote. Sid replied that the software has no provision for write-in votes. Regarding the bylaws, Sid noted that Charlie's second objection has been previously dealt with by a decision of the co-chairs at the election a year previously. Charlie challenged this, but his challenge was ruled out of order by the facilitator. He asked that his challenge be noted in the minutes.

REPORTS

Co-chairs (37:35): Bryce Davis. Bryce noted that a current focus statewide is the scandal engulfing the governor's office. He also noted that he very much looked forward to working with the new co-chair.

Treasurer (39:05): Kirit Mukherjee reported that efforts continue to link the Paypal account to the nationbuilder site. He also noted the need to keep apprised of any changes in the FEC regulations that would affect our expenses.

Webmaster (40:15): Chris Fink reported that he and the IT committee have been working diligently on the new Drupal website. At a recent meeting of the IT committee the need to merge the database from the Nationbuilder site with the database on the Drupal site, and to ensure that all of the functionality required of the Drupal site is ready. Subsequently the Nationbuilder site will be shut down. The committee identified some tasks to add to the task-list, and all GPVA members who have technical backgrounds are encouraged to join the IT committee to help with these tasks. As outgoing webmaster Chris said he plans to work closely with the incoming webmaster, Jonah Thomas.

General Secretary (44:35): Sid Smith reported that his detailed report was sent to the business list-serve.

Press Secretary: Ryan Wesdock

GPUS Delegates (46:25): Tina Rockett (delegate) reported that the National Committee has been busy with platform proposals (22 since May of 2018), endorsements of various social justice and peace actions, including the Women's March on the Pentagon. Aaron Brittain asked if there were any national bylaw amendments that she wanted to comment on. She said there were several notable proposals, especially the sex-worker proposal, but few passed. Sid (alternate) noted that the NC would be increasingly focused on the next presidential campaign season in the year to come. Kirit (alternate) noted that he and Tom Yager are on the Presidential Campaign Support Committee, and that he will pass on information about decisions and candidates as it becomes available.

OLD BUSINESS:

Committee-committee Report (55:55): Sid noted that the report of the Committee-committee was posted to the business list-serve, and he briefly summarized it (attached below the minutes). Chris Fink asked for confirmation of his understanding that the report was not yet a proposal(s), and this was affirmed. Chris further recommended that the recommendations be covered by separate proposals. Sid agreed. Charlie asked about the state platform committee's responsibilities with respect to platform proposals for the national platform. Sid replied that the recommendations of the Committee-committee were with respect to the state platform committee's responsibilities for the state platform only. Chris

pointed out that other committees not mentioned in this report had been dealt with at the previous state party meeting. Chris encouraged all committee conveners to submit reports at subsequent state party meetings.

Website Progress (1:14:00): Chris said that he has covered this matter in his report.

NEW BUSINESS:

The following GPUS committee appointments were made by consensus (1:19:50):

Animal Rights: Charlie Jordan, Sid Smith, Kyle Rockett

Annual National Meeting: Tamar Yager

Ballot Access: Jonah Thomas, Tom Yager

Eco-Action: Audrey Clement

Fundraising: Tamar Yager

Green Pages: Sean Imanian, Aaron Brittain

International: Charlie Jordan

Platform: Sid Smith

Green New Deal VA (1:36:30): Ryan Wesdock spoke to a number of people involved with the coalition, and described it as not really a coalition; they are not working on a legislative agenda. So there isn't much to join. Consequently, GPVA has only been endorsing individual bills in the General Assembly, but not the "Green New Deal VA" per se. The group might be willing to endorse our candidates, so it is worth keeping the door open to the coalition for that reason. Tina Rockett thanked Ryan and affirmed that it is wise to take this group on a bill-by-bill basis, and that the coalition is really a Democratic Party hijacking of the GPUS's Green New Deal. Aaron Brittain what is the point of the coalition if there's no specific legislative agenda. Ryan said it's really just a group of organizations like the Sierra Club and NAACP offering support for certain bills, but only on an individual organization basis. Ryan reiterated that they may be willing to support our candidates in the future. Bryce Davis said it sounded like there's not really any for GPVA to do with respect to the group at this time. Tina said the groups involved are all Democratic endorsers. Montigue Magruder said that he is suspicious that any endorsements would be forthcoming. Many of the organizations such as the NAACP can't endorse candidates, and the others all endorse Democrats. He also warned that if we joined the group then we would be tied to any proposals they brought forward in the future. He thinks its an empty suit with the purpose of coopting the Green New Deal. Sean Imanian affirmed Montigue's points, saying that endorsements of Greens are never forthcoming. Moreover, the "Green New Deal" is very watered down and fundamentally different from the GPUS Green New Deal. Ryan reiterated that if we work with them on specific bills, we may get something in return eventually. Tina agreed, but said we shouldn't add our name to the coalition. Montigue said that we shouldn't be waiting for someone else's bill; instead we should be introducing our own bill, our own real GND, and make them deal with it. Sean agreed, noting that the Sierra Club endorsed Hillary Clinton, and usually go for centrists even in the primary season. He said we should maybe just ignore them. Tina agreed we should be lobbying for our own model legislation, and see if these other groups would support our proposals. Montigue affirmed this. Avery Hill said that he has worked in national politics and would be pleased to help Montigue and Tina draft model legislation. Tina thanked him, and noted that even if candidates won't accept our model bills our press secretary can still use them in press releases to bring pressure to bear on legislators.

(2:02:40) Amicus Brief on GPUS Supreme Court Appeal. Sid read a message from the GPUS Steering Committee discussing the appeal to SCOTUS. Tamar noted that it was unclear whether GPUS was still entertaining contributing an amicus brief. Charlie said that he thought the law being challenged might be a good one because it will force the duopoly parties to be more democratic in their processes. Ryan countered that if the legislatures can control the duopoly parties' procedures, then they can control the GP's as well. Montigue noted that we should also be concerned by outsiders infiltrating our party in addition to interference from the state. Charlie said that he was open to more information, but he doesn't see a proximate threat to the party, and apparently neither do the Greens in Utah. Sid read a post to the GPUS listserv from a Utah delegate who said that Utah couldn't reach consensus about it. The delegate made the same points: the law being challenged may result in a more democratic process for the GOP primary, but it could open up the GP to a threat from outsiders hijacking the Green ballot line. Tamar suggested we table this matter until we hear more from GPUS about it. This was agreed by consensus, with Montigue noting that we should keep an eye on any deadlines for joining the case. Montigue said that he was undertake to research it further, and would post his findings.

(2:25:05) Potential GPUS Proposals for GPVA to sponsor: Sid said that there are a few proposals stemming from some disputes in the national party, particularly on some of the committees. The committee where the greatest trouble occurred was the Accreditation Committee. So the first proposal is to make that an elected committee. There are other proposals in the works to write a Code of Conduct into the national bylaws, and create an Ethics Committee to investigate violations of the Code of Conduct and make recommendations to the National Committee for any appropriate sanctions. He said that when these formal proposals come along an interim meeting of the LC may want to decide whether to co-sponsor them. Bryce said that he was generally in support of these proposals, based on what he had heard from people discouraged by the toxic behavior in the national party. Tamar said that the gender language in the Accreditation Committee needs fixing. Charlie said that he was concerned not to have any details about the problems being reported. Sid replied that he avoided specifics because there is still a very contentious situation and he didn't want to feed the flames. Tina said that as a national delegate she can attest to the toxic behavior on the national list, and said she supported the idea of these proposals.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

APPENDICES

Appendix: REPORTS

Treasurer: GPVA Operating fund balance: 1238.19

Thanks to Jonah Thomas and Jeff Staples for recent dues/and or donation. Most funds currently received by PayPal but post office box still available and receiving checks by mail. Our bank has instituted inactivity fees but as long as some funds are deposited quarterly we are not assessed the penalty.

GPVA Federal PAC balance: 97.52

This account is for federal candidates including Presidential and US Congress and therefore was not active this past year.

Anticipated Expenses for 2019

Other than mailing or administrative fees, I anticipate GPVA holding at least one issue or candidate related event requiring funds to publicize or possibly reserve a space. The field of candidates for the Green Party presidential nomination will be forming and we may wish to invite them to Virginia.

Gen. Secretary: The following information is provided pursuant to GPVA Bylaws Section 14.2.4 (Duties of the General Secretary). The minutes of all previous meetings are online at vagreenparty.org/aboutus/meetings.

LOCALS OF THE GPVA:

Active:

Arlington Local, local rep John Reeder, last meeting 5 Feb 2019 with 8 members attending.
Blue Ridge Greens, local rep Charlie Jordan, last meeting 8 Feb 2019 with 5 members attending.
Charlottesville Area, local rep Jen Wingard, last meeting 16 Apr 2018 with 6 members attending.
Fairfax, local rep Jonah Thomas, last meeting 20 Jan 2019 with 5 members attending.
Fredricksburg, local rep Sean Imanian, last meeting 12 Dec 2018 with 5 members attending.
Hampton Roads, local rep Tina Rockett, last meeting 13 Jan 2019 with 10 members attending.
Lynchburg, local rep Avery Hill, last meeting 25 Jan 2019 with 3 members attending.
Richmond, local rep Montigue Magruder, last meeting 19 Jan 2019 with 3 members attending.
New River Valley, local rep Steve Gillespie, last meeting Nov 2018 with 9 members attending.

Inactive:

Loudoun, local rep Maria Bergheim, last meeting Jan 2017 with 5 members attending.
Shenandoah, local rep Tom Yager, last meeting 26 Aug 2017 with 7 members attending.

GPVA OFFICERS (2-year terms):

Co-Chair Tamar Yager (elected Jan 2017)
Co-Chair Bryce Davis (elected Jan 2018)
Press Secretary Ryan Wesdock (elected Jan 2018)
Treasurer Kirit Mukherjee (elected Jan 2017)
Webmaster Chris Fink (elected Jan 2017)
General Secretary Sid Smith (elected Jan 2018)

GPUS DELEGATES (2-year terms, elected Jan 2018):

Tina Rockett
Montigue Magruder
Kirit Mukherjee/Tom Yager, alternate
Sid Smith, alternate

GPVA COMMITTEES (convener):

Candidate Exploration (Jeff Staples)
Committee^2 (Sean Imanian)
Finance (Kirit Mukherjee)
Information Technology (Chris Fink)

Local Organizing (Tom Yager)
Platform, (Sid Smith)

GPUS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (2-year):

Accreditation: Tom Yager (Sep 2017), Sid Smith (Dec 2018)
Banking and Monetary Reform: Joe Bongiovanni (Jan 2019)
Dispute Resolution: Sid Smith (Sep 2017)
Eco-Action: Audrey Clement (May 2017)
Media: Ryan Wesdock (May 2018)
Platform: Sid Smith (May 2017)
Presidential Campaign Support: Kirit Mukherjee (Jan 2018), Tom Yager (Jan 2018)

LOCAL REPORTS

Fredericksburg: Minutes of the most recent meeting are at
<http://www.fredericksburg.vagreenparty.org/system/files/committee/FGPMinutes1804.pdf>

Richmond: Minutes of the most recent meeting are at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/richmondgreenparty/permalink/1370992822937700/>

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

IT Committee: available on the GPVA ITC page at:
<http://www.vagreenparty.org/system/files/committee/ITMeeting190204.pdf>

Committee-Committee: The C² met in August and again in December, and worked out the following proposals for GPVA:

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the LOC establish a regular meeting schedule to include several meetings each year.

We recommend the state Co-Chairs be the permanent conveners of the LOC.

We recommend the LOC develop a locals organizing handbook.

We recommend the LOC maintain regular contact with locals to assist with their activities.

STRUCTURAL REFORM COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the SRC not be a standing committee. Rather, the Leadership Council (LC) should call the SRC into session on an ad hoc basis, appointing a convener, with specific tasks to complete by a given date. Convening the SRC should be considered a major decision. Membership in the SRC, when convened, will be open to all GPVA members, and the input of the general membership will be solicited.

PLATFORM COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the General Secretary or any person elected at a state meeting be the convener of the Platform Committee.

We recommend that platform proposals have the support of at least three signers who are members of the GPVA.

We recommend that platform proposals be submitted to the committee not later than Dec. 15th of each year, and that the committee forward all proposals to the LC not later than March 15th of each year.

We recommend the PC meet at least monthly between these dates, or as frequently as needed to complete the work.

The platform should be organized by the Four Pillars, with specific planks listed under general headings, e.g., "hemp" under "agriculture" under "ecological wisdom". Planks formatted into a "short statement", with expandable sections called "executive summary," "detailed discussion," and "resources." The headings and planks and their sections to be expandable and collapsible using html for ease of reading.

Platform proposals to be submitted by web form, ensuring proper format, sufficient sponsors, etc.

Proposals to be limited to inserting or updating only one plank per proposal.

The PC will work with proposers to edit proposals for clarity, unity, etc. The PC may also seek to combine similar or competing proposals. Once polished and ready, proposals will be forwarded to the co-chairs for agendaizing in a regular or interim meeting of the LC. Platform proposals to be considered major decisions under the bylaws.

The PC will work with the webmaster to get a web form put together for proposals. All members should begin talking up the new platform now, to get people thinking and talking about what planks should go on it right away once these recommendations are adopted by the LC.

Anyone may volunteer to serve on the PC, but they must be endorsed by their local.
