

Minutes
GPVA Business Meeting
Rockfish Community Center, Afton
18 January 2020

15 MEMBERS AND 0 GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:
(An asterisk * denotes a local representative.)
(Corresponding timestamps on the recording are listed in parentheses.)

Arlington: Kirit Mukherjee (treasurer)
At-Large: none
Blue Ridge: Charlie Jordan*
Fairfax: Dianne Blais* Jonah Thomas (webmaster)
Fredericksburg: Sean Imanian*
Hampton Roads: Kyle Rockett*, Tina Rockett (co-chair), Bryce Davis (co-chair),
Stephanie Aubochon, Blaizen Bloom
Loudoun (inactive): none
Lynchburg: B. Sidney Smith (Gen. Secretary)
New River Valley: Steven Gillespie*, Ryan Wesdock (Press Secretary)
Richmond: none
Shenandoah: Tom Yager*, Tamar Yager

Guests: none.

Meeting convened at 9:28 am

facilitator: Bryce Davis
time-keeper: Ryan Wesdock
vibes-watcher: Sean Immanian

(2:00) The agenda was amended to add committee reappointments.

(6:30) Regarding the minutes of the last meeting, there was concern about our level of support for the Green New Deal of Virginia. Steve Gillespie believed that we had agreed to support it, but Tina Rockett's recollection was that we had agreed only to support those elements of it consistent with the Green Party GND. It was agreed to revisit this issue on the IC list-serve and defer approval of the previous minutes. (But see further discussion below, time 1:06:00.)

REPORTS:

(10:40) Co-chairs: Bryce expressed what an honor it had been to serve in the role of co-chair.

(12:17) Kirit gave the treasurer's report. There is \$1243 in the operating fund, and \$83 in the Federal PAC. In response to a question Kirit clarified why we have two accounts, and the purpose of each. He also recognized sustainers Tina Rockett and Jeff Staples, and a number of other significant donors. Kirit suggested we might want to revisit whether to continue paying for a post office box. This question will be taken up on the agenda of the next business meeting.

(18:28) Sid gave the General Secretary's report. There has been little change in the locals. Charlottesville has no active members at present owing to previously active members moving away from the area. Lynchburg has also lost its local rep, who moved to Florida.

(20:10) Sid gave the GPUS Delegates report. He noted that it has been pretty quiet in the national party, but that the season of platform proposals is starting, and the new delegates should keep the members informed. He reported that there was a

reapportionment of NC Delegates (this takes place biennially) with no change to Virginia's number of delegates (2 plus 2 alternates). For the Presidential Nominating Convention, Virginia's number of PNC delegates has risen to 5, and we'll want to consider who will be able to attend the convention (which is in July in Detroit). Dianne Blais, the Yagers, the Rocketts, and Kirit Mukherjee all expressed their intention to attend.

(26:25) Sid said that it has been very difficult to get people involved in the Platform Committee. Efforts will continue. Ryan will be bringing a number of proposals from the New River Valley Greens.

(28:00) Sean Imanian reported that the Local Organizing Committee met a couple months ago, and will try to meet monthly going forward. They are working with a book, Organizing for Social Change, as a resource. Ryan noted that the beginnings of a Locals Guide is online if anyone would like to add to it.

(30:15) Jonah Thomas reported that the IT Committee has not been very active, and he is dissatisfied with progress. He intends to do better in the coming year.

OLD BUSINESS:

CONFIRMATION OF INTERIM DECISIONS

(31:45) The Recall of Montigue Magruder as national delegate was objected to by Kirit Mukherjee and Charlie Jordan. Kirit noted that it is not clearly stated in our rules how a delegate is supposed to get the feedback of members on decisions, and that we have little precedent for recalling delegates. Sid noted that our delegates are not bound in their votes; the expectation is that they will represent the state of Virginia to the national party. In Montigue's case the proposal in question was Virginia's own proposal, passed with near unanimity, and Montigue not only voted against it but argued against it without any consultation with fellow delegates or other state party members. Sid also noted that elected officials of the GPVA serve at the pleasure of the membership. Charlie objected that some of the claims against Montigue were erroneous, and that there were flaws with the proposal that Montigue voted against. Tina seconded Sid's points, and added that his behavior was not democratic. Kirit said he appreciated the discussion for the record. A voice vote upheld the decision. Charlie Jordan insisted his no vote be recorded.

(52:40) Regarding the appointment of Lucian Laurie to the GPUS Green Pages, Bryce noted that Lucian is no longer affiliate with the GPVA or GPUS.

(53:10) Sean Imanian's appointment to the GPUS Outreach Committee was approved by consensus.

(54:15) Charlie objected to the GPUS Platform proposal on agriculture that GPVA forwarded to the national party, on the basis that it did not address the consumption of fish. Sid noted that the focus of the proposal was industrial agriculture, and this would logically include industrial fishing. The proposal was upheld on a voice vote, with Charlie the sole no vote.

(1:01:00) Tina Rockett's appointment to the GPUS Media Committee was agreed by consensus.

REVIEW OF CANDIDATES AND CAMPAIGNS

(1:02:15) Sid reported that Wendy Hageman Smith was unsuccessful in her campaign for reelection to the Appomattox County School Board. Dianne Blais reported that Jonah Thomas got over 20,000 votes for Soil and Water Conservation Board, but

didn't win. NRV Green supported an independent candidate for Soil and Water, and he won the seat.

REVIEW OF VIRGINIA GREEN NEW DEAL Coalition

(1:06:00) Bryce reported that he and Tina attended the VA GND summit. Bryce said that he was highly disappointed with the entire event. He felt that there was considerable push-back against the elements of the real GND. It was essentially a Democratic Party event. Although GPVA did not sign on as a coalition member, they have been listed as such on the VA GND website. Tina sent them a message asking that we be removed from that list. Tina reported that she had been receiving complaints with respect to the VA GND, in particular about the co-opting of thematic elements of a campaign of indigenous peoples in Virginia. This is when Tina discovered we were listed as a coalition partner. She noted that we had previously decided as a party not to be a partner, but to support initiatives coming out of the coalition on a case-by-case basis. Tina did not hear back, but it appears that GPVA is no longer listed on the website. Ryan noted that the reason we were invited was because he reached out to them and got them to agree that it would be good to have a Green voice at the table. Ryan said that they were respectful when he spoke with them in person in Richmond, and had been responsive to his effort to reach out to them. He said it would be better for us to be part of the coalition, which so far has the most progressive energy proposals in the state. He said we don't benefit the party by refusing to participate. Bryce said Ryan made a good point, but that if we are going to be treated badly when we are actually at the table that should be taken into account. Steve said that there was no mistreatment in their (Bryce and Tina's) previous report on the event. Tina thanked Ryan for his efforts, but said she agreed with Bryce that they seemed to have no interest at all in the Green Party's input. Tina added that she was on a subcommittee on Election Reform, and that the folks at her table were very supportive of the Green Party GND and its ideas, in contrast to the organizers. Then Tina and Bryce were left out of invitations that others received to participate in subsequent meetings. She does not want the GPVA to look like it is rubber-stamping initiatives championed by big Democratic-linked NGOs and corporations. That they've hijacked the name of the GND, and even the sunflower symbol of the Green Party, highlights the co-optation of our initiatives. Some of the legislation deserves our support, and Tina said we can make statements of support and have those appear on the GND VA web page as appropriate. Sid noted that we had Tina's report at our last meeting, and that there was informal discussion to the effect that we should take the VA GND on a case-by-case basis. However, the discussion was informal and there was no vote. Consequently we don't have any formal decision on the level of our participation in the VA GND. Sean asked if we'd been invited to speak or had voting status as a listed coalition partner, and Tina replied that we had not. Steve Gillespie asked how much time elapsed between going to the initial meeting for the GND VA and when Tina was contacted by Leigh Williams. Tina said it was some weeks before she heard from her again. Steve wanted to know what effort Tina and Bryce had made to follow up. Tina said she had done what she could, but that it was clear to her that she had been left out of the invitation to participate in the follow up meetings. In the interests of time it was then agreed to table the issue for further discussion on the IC list.

NEW BUSINESS:

OFFICER ELECTIONS:

Sean Imanian as the sole nominee for Co-Chair was elected by consensus.
Ryan Wesdock as the sole nominee for Press Secretary was elected by consensus, with Charlie Jordan standing aside.
Sid Smith as the sole nominee for General Secretary was elected by voice vote, with Charlie Jordan voting no.

The vote for national delegates was conducted on OpaVote: Tina Rockett and Sean Imanian were elected delegate, and Kirit Mukherjee and Tom Yager were elected alternates.

The vote for list-serve moderator was conducted on OpaVote: Jonah Thomas was elected.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

(1:45:00) Kirit Mukherjee's reappointment to the GPUS Presidential Candidate Support Committee was approved by consensus.

NOMINATION OF Dianne BLAIS

(1:45:30) Dianne spoke and noted that she is running against an entrenched Democrat in District 11. Her platform is to take money from the military for the Green New Deal. Steve asked, merely as a formality, whether she had any "skeletons" in her closet. Dianne said she had run previously as an Independent Green, because she wasn't knowledgeable about the distinction between the IG and the GPVA. In response to a question from Sid, Dianne said that reduction in the military and being anti-war are her top issues, and that she had no significant points of disagreement with the GPUS platform as a whole. In response to a question from Bryce, she said that she wanted to ensure that reduction in military expenditures was offset by investing in new jobs and ensuring communities are not hurt by the transition. In response to a question from Ryan, Dianne said she plans to promote the Green Party in her area as she petitions and campaigns. In response to a question from Tina, Dianne said she's conflicted about fund-raising, and is not planning on taking any money from PACs or businesses. Dianne's nomination for U.S. House of Representatives for Virginia District 11 was passed by consensus.

BALLOT ACCESS

(2:00:00) Sid introduced the topic by noting that we need to select a Ballot Access Coordinator and confirm our Central Committee. Ryan Wesdock said that he would consider becoming coordinator, but that he's concerned about the time involved, and how much petitioning he would need to do himself. Sid said the coordinator's job is time consuming, but need not include petitioning on his own part. A wide ranging discussion on petitioning ensued. Finally it was agreed that we would work expeditiously on the Interim list-serve to get the petitions ready.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

APPENDICES

LOCAL REPORTS:

ARLINGTON: Here is a summary of recent Arlington Green Party activity (Kirit Mukherjee):

-advocated with legislators for local authority over state building codes to allow Arlington County to achieve the goals of its Community Energy Plan

-proposed the end of marijuana prosecution by the Commonwealth Attorney for Arlington

-advocated for increase in local housing grants as a method to increase

effectiveness of affordable housing programs

-supported adding "Source of Income" to the Human Rights Ordinance to prevent discrimination by landlords and housing providers

-opposed Arlington County's plan to give incentive money in the millions to Amazon corporation.

Last meeting: Jan. 7, 2020 (attendance of 5 members)

Chair: John Reeder

Treasurer: Stephen Davis

BLUE RIDGE: No change in status from previous report in May '19 (Charlie Jordan)

FAIRFAX:

(Dianne Blais) The Fairfax Greens (which besides Fairfax County, includes Alexandria and Falls Church) meets monthly on Sunday afternoons, typically at Fairfax City Library. Our last meeting was last Sunday. Although 200+ people got e-mails and meetings are posted on FB, we typically only had 5-6 people attending. With Farzad leaving and no longer co-chair (Jonah was voted in to replace him at the Jan. 12, 2020 meeting), our attendance is down to 4 (Audrey, Jim, Jonah and me) so we changed by-laws so we can meet quorum. We have 452 names we are going to be contacting so hope attendance will increase.

The year started out with Audrey Clement's appeal for a ruling of the chair regarding who may vote in GPVA officer elections (due to discrepancy in bylaws from change when all members present could vote to only LC members allowed).

Due to GPAX's request for a teach-in, Dianne held a "Mother's Day for Peace" using Rich Whitney's *Make America Care Again* power-point presentation.

Mike Shushan stated that 400 lbs of lead/yr was being put into our air by Lorton's trash to steam plant.

Farzad Mausouri (and Sean I.?) tried to arouse interest in Wolf PAC's efforts for a Article V state initiated convention to fight big money in politics.

In June we voted against decision to recall Montigue Magruder as NC rep since the approximately 40 hours to deliberate and vote on the motion were insufficient to meet the 5 day requirement for major party decisions stipulated in GPVA Bylaws Section 17.4.3.

Dianne and Jonah went to ANM in Salem, Ma.

Jonah ran for Fairfax County's Soil and Water Conservation Board (winning over 20K votes). Jonah spoke at Fairfax High School twice.

Audrey used 40K pieces of lit (Dianne developed RCV flyer) and 750 yard signs in her campaign for Arlington City Council. She recovered only 350 signs from the medians as most had been removed by DP operatives. An intern was a major help in her campaign.

Web-sites (state's w/ needed password is difficult to get on, need to get rid of NOVA links, insert links to CCan and presidential candidates, better aesthetics, etc) and FB are often a topic of discussion at meetings.

Dianne helped write/lead Fairfax LWV study on elections and RCV.

Dianne contacted Charles Keener, who often writes on internet but has never attended one of our meetings.

On Jan. 4, Dianne spoke to Fairfax County's General Assembly delegation (about 25 members) and a packed auditorium asking for RCV, etc.

FREDERICKSBURG:

Sean Imanian here. I will be the local Rep. Email: spimanian97@gmail.com

Treasurer: Gerald Anderson.

Last Meeting: 12/16/19 and had 6 members.

HAMPTON ROADS:

Hampton Roads Green Party (HRGP) Local Representative Report for January 18, 2020
GPVA Meeting

Local Rep: Kyle Rockett

Last Meeting: 1-5-20 with 5 HRGP voting members in attendance along with 8 attendees (13 total) from various organizations, including the Norfolk Catholic Worker, Tidewater DSA and the Communist Party, for discussion regarding forming the Coalition for Peace and Planet to unite the antiwar and climate movements. We have since voted by consensus to become founding coalition partners.

The HRGP had a busy year of events, endorsements, statements, sponsorships and protests.

Endorsements: Move to Amend, Rage Against the War Machine and UNAC's "No War with Iran".

Statements/Amendments/Letters: statements opposing fracked gas pipelines and gun violence; proposed a GPUS Platform Amendment to the Climate/Regenerative Agriculture section; and signed on to a letter with the Virginia Interfaith Center opposing predatory lending in Virginia.

Sponsorships: sponsored a ticket for HR Mask's (Mothers Against Senseless Killing) Second Annual Awareness Gala; and 3000 handheld fans for South Norfolk's 4th of July Parade

Protests: ICE in Norfolk twice; and No War On Iran, both in coalition with Tidewater Solidarity Collective

Tabling: at Mini Veg Fest in Norfolk and Veg Fest in Hampton; and two events at Old Dominion University - for Ranked Choice Voting and for the Climate with Vegodu.

Appointments: We've had members appointed to GPUS Committees - Media, Animal Rights and the Green Pages

Speakers: We've engaged with the community, having guest speakers at our monthly meetings including Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO), Mom's Demand Action, a potential candidate for Virginia 5th District Senate seat, and

Tidewater DSA Peace Committee Chair.

Our members have been active inside the local and elsewhere. We've formed a Youth Outreach Committee; had members attend the GP ANM; attended the Fredericksburg GP's Meet and Greet and Green New Deal VA Summit; and formed the HRGP Green Light Brigade (GLB) and conducted two anti-war events - our Education Chair was interviewed on WAVY News at the No War on Iran event

Our Treasurer, Steffanie Aubuchon is gathering ballot petitions to run for Mayor of Chesapeake.

Upcoming Events: we are planning more GLB actions including in support of the National Strike for Palestine, Move to Amend 10th Citizens United anniversary, and Anti-Gun Violence with HR MASK; introduction of resolutions in support of Move to Amend for local City Councils; a community service event with Virginia Wesleyan University fraternity; and a documentary fundraiser (Colonization is Extinction) to benefit the people of Puerto Rico with support from VACOLAO.

LYNCHBURG: (Sid Smith) Our previous local rep Avery Hill has moved out of Virginia. Only Sid and Wendy Smith are current members.

NEW RIVER VALLEY GREENS:

New River Valley Greens Local Report (Ryan Wesdock)

Our local rep is myself, Ryan Wesdock, as the chair of the local. (Ryan.wesdock@gmail.com) Our last meeting was today, December 16th with 6 members in attendance. Our current treasurer is Jacob Levitt.

For the purpose of voting at the next meeting, we have selected Tom Adams to represent us. I will only be voting in my capacity as Press Secretary.

SHENANDOAH: (Tom Yager) planning regular meetings; reelected their candidate for Soil and Water Conservation Board.