

Santa Barbara County Green Party County Council Meeting 6-9-04

Facilitator: Paul Kirsch

Present: Paul Kirsch, Nancy Broyles, Arthur Schwartz, Ruth Sack, Dorothy Fox, Tim Harding, John Foran, David Wass, Leo Raabe, "Mike," Gabriella Hodges.

Announcements: John Foran: workshop on campaigning. in Buellton, this Saturday.

Handouts:

Nancy: Howard Richards' program on the global economy. Unitarian Church, Parish Hall 6-16, 6 pm.

Housekeeping: Minutes of previous meeting: Corrections, Second to last paragraph, should read , "that could be considered safely Democratic or Republican." Also correct the spelling of Sri Subramanian in the list of those present.

Mail: letter from New Member, another from the State Fair Political Practices Commission (fppc).

Treasurer's report: Treasury holds \$696.00 after paying \$300 for Milwaukee convention expenses.

139 members, 115 households, 24 of which have 2 members

Additions to agenda:

Art Schwartz: He cannot accept donations and has been prohibited from registering voters at the farmer's market at the Camino Real Marketplace, from 9 to 1 on Sundays. He intends to continue registering voters. He wants Green Party approval for a campaign to impeach Bush. We discussed Art's request for endorsement, rephrasing it as an endorsement of Calls to Impeach Bush. Passed by consensus.

This is a really big market, lots of people. They called the police to toss him out, but he ended up leaving after some time. They ended up letting him set up a table, which they themselves provided. Furthermore, this particular farmers market has limited him to one week a month, and he is working to get the adjacent retailers to back him, in what capacity is not clear. The mayor of Goleta has declared support for his activism.

Timothy Harding requests Green party co-sponsorship of the event organized around the Pastors for Peace meeting and Caravan on Monday 6-28, including potluck. Especially important in light of Bush's tightening of the blockade and continuing unilateral approach. Passed by consensus.

Nancy has the latest version of the revised bylaws, the "finished" version.

Paul/John: The Westley Initiative, AKA limited choices initiative, constructed ostensibly to keep third parties out of state elections. This initiative proposes that

elections be limited to the two candidates who get the most votes in the primaries. The Green Party is conducting a statewide poll, for the purposes of which a no vote on the Westley Initiative is endorsed by consensus.

BODY OF MEETING:

Nancy: Green Sunday: Theme: Flag Day. 4 p.m. this coming Sunday, 6-13, at Nancy's house at 740 Flora Vista. Topic for discussion: the upcoming election. John suggested 3 positions: No candidate, safe states, and no candidate/endorse Nader. Nancy will argue no Green Candidate, John will take the safe states/David Cobb position, and we're working on Norm and Betty to take the no candidate/endorse Nader. We discussed what dishes to bring. This is a fundraiser, not a potluck, so we Greens have to provide the food.

Related issue: Green Sundays, how often? Ideally one a month. John suggests each of us volunteer to host one for a given month. Dave wants us to plan out the upcoming year's worth of fundraising events, meanwhile keep the ball rolling on the ongoing Green Sunday effort.

John: Further related issue: fundraising mailer from GPCA. John supports it, the only question is when. We need to provide a list of members--registered greens who have voted since March 2002, and an insert of local information.

Fundraising appeal from GPUS: working group to take it up.

John: Campus Greens. Two meetings so far, intending to start u as a UCSB registered group in Fall 2004, and then join the National Campus Greens. There is a unique opportunity to send people to the national Campus Greens meeting of workshops to train local organizers in California in mid August.

They need \$125 to get the 3 student attendees trained. Expenditure passed by vote.

Rather than split into working groups, we are going over working groups issues all together.

WORKING GROUPS

Ecological Wisdom: Nancy. Three topics:

Global Warming--witness the movie, The Day After Tomorrow . . .

Water--becoming privatized.

GMO's--The #1 topic at the Plenary. She is working with Mark Phillips, who had 40 people at his last meeting (?)

Dave and John support the idea of organizing events around these issues. Paul supports joining this work with spirituality issues.

Military-Industrial Complex. Paul envisions the Council as being a communications facilitating council, using webcams. This would be an issue-

supporting program. Paul offers to contribute money toward this end. Tim asks why he wants to go to this trouble when you can do the same thing with text messaging. Paul describes immigrant workers who would very much like to see and be seen by their relatives back home, in Mexico or elsewhere. We could be part of a network of Greens supporting this sort of global dialogue. John feels that this is really basic Green thinking in action, and notes that this idea incorporates more than one of our working groups. Art finds it exciting that this idea could really take off and generate vast support. We could have a Faulkner-sized event with the video projector that Gary Atkins is working to acquire!

Fundraising: Dave observes that fundraising doesn't occur by itself, but has to be part of the educational life of the party, by doing it all together. We need an overall plan for our county group, setting goals for the party. If our goal is to become locally politically active on local issues. Samples from his list: RV dwellers, air pollution, water treatment plant expansion, 3 strikes reform, IRV, living wage, water (imminent shortage.)

Dave wants to design an outreach campaign based on our consensus on local issues. Dorothy suggests that the City Council not vote itself a raise while not supporting such worthy groups as Pueblo. John says the working groups should feed issues to the fundraising working group, and recommends using a format like Art's Party for perhaps a monthly film festival event.

Mike thinks the party's nowhere if it can't field a strong Presidential candidate.

Dorothy Fox would like us to take up the topic of the City Council pay raise at our next meeting.