

Green-Rainbow Party State Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday, November 16, 2003

Location: Clark University, Worcester, MA

Time: Commenced: 9:52 AM; Adjourned: 5:30 PM

Facilitation: Grace Ross and Mark LaSerte

Participants

Name	Role(s)	Town/ Region
Aimee Smith	Delegate- Membership Director; Stacker	Middlesex- Cambridge
Anne Donahue	Delegate	Middlesex- Chelmsford
Aram Falsafi	Delegate	Middlesex- Watertown
Bert Alberts	Delegate- Timekeeper	Essex- Newburyport
Daniel Melnechuk	Delegate- Treasurer	Middlesex- Waltham
Dave England	Delegate	Norfolk- Brookline
David Rolde	Delegate	Middlesex- Weston
Ebony Barkley	Delegate- Co-chair; Minutes	Suffolk- Dorchester
Emily G. Lewis	Delegate- Vibes Watcher	Hampshire- Amherst
Eva Kerr	Delegate- Timekeeper	Suffolk
Gary Hicks	Delegate- Secretary	Rainbow- Suffolk
Gil Obler	Delegate- Fundraising Director	Middlesex- Lowell
Gordon Davis	Delegate	Diversity Delegate
Grace Ross	Delegate- Co-chair; Facilitator	Middlesex
Gretchen Klotz	Delegate	Middlesex- Waltham
Jennifer Mazer	Delegate	Middlesex
Jim Bosman	Delegate	Hampshire- South Deerfield
Jon Levy	Delegate	Hampshire
Julie Saad	Delegate	Norfolk- Wellesley
Mark Laserte	Delegate- Facilitator	Worcester- Worcester
Mary Broadhurst	Delegate	Hampden- Agawam
Merelice	Delegate	Rainbow
Owen Broadhurst	Delegate	Hampden- Agawam
Ralph Walton	Delegate	Suffolk- Roxbury Crossing
Richard Aviles	Delegate- Stacker	Hampshire
Richard Conroy	Delegate	Norfolk
Robert Crouner	Delegate- (alternate)	Hampshire
Sara Willig	Delegate- Vibes Watcher	Middlesex- Cambridge
Scott Pherson	Delegate- Vibes Watcher	Middlesex- Westford
Sharon Nietsche	Delegate	Worcester- Worcester
Stephen Milder	Delegate	Middlesex
Wanda Boeke	Delegate- Minutes	Berkshire- Pittsfield

Ephraim Haile	Observer	
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9:52-9:58 AM

Cochair Grace Ross calls for two alternate delegates (Stephen Milder and Robert Crowner) to be promoted to full delegates for the meeting and for two full delegates (Gil Obler and Chicago Richards) to participate by cell phone. Adopted by consensus.

9:58-10:05

Jim Bosman calls for volunteers: Cofacilitators: Ross, Laserte Vibes Watchers: Lewis, Willig, Pherson Minutes: Boeke, Barkley Stackers: Smith, Aviles Timers: Kerr, Alberts.

10:05-10:10

Expedited round of proposals from the September 13 state committee meeting is second item on agenda. Proposals were and will be in the following order: J, T, F, H, P, B, N, Q. The order for the regular round was and is G, B, C, P, R, J, E, D, F, H, Q, N, T, S. Proposals A, I, K, L, M, O were withdrawn prior to this special meeting.

10:00 Mary and Owen Broadhurst arrive (with photocopied materials, including agenda).

10:00-10:16

Agendas are handed out along with proposal packets: (1) Meeting leadership; (2) Expedited round; (3) Regular round; (4) Elections; (5) 2004 Budget; (6) Feedback.

10:16-10:19

Explanation by cofacilitator Ross of process and time for expedited round proposals.

10:19-10:22

EXPEDITED ROUND STARTS

Proposal J (to agree to a standing Convention Planning Committee-W. Boeke, DE. A. Barkley, D. England, M. Laserte) presented by Wanda Boeke. Friendly amendment suggested by Rolde to make email list available, Melnechuk read revised text "Add, as the first line of the proposal text: We propose to establish a standing convention planning committee with a publicly archived email list." PROPOSAL J PASSED by consensus.

10:22-10:33

Proposal T (to find 10 minutes for questions and feedback regarding new logo-A. Smith, G. Obler) presented by Ross. Cofacilitator Ross suggests that the 10 minutes will occur after the elections or the budget discussion or else be a sort of "break" where appropriate. Consensus to put in the 10 minutes for feedback wherever appropriate.

10:33 Gil Obler arrives.

10:33-10:39

Proposal F (requiring the Treasurer to post a full set of reports related to finances every month-J. Leavitt) presented by Jim Bosman. Friendly amendment suggested by Melnechuk to have the reports posted at the end of the next following month, not 2 weeks

after month's end and also after budget for year has been approved. Friendly amendment suggested by Smith that it does not have to be the Treasurer who posts, but that the TechCom could be of assistance in posting. Bosman provides altered wording of proposal: 1) The organizational budget (approved by the state committee) must be posted online immediately (within one week) after it has been approved. 2) Every month the treasurer will arrange posting of the report on-line by the end of the following month, etc. as originally worded. PROPOSAL F PASSED by consensus.

10:39-10:46

Proposal H (Amendment to Bylaws Section 6.7 regarding smoother State Convention organization-O. Broadhurst) presented by Owen Broadhurst. Questions include whether this should be a bylaw amendment regarding the timing of the stages of convention planning (Kerr). Concerns include that GPUS reps should be included and that an elections procedure needs to be in place (Bosman). Wording of friendly amendments to be provided later on in meeting (Ross). PROPOSAL H AMENDING BYLAWS PASSED by consensus-WORDING TO BE REVIEWED LATER.

10:46-10:49 Short break in proceedings.

10:49-11:02

Proposal P (Childcare to be provided and financially supported at large regional or state meetings-G. Ross) presented by Ross, with Laserte facilitating. PROPOSAL P IS BUMPED TO REGULAR ROUND and Ross will receive friendly amendments.

11:02-11:04

Proposal B (to streamline nominations and elections of AdCom and USGP reps procedure-T. Lorenzen) presented by Jim Bosman. This affects Bylaws section 9.3 regarding procedure. Questions include that this is really 2 proposals-a bylaws change and a procedure-(Merelice); that both of these are contingent upon each other (Obler). Bosman suggests bumping this proposal to the regular round to allow for rewriting (Bosman/Rolde).Consensus-PROPOSAL B BUMPED TO REGULAR ROUND.

11:04-11:08

Proposal N (a peace resolution restating and reinforcing GRP commitment to peace, to end hostilities in Iraq, demand state and federal lawmakers to adopt policy to end Iraq war-T. Lorenzen) presented by Melnechuk after Ross emphasizes that proposal sponsors find replacements if absent. Melnechuk suggests bumping the proposal to the regular round while it gets rewritten by Melnechuk, Rolde and others before regular round. Consensus-PROPOSAL N BUMPED TO REGULAR ROUND.

11:08-11:20

Proposal Q (for a two-day educational retreat on oppression and privilege dynamics-G. Ross) presented by Grace Ross, with Laserte facilitating. Ross introduces two amendments: 1) that budget request be a Tier 3 priority, and 2) that the date be early

February 2004, not November 2003. Consensus-PROPOSAL Q BUMPED TO REGULAR ROUND and it will be rewritten before this, with suggestions going to Ross.

11:20-11:33

Break

11:33-11:36

Announcements: Badges have registered voter letter code (J=GRP, G=Green movement, F=Rainbow Coalition, U=Unenrolled dues payer). Until the end of November, these are all valid, but after this time only J and U will be acceptable GRP members. Members should see Gil Obler for latest voter registration form that now includes "Green-Rainbow" box (Melnechuk). Rainbow members are invited to go to the State House to indicate that Rainbow members are registering as GRP (J) members. This visibility will be the occasion for a media splash, with several better-known individuals leading the event off as the official commitment of the Rainbow Coalition to the GRP (Merelice).

11:36-11:38

REGULAR ROUND OF PROPOSALS STARTS

Cofacilitator Ross states that presentation and discussion of each proposal will be timed in 15-minute increments.

11:38-11:45

Proposal G (to hire a development director-J. Leavitt) with cofacilitator Ross suggesting the proposal be tabled because the original sponsor is not in attendance. Consensus is for PROPOSAL G TO BE TABLED for January 2004 meeting.

11:46-11:48

Several members voice unease about tabling Proposal G (Alberts, Merelice). Obler stated he would assist the Treasurer and also help get the various amendments back to the sponsors of Proposal G so all would be ready for budget and the January meeting.

11:48

Announcement by Melnechuk that GRP Newsletters would be available during lunch.

11:49-12:06

Proposal B (to streamline nominations and elections of AdCom and USGP reps procedure-T. Lorenzen). Cofacilitator Ross suggests that this resembles an earlier proposal in that it consists of 2 parts, so it makes sense to take up the bylaw revision initially and the procedure elements afterward. Several concerns are raised

12:06-12:07

Cofacilitator Ross calls for the budgeting of another 7 minutes if necessary to discuss Proposal B as it impacts the bylaws. Ross calls for a short break.

12:07-12:11

Break

12:11-12:22

Proposal B procedures. Bosman reads the revised language

12:22-12:28

Clarifying questions regarding Proposal B procedures.

12:28-12:30

Concerns regarding Proposal B procedures.

12:30-12:31

Cofacilitator Ross calls for feedback regarding the timing of the lunch break. Consensus to continue another 15 minutes.

12:31-12:44

Friendly amendment to use letters not numbers for item 1 (Boeke and others). Other friendly amendments include: contact information on the nomination form, but a street address is not required (Walton), that there be a general reference to the GPUS "and representatives to other organizations." Wording will be changed over lunch, also on how to disseminate information to all GRP members (Melnechuk). Friendly amendment that the already vetted candidate should be able to make a 2-minute oral statement if there are floor nominations because members might not recall the vetted candidate's written statement if drowned out by various oral statements from floor nominees (Falsafi).

12:44-12:56

Additional time is allotted to Proposal B procedures discussion. Friendly amendment that in order to be proactive on the diversity front that a 10-day extension might be given to recruit additional nominees if nominees who filed were too homogeneous (Kerr).

12:56

Co-facilitator Ross calls a break for lunch, asking delegates to return in 50 minutes to be prepared to resume in 55 minutes.

12:56-2:04

Lunch break

2:04-2:11

Committee reconvenes, quorum is established. Returning to Proposal B procedures discussion (Davis departed), and cofacilitator Ross asks whether there is new language. Semi-affirmative response from Melnechuk, with qualification that language might not address all concerns (Bosman). Obler asks that proposers leave room to finalize language.

2:11-2:29

Cofacilitator Ross suggests that discussion should meanwhile take place on whether Proposal C (that there be a binding "No Candidate" option on 2004 GPUS slate of presidential nominees-D. Agnew), Proposal D (that the recall procedure be changed in bylaw section 9.6-D. Agnew), and Proposal E (that monthly reports from all elected AdCom members be required-J. Leavitt) should be resubmitted for the January meeting since the proposers are not in attendance and perhaps co-sponsors are not in attendance either. It is decided, once quorum is regained, that sponsors be informed by Ross that they SHOULD RESUBMIT THEIR PROPOSALS FOR THE JANUARY MEETING.

2:29-2:36

Bosman presents the new language of Proposal B procedures, which reads as follows:

Bylaw 9.3 would read: "Except where restricted by state, federal, or organizational law, any member may be nominated. Candidates are not required to be members of the State Committee. For the detailed process, refer to the Convention Elections Procedure as established by the State Committee in the GRP procedures manual."

The procedures document will include the following changes to what is in the packet:
Introduction: "The newsletter announcing the convention will explain this procedure and encourage a diverse pool of candidates." Section 1, paragraph (c) will be deleted. Section 2 will include the sentence: "The Membership and Diversity Committee will evaluate the total candidate pool under the established diversity guidelines of the party and may reopen nominations only to increase diversity." The nomination form will include an opportunity for the candidate to self-identify as a diversity candidate. In Section 3, the words "GPUS representative position" is replaced by "other organizational bodies." The second sentence of Section 4 will be replaced by: "When there are floor nominations for an office, all candidates for that office will be given two minutes for a statement. All co-chair nominees will have two minutes for a statement." In Section 5, "None of the Above" will be replaced by "None of the Others." PROPOSAL B PASSED by consensus.

2:39-2:55

Proposal P (Proposal for a process to establish childcare at state committee, conventions, as well as at other larger GRP events, and related organizational & budgetary issues - G. Ross) presented by Ross with Laserte facilitating. Only two suggestions were received over lunch and they regarded legality, so proposal now provides for a liability release and, if accepted, the proposal will be reviewed by legal counsel before it takes effect.

2:55-2:56

A straw poll to allow more time to continue discussion (19 in agreement)

2:56-3:04

Ross as proposer states that a number of elements could be met. She wants people with concerns to write down their contact information and wants AdCom to receive the referral. Ross states that childcare needs to be in place before the January state committee meeting. Proposal needs to be reviewed and decided on in a state committee email

decision before the January meeting. Hicks proposes a friendly amendment to try to identify which parents will be coming to the January StateCom meeting. Consensus to SUBMIT PROPOSAL TO ADCOM FOR RESUBMISSION TO STATECOM FOR EMAIL DECISION PRIOR TO JANUARY MEETING.

3:04-3:05

Ross hands contact information sheet around for those with concerns or suggestions.

3:05-3:18

Proposal R (Next steps for organizing Abolish Poverty March, request for party support and initial organizing funds-G. Ross) presented by Ross with Laserte facilitating. Ross states that this is a short-term implementation proposal and summarizes the following: 1) all locals will need to participate, 2) locals should host training on poverty in MA, 3) \$120 per month from GRP from Tier 2, 4) GRP will help raise money, 5) GRP and locals will use internet communication to publicize march, 6) web site to be used. Concerns include a friendly amendment from Smith to change language (second bullet point reworded to state: "Ask and inform each Green-Rainbow group to host and involve..."), and Barkley echoes this suggesting that a request be sent to each chapter to. Ross responds that the March Committee has a training kit available (abolishpoverty@green-rainbow.org). PROPOSAL R PASSED by consensus.

3:18-3:24

Proposal H is revisited. Broadhurst, Bosman present language at Pherson's request. Bylaws Section 6.7 will be amended with the addition of the following phrase to the second sentence:

"Including, but not limited to the following: 1) the state convention's agenda, 2) the deadlines and process for nominations and elections, 3) deadlines for the submission of proposals, and 4) the promulgation of regulations regarding how proposals are to be submitted for consideration at the state committee."

PROPOSAL H PASSED by consensus.

3:24-3:25

Cofacilitator Ross asks that Proposal Q, next on the regular round list, be skipped since she is the sponsor and would like to rest from being on the spot during the previous proposal discussion. The next proposal, N, is awaiting possible revision, led by Rolde. Ross suggests review of the new logo at this point, and all agree.

3:25-3:35

Proposal T (Logo review-Smith, Obler) launches into questions. What were the criteria for the logo (Merelice)? Spring 2003 Newsletter stated it should embody Green and Rainbow roots, be good for reproductive purposes at all levels and sizes, be useful both in color and in gray scale, that Logo Committee be able to ask artist(s) for modifications (Melnechuk). Will logo become property of the GRP (Willig)? All submissions became

property of the GRP. Was there a stipend? Yes, \$25. Nietzsche wonders who the winner of the contest was - Mary Richenik of Charleston. Merelice recommends that anytime the new logo appears in literature, it say "formerly Mass Green Party and Rainbow Coalition but not to put MA in logo since other parties don't include name of state either.

3:35-3:52

Proposal N (A Peace Resolution restating and reinforcing our commitment to peace and to end to hostilities in Iraq and a demand that our state and federal lawmakers adopt a policy to end the Iraq War-A. Lorenzen) presented by Ross with Laserte facilitating. Rolde observes that the proposal can neither be passed nor rewritten at this meeting and suggests naming an ad hoc subcommittee to reword the proposal and submit it to AdCom for endorsement afterward. Hicks wonders about the timeliness. Melnechuk states GRP needs an updated statement, prefers tabling proposal to AdCom for improvement.

3:52-3:58

Ross calls for more time and suggests a process for an ad hoc committee. New ad hoc committee formed (Smith, Klotz, Saad, Hicks, Broadhurst, Rolde, Lorenzen). It is agreed that AdCom will circulate its draft to the StateCom email list for feedback. Consensus to SUBMIT PROPOSAL N TO PEACE AD HOC COMMITTEE, THEN TO ADCOM.

3:58-4:12

Proposal S (Email behavior policy-J. Bosman and others) presented by Merelice and Bosman. Consensus for PROPOSAL S TO BE REVISED with comments to be sent to Merelice and that it MAY BE RESUBMITTED TO STATECOM.

4:12-4:26

Return to Proposal Q (for a two-day educational retreat on oppression and privilege dynamics-G. Ross) presented by Ross, Laserte facilitates. Concerns friendly amendment proposed by Lewis to alter the wording: in the first line of the Purpose statement, "a core" is replaced by "the number" and in the Goal statement, "who are already somewhat" is replaced by "with a nucleus of people who are." Melnechuk suggests a friendly amendment to provide a budget of \$300, which could be overridden if necessary and raised to \$500, which AdCom would decide. Kerr proposes the friendly amendment for alternative funding coming from the sponsoring of individuals by other individuals. PROPOSAL Q PASSED by consensus.

4:26-4:28

Ross suggests a short break since all of the proposals on the agenda have been addressed. She announces the resignation of Communications Director Keith White and that Communications Committee has been provisionally filling in. Resolution of this situation will be the subject of discussion after the break.

4:28-4:31 Break

4:31-4:35

ELECTIONS-COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Merelice, current Communications Committee co-chair, makes a statement to endorse Jim Bosman for the position of Communications Director. JIM BOSMAN APPOINTED BY ACCLAMATION TO BE GRP COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR.

4:35-4:48

ELECTIONS-FINALIZING ACCEPTANCE OF PROVISIONALLY ELECTED GRP REPRESENTATIVES TO USGP COMMITTEES

Jim Bosman-GRP Communications Director

Julie Saad-USGP International Committee

Gil Obler-USGP Accreditation Committee

David Rolde/Tony Lorenzen-USGP Platform Committee

Gerthy Justafort-USGP Diversity Committee and USGP International Committee

Gretchen Klotz-USGP International Committee

Three Administration Committee positions remain unfilled (Rose Gonzalez resigned).

4:48-5:30

Ross and Laserte call for feedback on the meeting - all 27 attendees present respond. The hope is expressed that all state committee delegates take their responsibilities seriously enough to attend meetings so there is never an issue of having a quorum present. All agreed this was a productive and positive meeting that was well facilitated. It was also noted that proposers fixing proposals on the spot was a good idea, even though more work should be done in between meetings. One suggestion noted that when proposals require GRP funding, that budgets be included. Meeting adjourned at 5:30
NEXT STATE COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 11, 2004