

Green Party of Santa Fe County
Business Meeting Minutes for June 10, 2008 (*corrected*)
Pyramid Café, 505 West Cordova, Santa Fe

July 2008 Green Party Meeting Schedule

July 1, 2008 Business Meeting, 7PM at the Pyramid Café
July 15, 2008 Social Meeting/Special Meeting to discuss our action agenda, 7PM, Pyramid Café
July 22, 2008 Business Meeting to decide on the action agenda, 7PM, Pyramid Café

Section 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Xubi Wilson, followed by a moment of silence. Tom Knoblauch agreed to facilitate, Scott Shuker agreed to be the actioneer, and Suzanne Otter kept the minutes. May 2008 Minutes were approved as distributed. The June 10, 2008 agenda was approved with the provision that agreeing on our action agenda for this year would take more than one meeting.

Greens in attendance at this meeting: David Bacon, Carl Hansen, Sean Knight, Tom Knoblauch, Rick Lass, John Otter, Suzanne Otter, Leslie Pearlman, Marion Seymour, Scott Shuker, Magita Story, David Thompson, Russ Tyldesley, Xubi Wilson

Guest: Joni Arends, CCNS

Section 2: Officer Reports

Xubi Wilson, Co-Chair: Working on the democracy school effort to eliminate power of corporations over citizen rights, focused currently on drilling in the Santa Fe County. You can find the ordinance at democracysantafe.org. Joni Arends added that the Governor's office may be an ally with this effort.

Carl Hansen, Membership Secretary: Tabling throughout the summer and fall. We will send out e-mails requesting assistance with tabling from time to time. The next opportunity will be the Santa Fe Reporter Block Party on June 18 from 5:00 until 9:00. We need help at 4:00 to set up. The party is in the Santa Fe Reporter parking lot. This would be a good opportunity to gather signatures for Rick Lass/PRC race. Carl will find out if we can request contributions to the Green Party at the table. \$75 fee for nonprofit booth at Santa Fe Reporter Block Party on June 18 from 5-9pm was approved. Contact Carl Hansen if you can help with set-up or tabling on June 18, 2008 solarwks@cybermesa.com

Sean Knight, Treasurer: Treasurer's report, we have \$500 and are owed money by GPNM.

Suzanne Otter, Recording Secretary: Minutes and announcements have been going out on a regular basis. Add your e-mail to the list if you haven't been getting communications.

Section 3: Discussion Items

Joni Arends, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS)

Joni Arends spoke with us about CCNS position on plutonium in our drinking water. CCNS has been participating in the Buckman Diversion project since 2002. CCNS has stated that Los Alamos National Labs needs to be marked on the map of the Diversion Project. The regional aquifer below LANL is the sole source of drinking water for Los Alamos and Whit Rock. This groundwater source flows east toward the Buckman Wells which provide 40% of Santa Fe's drinking water.

The BLM and Forrest Service have stated that the Buckman Diversion project is not needed until 2015, because the people of Santa Fe City and County have done an excellent job of conservation.

CCNS is most concerned about the 18million cubic feet of waste buried in unlined pits, trenches, and shafts on the Pajarito Plateau. This is a direct path, and draws contamination, to the wells.

It is important for people to contact elected officials and communicate their concern about the potential for groundwater contaminants from Los Alamos National Laboratory to reach the Rio Grande. Think about what happens if the contaminated water gets into the water system.

A persuasive alternative for water needs to be included in actions and recommendations. Across the US, communities are going back to ground water (from surface water) because of contaminants. This is the largest public works project in the city of Santa Fe. We are asking for other alternatives as part of the CCNS appeal.

This issue fits in our values. Rick Lass encourages us to do what we can to raise awareness and stop it. It is a long struggle. We could also include CCNS materials in our tabling efforts.

For more information: www.nuclearactive.org.

Public Regulation Commission Race

Rick Lass was nominated for PRC, District 3 at the State Nominating Convention. Rick thanked everyone for the confidence in him to run for this office. Rick will need lots of support to win this race, and based on previous Green Party candidates for PRC we know it is a long shot. It will take 50,000 votes to win the race. The straight-party-ticket voters are a consideration. However, if we get 30% of the vote it may be a basis for re-establishing the Green Party as a major party. The PRC is a fertile ground for a Green Candidate. There is not a Republican candidate in the race. It is important for us to consider the goals of this race—be clear about what we hope to get out of this.

First of all, is it possible? To qualify for public financing, we need 259 \$5 contributions from people in the district. Public Financing has been increased to about \$65,000, this is worthwhile. The District includes all of Santa Fe, north of Santa Fe (including Los Alamos), Placitas, parts of Rio Rancho, Golden, La Madera, all of Taos (a Green Party stronghold). Not El Dorado.

1377 valid signatures are needed. Gathering 2,000 signatures in two weeks is a big job, 2,500 signatures would be better. We need a large number of people committed to getting the signatures, and have a plan for this. People don't want to do this unless we have enough people to get the signatures.

Getting signatures is a lot of work that can be spread among many hands. John Otter got 50 signatures in two hours at the Farmers Market on Tuesday. We need assigned commitments to get 100 signatures minimum over the next couple of weeks. Remember, "Many hands make light work." If we pay people to get signatures, then we wouldn't have a campaign team, it's better for us to get the signatures. What we need is a show of commitment tonight. Each petition is only good for a single county

Commitments for the 13 day plan: Sean--100 signatures, Magita--100 signatures, Joni commits to two hours at the Market Place this Saturday and next Saturday, David and Leslie--100 signatures, Carl--signatures and contributions, Xubi will be the 21st person to commit.

Rick will file Declaration of Intent on June 11. Rick can raise up to \$5,000 before the signatures are submitted. Rick will send out all the specifics of what is needed and how to contribute via e-mail.

Media Reform Conference Report

Rick Lass just returned from Minneapolis for the fourth Media Reform Conference. The first day was Democracy Day. 3500 people attended. Rick reported that he feels empowered to be working on progressive issues like election reform and media reform. We are at a moment where we can take control and take action on progressive issues, including freedom of the press. "Exception to the Rulers" should be the motto for every news/media outlet, not just Democracy Now, all media must do its job. Rick strongly encouraged people to attend the next conference. He will write up a report and e-mail it to all of us. Van Jones was the closing speaker—he remarked that the attitude now is that there is hope and optimism among activists, Congress is standing up to the FCC, and we need to continue to be out there saying we need freedom of the press in this country. More information can be obtained from freepress.net. Rick says; go to their next meeting, it is an amazingly empowering experience!

Report from NM State Nominating Convention

Green Party National Convention: New Mexico has 8 delegates to the national convention. We discussed and voted on the Green Party Candidate for President that we preferred. We decided that 4 delegates are committed to McKinney on the first round of voting, 4 are not bound. We elected our delegates to the national convention. Delegates were elected to the national convention: Rick Michal Mudd, Francine Crawnshaw, Proxies will be held by John Otter, Rosamund Evans, Tom Knoblauch, Cliff Bain. These four non-attending will be the ones were bound on the first round of voting. The convention is probably going to charge \$75 for proxy votes, if they take this action, then GPNM will pay \$75 for the proxy votes and \$75 to the delegates who will attend. Marion Seymour passed around Cynthia McKinney materials for our use.

We nominated Rick Lass for PRC, District 4.

We endorsed Carol Miller for Congress.

Shall we endorse candidates in the 2008 race?

We agreed to take this up on a case by case basis. Rick Lass suggested that we consider endorsing Tom Udall for Senate. We agreed that this needs wide discussion, so we will put this out on the web and put this on the July agenda. If we are going to seriously consider endorsing Tom Udall we would like to meet with him about this endorsement.

First Discussion of Action Agenda Ideas

We had a brief sharing of our ideas about actions or projects that would focus and coalesce the party:

- Running a campaign for candidates is always what gets lots of people involved.
- Beefing up the Buy Nothing Day in November, get local businesses involved to do barter, etc. We could contact get on KSFR and promote this early. It was approved last fall. Perhaps do an event around this to promote values around sustainability and protecting the earth from waste.
- Santa Fe Hours—there is interest in reviving this barter currency network. A directory could be printed; hours were worth an hour of anyone's time. A group is working on local currency. There was a workshop at the Commons about this. There are resources available from the Shoemakers Society. The Berkshires has gone over the \$million mark.
- Democracy School could be a long term campaign.
- Spend the next million years on the CCNS water issue.
- Run candidates for any county race up until June 24, 2008. They only have to give \$50, have been registered Green since the beginning of 2008.
- Oil drilling in Santa Fe, \$4 per gallon gas, defines what it would take to eliminate fossil fuels in Santa Fe. This would bring in many sectors, and work with our natural allies. The campaign makes sense for us to take start the conversation and begin the coalition. We could make Santa Fe the place that's the first to succeed in the US.
- If we are successful in getting Rick on the ballot. PRC is a great race because we can talk about Green issues. We could do a lot going door to door in this district. If we are really serious, this race ought to be our main focus. It has within it the opportunity to talk about Green issues.
- Suggestion to have a retreat to talk about this—it is important to talk about this in depth. It is the opportunity to capitalize on how sexy it is to be Green these days, and that the Green Party has held these values for years. We need to take back the power of the Green Party.
- Do a "Nuts and Bolts" conference after the election in November. (A repeat of something we have done in the past.)
- It is a good time to run a candidate. People are interested in being Green. Going door to door, bringing it face to face, we are going to start or revitalize a movement. The Green values are more important this time.
- Do an educational campaign to bring people on board with the idea of the global pending crisis of water, food, energy—this is moving more rapidly that people are given information about. The

regions which respond to that first, with a local economy will be ahead of the game and might be the only ones that survive.

- If anyone wants to run against their unopposed candidate, wholly within Santa Fe County, it only takes 200 signatures. Get people's names on the ballot to give people a choice. (Plus, we need to have someone on the ballot or we are liable to lose our party status.)
- Call Dean Williamson and encourage him to run County Surveyor.

We agreed to publicize that we are soliciting ideas for the GPSF action agenda, include these ideas generated tonight. We will continue to solicit ideas and have informal discussions through the newsletter, the website, and at the next social meeting. The final discussion would be after the National Convention. Here's the schedule for coming up with the GPSF action agenda:

July 1 is the next business meeting. (All meetings at the Pyramid Café.)

July 15 will be the social meeting that we will convert it to a special meeting to decide

July 22 we will decide on the action agenda.

Section 4: Decisions and Next Steps

1. Tom will publicize our next meetings in the Sun Monthly:
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 - July 15, 2008 Social Meeting/Special Meeting to discuss our action agenda, 7PM, Pyramid Café
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2. Newsletter: Rick will work with Suzanne to get a newsletter out this week about Rick Lass for PRC
3. Sean Knight moved that we contribute \$100 to Rick Lass for PRC. There was consensus to contribute \$100 to Rick Lass' PRC campaign.
4. We agreed by consensus to re-new our membership in the Santa Fe Alliance.
5. Rick will forward information from Cynthia McKinney about New Orleans
6. Generosity Sunday: We agreed to loan our canopy for Generosity Sunday
7. Carl will organize people to table at the Santa Fe Reporter Block Party
8. Scott will begin organizing for Buy Nothing Day in November
9. Several people agreed to call Dean Williamson to encourage him to run for County Surveyor

Section 5: Announcements

- Film Center Film Series is being curated by Tom Knoblauch. Please e-mail suggestion to Tom Knoblauch. (Two films were suggested: "Threads" and "Do it for Uncle Gram")
- Living on the Edge is now on KSFR on Thursday nights at 6:30 pm. for half hour. David and Xubi are interested in taking over "here and now" as a local show.
- Scott is looking for a car.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Submitted by Suzanne Otter, Recording Secretary