

Green Party of Santa Fe County

January 6, 2009 Business Meeting Minutes

Upcoming Events

January 20, 2009: Green party Meeting to finalize convention planning and mailing, 7pm, Pyramid Café

February 3, 2009: Green Party Business Meeting, 7pm, Pyramid Café

February 17, 2009: Green Party Social, 7pm, Pyramid Café

February 24, 2009 Green Party County Convention, 6pm, Location to be determined

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with a moment of silence at 7:06pm. Green Party members present were: Xubi Wilson (facilitator), Carl Hansen (vibes watcher), Marion Seymour (task tracker), Suzanne Otter (note taker), Maurice Webster, John Otter, Sean Knight, David Thompson

Officer Reports

Xubi Wilson (co-chair) reported that the Secretary of State has the options of declaring Greens either to be a major party or no party; the Greens may remain a minor party if the Secretary of State takes no action. It is important for us to have a discussion about where we are heading as a party. What is our vision and need for the Green Party? We should answer this question for ourselves, be clear about our purpose, then petition for signatures and start over if that's what we desire.

Carl Hansen (membership secretary) reported that there hasn't been much contact with new members lately.

Suzanne Otter (corresponding secretary) reported that she attempted to convene the NM Green Council in December 2008 for the purpose of planning the NM Green Party Convention. The meeting did not occur due to lack of a quorum.

Sean Knight (treasurer) reported that we have \$830.78 in our account as of December 31, 2008. (The full report can be obtained from Sean or Suzanne)

Discussion of Green Party Direction

In the 1980s the Greens were a movement, not a political party. In California, Greens were quite active and there was a desire for there to be an electoral party. The Green Party was formed in California first, then the national party followed. The national party failed once, then reconstituted itself. The first question we (in Santa Fe) can ask is what do we want to accomplish? Then decide the best way to achieve this, through a political party or some other organization.

In 1992 in Santa Fe, the Greens were basically a group of individual activists coming together for political strength—we have moved back and forth from being activists to being political. We have not built substantial political power beyond the City of Santa Fe, Rick's campaign and our lack of leadership at the state level is proof of this. We can be proud of everything we have accomplished in this local arena.

If our choice is to remain a political party, we have a lot of work to do. Regardless of what the secretary of state decides, it is up to us to decide what our future will be. This should be the focus of the Santa Fe County Convention on February 24, 2009.

We agreed that the discussion about the future of the Santa Fe County Green Party will focus on three plausible scenarios. Shall we:

1. Continue as a party, re-focus only on local issues, increase the number of people involved in the Santa Fe County Local. (Sean Knight will write up the reasons for this scenario.)
2. Cease being a local of the Green Party of New Mexico. Continue to meet and organize as a Green Movement. (John Otter will write up the reasons for this scenario.)
3. Cease being a local of the Green Party of New Mexico. Continue “green” actions through the activism of individuals. (Xubi Wilson will write up the reasons for this scenario.)

Endorsement of Affordable Housing Funding Ordinance

David Thompson discussed the efforts of groups that have come together as “United for Affordable Housing in Santa Fe” and asked if the Green Party of Santa Fe County would like to endorse this effort to pass the ordinance. It was agreed that the Green Party of Santa Fe County will endorse this effort. For more information contact David Thompson at 982-9000.

Next Steps

1. Xubi will find a location for the Green Party of Santa Fe County Convention on February 24, 2009.
2. Xubi will design the postcard inviting people to the convention
3. On January 20, 2009 we will agree on the convention notice and organize the mailing party.
4. Next business meeting is February 3, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Pyramid
5. Santa Fe County Green Party Convention will be February 24, 2009