

Message from the chair:

Hi folks, sorry these minutes are late getting out, been preoccupied with many things including planning the County Convention. We will be electing officers at the upcoming Convention on April 2nd, and if any of you could commit to regularly attending our business meetings (2 hours per month) and take on an officers position (about 1-2 hours), for volunteering less than half a days work per month, you could make a huge difference in the functioning of the party. As you probably know, due to the lack of volunteers to fill these vital positions, I have had to fill-in and take on the responsibility of all of the unfinished duties. The only other person to volunteer as a party officer has a class on the day of the meeting, and so I generally call Sean Knight to get the Treasurer's Report before I send the minutes. We also need about forty volunteers to serve as Delegates of the Local to attend the State Convention on April 30th. Anything you can do is appreciated.

Thank you all for your interest,  
Rick Fabrick, GPSF Co-chair  
603-1070, [rfabrick@gmail.com](mailto:rfabrick@gmail.com)

GPSF meeting agenda 3/1/11, Pyramid Café, 6 PM

Attendance:

Ray Madrid, Alberto Reyes, Marion Seymour and Rick Fabrick

Moment of Silence

Amend/approve Agenda

Treasurers Report: \$129.82

Local Report:

The County Convention is set for Sat., April 2nd at the Commons, 2300 W. Alameda. We will begin at 3:30.

An announcement ran in the SF New Mexican. The Newsletter will get out to the big list shortly. I will see if I can make some phone calls as well; anyone want to help out, I will get you a script. [rfabrick@gmail.com](mailto:rfabrick@gmail.com)

John Otter will also make a presentation to our membership titled: Green Cure-All for a Sick Planet, Marion will report on the Dept. of Peace Initiative, and we will give a Green Values Award. We will also decide whether the GPSF will move forward with the Initiative to Legalize Marijuana, and possibly the livable wage initiative (posted at the end of these minutes). Then we will elect our Green Council Delegates and Alternates, we would like to have as many as forty volunteers to be Delegates to the GPNM State Convention on April 30th, and finally, we will elect our Executive Officers.

Committee to Legalize Marijuana (Rick):

Having heard no objections, the Citizens' Initiative to Legalize Marijuana (posted below) will be put up for the approval of the members present at the Green Party of Santa Fe County Convention. Approval had been given to move forward to the City Clerk with our Decriminalization Referendum a couple of months back, but after a strong push from committee members to write a full-on legalization initiative put that on hold. I will wait until after the Convention and take them together, if legalization is approved. If the legalization initiative is not approved, then the wording of the approved referendum may be amended with a greater perspective on the scope of what's possible.

The next 3rd Tues. meeting of the CLM is at Espiritu Pizzeria at 2:30 on Tues. April 19th. The agenda will likely be focused on the protest at the capital on 4/20, and on what the Greens decided at the Convention and what we might need to do about the city initiative process.

For details: [clmsc@googlegroups.com](mailto:clmsc@googlegroups.com)

People for a Nuclear Free World:

Well folks, unfortunately this group has not been sustainable. It is being tabled for now. As the anti-nuclear movement is at the core of the founding of the Green Party, I am very disappointed that we couldn't get any greens to participate. I would like to thank both Joni Arends and Reed Young for volunteering to help get this group started. In the wake of the Japanese disaster, that caused a further nuclear disaster and demanded the time of emergency personnel who would otherwise be looking for survivors of the quake/tsunami, maybe some of our members might be more motivated to restart this group. Please contact Rick if anyone is interested in bringing Green

political activity to this local issue.

[nuclearfreeworld@googlegroups.com](mailto:nuclearfreeworld@googlegroups.com)

State Convention:

The date of the GPNM State Convention has been set for April 30th. A fundraiser/ rummage sale will be held starting at 8 AM at Ecoversity, before the GPNM State Convention.

The GPNM Committee to Legalize Marijuana will give a report. We will elect our executive officers, and our Delegates to the GPUS National Committee. Further details will be forthcoming.

National Report:

The new GPUS Co-chairs following three resignations from the Steering Committee are Leenie Venet Halbert AZ, Audrey Clement, and Tamar Yager.

Global Report:

The election results forced by the Irish Green Party after they dissolved their partnership with ruling coalition members were a disaster. The Greens won no seats, and will likely lose state funding as they achieved less than two percent of the vote.

Here is a link with many details about past successes and reasons for their decline.

<http://www.irishelection.com/2011/03/the-greens-what-happens-to-them-now/#more-11992>

Old Business:

Draft wording was passed around for a City Initiative to require

any company employing more than 350 people to provide healthcare for the employees and their families, in addition to the local wage. (wording posted at end of minutes).

Marion feels this activity should be done on the state level, rather than through a local city initiative. Further, she cited the city has been good with the minimum wage and we are still recovering from this lingering recession.

Rick has a number of concerns. Those businesses affected, that only pay minimum wage or slightly above, with no benefits may pack up and leave blaming the Green Party on their way out the door. Further, a similar case came before the Supreme Court recently, they said the government can't force people to buy insurance from private companies. However, if we don't have another issue we are actively working on besides marijuana, then we could be labeled a 'pothead party.' We take a political risk either way.

When I look at the good this can accomplish for the people of Santa Fe, I really want to support it, but I have reservations about whether it is good enough. There has not been enough constructive criticism for me to feel completely comfortable putting this forward. I abstain from supporting it at this time, and will wait and see how others more familiar with these issues feel about the wording of the initiatives. I have a semi-retired lawyer (Tony Scarborough) and a semi-retired insurance person (John Woodie) looking over the initiatives.

Sean Knight (on the phone) said he supports it and will write to the steering committee.

Sheila and Tom need to weigh in before we decide if we will put this on the agenda for the County Convention.

New Business:

Announcements:

The next GPSF Business Meeting will be at the Pyramid Café, Tues. May 3rd at 6. The April meeting is cancelled in lieu of the County Convention on April 2nd.

\*If anyone has any items they would like listed on the Agenda for next month's Business Meeting, please e-mail Rick at [rfabrick@gmail.com](mailto:rfabrick@gmail.com)

\*If know anyone who wants to regularly receive these minutes, have them self-subscribe to the list-serve at <http://groups.google.com/group/gpsfminutes>

Adjourn

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Citizens' Initiative to Legalize Marijuana

Whereas we, the citizens of Santa Fe believe the costs to our citizenry due to the criminalization of marijuana are far greater than any benefits gained from the "war on drugs."

Whereas we believe the potential benefits of the legalization of cannabis include increases in employment and city revenue, a decreased burden on our court system, reduced incarceration costs and more families staying together.

Therefore we, the citizens of Santa Fe call on our Governing Board to write the necessary laws, regulations and tax codes for the legal possession and use of cannabis by anyone 18 and older. Also, the Governing Board shall respect the citizens' right to engage in the legal commerce of cannabis.

The Governing Board shall define cannabis as legal property in all relevant city laws, codes, and ordinances. Furthermore, cannabis shall be treated as the personal property of the owner, and that right shall be respected and defended by all city employees, officials and agents.

The Governing Board shall write the necessary legislation to tax and regulate: the cultivation and production of cannabis for human consumption, for the "over the counter" sales of marijuana, for business establishments that have "on premises" consumption of cannabis, and create the permit process for consumption of cannabis at public events.

The city of Santa Fe shall establish a tax rate for the sale of cannabis that does not exceed the city's tax rate for the sale of tobacco.

The city's permit and licensing fees to a cannabis club owner shall not exceed those required of the owner of an establishment that has a permit and license for "on premises" consumption of beer and wine.

The city's permit fees for the sale of cannabis at public events shall not exceed that for the sales of beer or wine at public events.

Establishments that have "on premises" consumption of hard liquor shall be barred from also having "on premises" consumption of cannabis.

Marijuana used medicinally shall be tax free.

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Citizen's Initiative for a Livable Wage

Whereas we, the citizens of Santa Fe believe equity demands that a person working full-time earn a livable wage,

Whereas, we believe health care is among a person's basic needs and part of a livable wage,

Whereas, "economies of scale" allow for the acquisition of great wealth by a few individuals and larger companies; often their employees, whose labor generates great wealth for their employers, cannot earn enough to afford basic medical care.

Therefore, we the citizens of Santa Fe, call on our Mayor and Governing Board of the City of Santa Fe shall require all individuals and companies, that employ more than 350 full-time employees (or enough part-time and/or temporary employees whose labor hours are equivalent to 350 full-time employees), to compensate their employees who work within the city limits with health care, to include medical, dental, and mental health care, in addition to the local minimum wage.

This health care coverage shall cover the direct family relations who live in the same home, and shall treat and recognize domestic partnerships and same sex couples and their families with equal respect and coverage as granted to more traditional families.

The maximum deductible shall be no greater than \$250 per year.

Any employee who works thirty hours per week will be eligible to receive the full health care coverage described here in.

The maximum allowable probationary period shall not exceed ninety days.

Those larger employers shall secure insurance that has at least six months of post-employment portability before the health insurance policy is cancelled.