

Hampton Roads Green Party Minutes 12/19/21, 2-4pm

Join the online meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83762353417?pwd=YWcyQ3p6VDJUSFF6NkVTN0dCMG5qUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 6235 3417 Passcode: 526063

1) Procedural

a) Take Attendance/Introductions

Steffanie Aubuchon, Blaizen Bloom, Garry Hubbard, Charlotte Jobe were present.

b) Establish Quorum

Quorum was established.

c) Establish Proper Notice for the Agenda was Provided

Proper Notice was established.

d) Assign Notetaker

Blaizen Bloom was assigned as notetaker.

e) Summary and Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes – [December 12th](#)

December 12th meeting minutes were approved.

f) Unfinished Business

2) Officer/Committee Reports

a) Co-Chair – Blaizen Bloom

Blaizen was interviewed by Andrew Bushard on the “Long Live Alternative Parties” podcast by Free Horse Media, which aired December 15th. The interview can be found on Spotify and was shared on the Party's Facebook and Instagram.

b) Treasurer – Steffanie Aubuchon

Steffanie reported that there is currently \$185.09 in the bank account without the HR Pride Fest refund. Blaizen asked how much should be returned after the refund, to which Steffanie responded that it should be \$250.

c) IT – Blaizen Bloom

Blaizen had just finished updating the event section of the website with a new Calendar in place of the old page.

d) GPVA Update – Blaizen Bloom (GPVA Non-Male Co-Chair)

e) GPUS Update

i) National Delegate Update - Blaizen Bloom

ii) Animal Rights Committee Update - Blaizen Bloom & Steffanie Aubuchon

3) Officer Elections - (Second Notice)

a) Establishment of ad hoc Elections Oversight Committee

Blaizen recommended that OpaVote be used given it's long use by the Green Party and zero cost for the size of the election. Charlotte as a new voting member stepped up to serve on the committee with Garry.

b) Declaration of Candidacy

Blaizen nominated Steffanie for Secretary, in which she accepted the position.

c) Election will be held at January Meeting

4) HRGP/GPVA Candidate Updates

a) Garry Hubbard, Candidate for CD-02

Garry is still looking for a professional headshot to be shared on the Party's social media, with his next priorities being his logo, website, donor link, and a call for volunteers. The current plan is to work on a website for Garry before the end of the year with the domain being hosted by the Party and the website url costs being covered by the Party. Garry is looking to host minimal outdoor & in-person events with a preference towards hosting them over Zoom where possible. Garry proposed the idea of hosting physically distanced and Covid safe tabling events, to which Blaizen recommended they could be done throughout the Hampton Roads area with a different location each time. Blaizen recommended that before the next meeting more campaign specific calls be organized for getting the campaigns setup. Upon being asked by Blaizen, Charlotte stated that they are interested in attending the campaign Zooms. Garry commented on the Facebook group he created called "The Roundtable For Civic Leagues in Virginia Beach" which has the purpose of fostering discussion by individuals throughout Virginia Beach.

b) Blaizen Bloom, Candidate Chesapeake School Board

Blaizen stated that they have been busy creating business cards, with the design based on Victoria Proffitt's who ran for Commissioner of the Revenue in Chesapeake this year. Blaizen has also been busy writing policy points and an "About me" section to be quickly uploaded to their website once it is created. Blaizen has worked on a mental health and reformative discipline policy. Blaizen also commented on how they offer the perspective of a former student if elected to the school board.

5) Past Week Events/Endorsements/Sponsorships

6) Upcoming Events/Future Event Suggestions:

a) VA Beach Rally for City Workers - January 18th (5:30pm)

i) At Virginia Beach City Council, Building 1, 2401 Courthouse Drive

b) Newport News Rally for City Workers - January 25th (6:30pm)

i) At City Council Chambers located behind City Hall at 2400 Washington Avenue.

7) New proposed Bylaws Amendments - Blaizen (Third Reading)

a) Amend III.A to expand categories protected against discrimination in membership.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- b) Add III.B.X to prevent leaders of other parties from being a member of the Party.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- c) Amend III.C.2 to allow for a unanimous circumvention to the consecutive meeting requirements.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- d) Add III.C.X to require voting members to reside within an hours drive of Norfolk.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- e) Strike III.C.3 to require members be in good standing for a year before being able to vote.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- f) Amend III.G.4 to expand categories protected against abuse by HRGP members.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- g) Amend III.H.3 to allow alternatives to consensus for the Executive Board when recommending charges or lack thereof regarding complaints against members.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- h) Amend IV.B to require officers to be a member in good standing for at least one (1) year.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- i) Amend IV.B to eliminate the Secretary as a signer on financial documents.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- j) Strike IV.F.5 to eliminate the Secretary as a signer on financial documents.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- k) Amend IV.I.1 to encourage voluntary term-limits.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- l) Amend IV.I.3 to eliminate the Secretary as a signer on financial documents.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- m) Amend VI.A to come into compliance with membership requirements regarding serving on standing committees.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- n) Amend VI.E.2 to limit subcommittee chairs from serving as voting members on the Executive Board.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- o) Amend VII.C.2 to ratify the agenda at the start of the meeting.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- p) Amend VII.C.3 to eliminate the need to summarize past meeting minutes, but adds the requirement that they be ratified.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- q) Amend VII.G.2.B to require a stack be progressive.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- r) Amend X.C.4 to offer an alternative to consensus for the Executive Board when determining severability of the bylaws.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- s) Strike XII.B to eliminate the preferred candidate status.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- t) Amend XII.C to eliminate the preferred candidate status.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- u) Add XII.X to add an endorsement alternative to nominations for non-Green candidates in races without a Green running.

This amendment was passed by consensus.

- 8) General Discussions

- 9) 2022 Monthly Meetings: 2nd Sunday of each month from 2-4pm over Zoom

Appendix

Amend III.A to state:

Non-Discriminatory Membership in the Party is open to anyone, regardless of age, race, color, national origin, *citizenship status*, spiritual belief, *class, sex, gender identity or expression*, sexual orientation, *romantic attraction*, or physical ~~challenge~~ *or mental disability*, subject to the conditions of this article.

Add III.B.X:

Individuals shall not be an officer, official spokesperson, candidate, or central committee member of another competing political party.

Amend III.C.2 to state:

Individuals shall attend three (3) consecutive general membership meetings. A voting member shall not miss more than three (3) consecutive general membership meetings in a calendar year (as defined in Article VII) and had such attendance recorded by the Secretary in the official minutes. If an extended absence of three (3) months or longer is anticipated or arises, the individual must submit a written statement of absence to the Secretary or an Executive Board member as soon as possible but no later than one (1) week after the second missed meeting. Voting privileges will be suspended and the absent member shall not count toward a quorum during an excused absence. Upon return, voting privileges shall be restored after attending three (3) consecutive general membership meetings. *Exceptions to this section may be made on a case-by-case basis by consensus or a unanimous vote of all voting members.*

Add III.C.X

Individuals shall reside within an hours drive of Norfolk.

Strike III.C.3:

~~Individuals shall have been a member in good standing for a period of one (1) year as defined by all membership requirements in Article III. An exception may be made on a case-by-case basis by consensus of the voting members or 2/3 vote if consensus cannot be reached.~~

Amend III.G.4 to state:

Knowingly practice or advocate for any acts of discrimination based on age, race, color, national origin, *citizenship status*, spiritual belief, *class, sex, gender identity or expression*, sexual orientation, *romantic attraction* or physical ~~challenge~~ *or mental disability*.

Amend III.H.3 to state:

Recommendations for sanctions by the Executive Board must be reached through regular consensus *or by a simple majority vote if the recommendation is less than dissolution. If dissolution is recommended the vote must be 2/3 if consensus cannot be reached.*

Amend IV.B to state:

To be eligible to hold an Officer position, one must be a voting member in good standing (per Article III requirements) *for a period of at least one (1) year*. The minimum age to hold the positions of Co-Chair,

~~Secretary~~ and Treasurer shall be the same as the legal age to serve as a signatory on any relevant and necessary legal documents.

Strike IV.F.5:

~~The Secretary may serve as an authorized signatory for the Party's financial accounts.~~

Amend IV.I.1 to state:

No term limits, *although officers are encouraged to serve no more than two (2) terms as co-chair or two (2) terms in any other elected officer position.* Terms shall last one (1) year for each elected office.

Amend IV.I.3 to state:

The minimum age to hold the Executive Board positions of Co-Chair, ~~Secretary~~ and Treasurer shall be the same as the legal age to serve as a signatory on any relevant and necessary legal documents.

Amend VI.A to state:

The following standing committees are permanent bodies. Additional standing committees may be added by approval of the General Membership through the amendatory process. Only ~~voting~~ members in good standing *who have met all other general membership requirements may serve on standing and ad-hoc committees.*

Amend VI.E.2 to state:

Subcommittees may elect any number of chairs to serve as spokespersons for the subcommittee to the standing committee and General Membership *but are not to be considered voting members of the Executive Board.*

Amend VII.C.2 to state:

Ascertain that proper notice was given and *ratify the agenda posted.*

Amend VII.C.3 to state:

~~Reading/summary~~ *Ratification of minutes* of previous meeting *minutes.*

Amend VII.G.2.B to state:

Three (3) rounds of *progressive* stacking will be permitted. Each round will begin with a call, by the meeting facilitator, for the presence of objections.

Amend X.C.4 to state:

Consensus *or 2/3 vote* of the Executive Board.

Strike XII.B:

~~In the event no Green Party candidate is available the Party may, by consensus or 2/3 vote of the voting members, confer one-time Preferred Candidate status if:~~

- ~~1. The candidate is an independent or;~~
- ~~2. The candidate is not running in a corporate-funded party.~~
- ~~3. The candidate generally supports the Party's platform positions.~~

~~4. The candidate understands that to receive further support in future elections, the candidate must join and run as a Green and be endorsed by the procedures listed in Article XII, Section D.~~

Amend XII.C to state:

Any candidate for public office who runs on the ballot of the Party ~~or as a Preferred Candidate~~ must agree to:

Add XII.X to state:

In the event that there are no competing Greens candidates in a race, the Party may choose to endorse a candidate by consensus or a 2/3 vote given the candidate is in line with the following criteria:

- 1. The candidate is an independent or is not running in a corporate-funded party.*
- 2. The candidate supports the Ten Key Values.*
- 3. The candidate generally supports the Party's platform positions.*