

Hampton Roads Green Party Minutes 12/5/21, 2-4pm

Join the online meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 837 6235 3417 Passcode: 526063

1) Procedural

a) Establish Quorum

Established

b) Establish Proper Notice for the Agenda was Provided

Established

c) Assign Notetaker

Blaizen Assigned

d) Take Attendance/Introductions

Steffanie Aubuchon, Blaizen Bloom, Garry Hubbard, Charlotte Jobe in attendance.

e) Summary and Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes – [September 19th](#)

Approved

f) Unfinished Business

*Added to the agenda by consensus to waive the one year in good standing requirement for membership for Garry Hubbard. By consensus, this requirement was waived, making Garry Hubbard a voting member having satisfied all other requirements.

2) Officer/Committee Reports

a) Co-Chairs – Blaizen Bloom (Delegate *Pro Tempore*)

Blaizen was invited for an interview by Andrew Bushard on the Alternative Parties podcast, scheduled for Wednesday the 15th. They will share more information about when and where to view it as it becomes available.

b) Treasurer Report – Steffanie Aubuchon

Steffanie had nothing to report for this meeting, but the report will be ready at the next meeting when the bank statement should be received.

c) IT – Blaizen Bloom

Blaizen revamped the home page to be more conducive of gathering membership as well as the meeting archives page to be more visually appealing and provide more information on past meetings other than just the minutes.

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

Dianne Blaise resigned from most of her positions in the Green Party. The GPVA cosponsored the webinar "Healing a Broken Agricultural System" by the St. Louis Green Party. The GPVA is

currently accepting amendments submissions to the state's platform. The next state party meeting will be in January or February over Zoom.

e) GPUS Update

i) National Delegate Update - Blaizen

The only major discussions going on over the national lists are regarding the 2022 Budget proposal as well as how representation is apportioned to state parties.

ii) Animal Rights Committee Update - Blaizen/Steffanie

There was nothing to report on.

3) Cochair Special Election - (Vote)

Blaizen was elected co-chair by consensus of the voting membership.

4) HRGP/GPVA Candidate Updates

a) Garry Hubbard, Candidate for CD-02

Garry Hubbard was officially nominated by consensus. Garry still needs literature and a logo, primarily he needs business cards. Charlotte is interested in helping Garry with the logo, with logo ideas including American symbolism (i.e. constitution, american flag imagery). Blaizen asked about petition gathering, with Garry responding with an idea for a meet and greet to gather signatures and distribute petition papers. Blaizen mentioned that following what happened to Jeff Staples, all candidate documents should be submitted to both registrar's offices. Ideas were brainstormed for gathering signatures and building support at W&M and ODU. Blaizen suggested suing the state to lessen burden for gathering the petition signature, and will ask about the possibility. Blaizen suggested a goal of trying to get all Garry's signatures gathered and submitted by the end of February.

b) Blaizen Bloom, Candidate Chesapeake School Board

Blaizen Bloom was officially nominated by consensus. Blaizen wants to focus their campaign on connecting people with resources in the community, which could be a point of collaboration between Blaizen and Garry's campaigns. Blaizen hopes to get all signatures on January 2nd and submitted by January 3rd. Blaizen has \$500 raised already, with hopes to raise more over the end of the year. Blaizen is also aiming to get their website up and running as well as getting literature ready for 2022 by the end of year.

5) Past Month Events/Endorsements/Sponsorships

a) Divest Wells Fargo, No MVP Protest - October 2nd

Blaizen and Steffanie attended the event, in which there was a large turnout.

6) Upcoming Events/Future Event Suggestions:

a) Creating GLB Letters

This event is being suspended until additional membership is available to help manage.

b) Get To Know Your Local Greens?

This event is being suspended until additional membership is available to help manage.

c) Endorse Violation Vigil #NoMVP? - December 11th (Saturday)

The event was endorsed by consensus and will be occurring in Richmond at Dogwood Dell park from 1-4pm. Blaizen and Steffanie will be carpooling with Jeff Staples.

7) Bylaws Amendments - Blaizen (Final Reading & Vote)

a) Amend III.D to give the Executive Board the power to establish a recommended donation amount.

Passed by consensus.

b) Amend IV.I.5 to establish rules for when the number of voting members doesn't allow for the minimum membership of the Elections Oversight Committee.

Passed by consensus.

c) Amend V.B.12 to require that the general membership must confirm Executive Board appointments for GPVA Delegate

Passed by consensus.

d) Add V.B.14 to give the Executive Board the power to establish a recommended donation amount.

Passed by consensus.

e) Amend VII.E.2 to change the requirement for Executive Board meetings from monthly to as needed.

Passed by consensus.

f) Amend VII.F3 to require consensus of the Executive Board to ratify agendas and require the agenda be made available to the general public.

Passed by consensus.

8) New proposed Bylaws Amendments - Blaizen (First Reading)

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

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

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

d) Add III.C.X to require voting members to reside in the seven cities.

Change to read, "Individuals shall reside within an hours drive of Norfolk."

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

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

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

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

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

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

- k) Amend IV.I.1 to encourage voluntary term-limits.
- l) Amend IV.I.3 to eliminate the Secretary as a signer on financial documents.
- m) Amend VI.A to come into compliance with membership requirements regarding serving on standing committees.
- n) Amend VI.E.2 to limit subcommittee chairs from serving as voting members on the Executive Board.
- o) Amend VII.C.2 to ratify the agenda at the start of the meeting.
- p) Amend VII.C.3 to eliminate the need to summarize past meeting minutes, but adds the requirement that they be ratified.
- q) Amend VII.G.2.B to require a stack be progressive.
- r) Amend X.C.4 to offer an alternative to consensus for the Executive Board when determining severability of the bylaws.
- s) Strike XII.B to eliminate the preferred candidate status.
- t) Amend XII.C to eliminate the preferred candidate status.
- u) Add XII.X to add an endorsement alternative to nominations for non-Green candidates in races without a Green running.

9) General Discussions

- a) Ideas for bolstering membership?

Blaizen proposed getting the Membership/Education committee up and running in January.

10) 2022 Monthly Meetings: 2nd Sunday of each month from 2-4pm over Zoom?

The membership approved by consensus to hold all the 2022 meetings on the 2nd Sunday from 2-4pm with a Zoom option constantly available.

Appendix 1

Amend III.D to state:

“D. Membership Contributions – It is recognized that all organizations need to develop sources of income in order to meet overhead costs (including mailings, newsletters, phone and space rental) and to support approved projects. Therefore, the Party urges all members to consider making a regular voluntary membership contribution within their means, *in which a recommended amount may be established by the Board*. However, the Party does not want to discourage the participation of those who are unable to make a financial contribution, and will in no way discriminate against those that are not financially able.”

Amend IV.I.5 to state:

“5. Prior to nominating Officers, an Elections Oversight Committee shall be appointed by the voting membership to include a minimum of three (3) voting members, not running for positions, and operate on a consensus basis. *Exceptions shall be allowed in situations where there are fewer than three (3) eligible members.* The Committee shall have the following responsibilities:”

Amend V.B.12 to state:

“12. Appoints the apportioned GPVA Delegates to serve as liaison with, and voting representatives to, the GPVA State Party, *subject to the approval of the voting membership.* The appointed GPVA Delegates must be, or meet the qualifications to become voting members of both the Party and the GPVA.”

Add V.B.14 to state:

“14. *Establish a recommended, but voluntary donation amount for those interested in monetarily supporting the Party.*”

Amend VII.E.2 to state:

“2. The Executive Board shall meet ~~no less than monthly~~ *when needed, as determined by the members of the Board.*”

Amend VII.F.3 to state:

“3. Agenda for general meetings shall:

- Consist of items requested to be placed upon it by any individual voting member.
- Be considered a draft, tentative, or proposed agenda until confirmed by consensus approval of the ~~voting membership~~ *Board* not less than 96 hours before the meeting.
- Once approved, be made available to the voting membership *not less than 72 hours before the meeting and to the general public* electronically and by public posting no less than ~~72~~ 48 hours before the meeting.”

Appendix 2

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 the Hampton Roads area, defined as the seven cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.

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.*