

Spring 2018 GPMI SMM  
Grand Rapids, MI

## **Agenda**

0830 - 0900: Welcome and Opening Ceremony

0900 - 0930: Officer Reports

0930 - 0945: Break

0945 - 1145: By-Law Proposals

1145 - 1300: Lunch

1300 - 1345: Presentation on Plainfield Township Pollution case against Wolverine Worldwide

1345 - 1645: Other Proposals

1645 - 1700: Break

1700 - 1800: Officer Elections

1800 - TBD: Meet the Green's Pizza Party

## By Law Proposals

### **CURRENT Article IV – Officers**

#### ***Section 1 – Officer Elections:***

- A) All officers shall be elected annually at the first state membership meeting of the calendar year. All officers may designate people to assist them in their duties, provided those so designated are reported to the SCC and all responsibility remains with the officer. The SMM may decide to “share” any office.
- B) Interim vacancies in party leadership: If a GP-MI officer or National Representative position is vacated for any reason before a completed term, the SCC shall decide whether to have a current SCC member assume the duties of the vacated position, appoint someone not on the SCC to the position temporarily, or neither. Regardless, the position shall be on the agenda at the next SMM.
- C) Concentration of positions: A list of who holds each party leadership position (officer or national representative) listed in this Article, each SCC rep seat, and each Committee Chair shall be made available at each SMM. If a single person holds two or more of the positions listed (excluding shared Committee Chairs and National Representative posts), all posts she/he holds, except one of his/her choice, must be opened to election under the applicable rules; the current officeholder may stand for re-election. If no nominations are made and accepted for a post, the member may retain that post without need for an election.
- D) Officers may be removed from their positions by the procedures stated in the Handbook.

### **PROPOSED Article IV – Officers**

#### ***Section 1 – Officer Elections:***

- A) Annual elections: All officers shall be elected annually at the first state membership meeting of the calendar year, except as otherwise per GP-US Rules and Procedures. The SMM may decide to “share” any office. If no nominations are made and accepted for a post, the member may retain that post without need for an election.
- B) Posting of list of officers: A list of who holds each party leadership position (officer or national representative) listed in this Article, each SCC rep seat, and each Committee Chair shall be made available at each SMM.
- B) C) Interim vacancies in party leadership: [Same as B in the original above.]

- ~~€) D) Concentration of positions: A list of who holds each party leadership position (officer or national representative) listed in this Article, each SCC rep seat, and each Committee Chair shall be made available at each SMM. No member shall hold more than one GP-MI position. If a single person holds two or more of the positions listed (excluding shared Committee Chairs and National Representative posts), all posts she/he holds, except one of his/her choice, must be opened to election under the applicable rules; the current officeholder may stand for re-election. If no nominations are made and accepted for a post, the member may retain that post without need for an election.~~
- ~~D) E) Officer Working Groups: All officers may designate people members to assist them in their duties, provided those so designated are reported to the SCC and all responsibility remains with the officer.~~
- ~~D) F) Removal of Officers: [Same as D in the original above.]~~

## PROPOSED BY-LAWS REVISIONS for October 2017 SMM--B

### **CURRENT Article III – Locals**

#### *Section 1 – Locals Defined:*

- A) A local may be created by three or more GP-MI members living in a single county or up to three contiguous counties.
- B) For a local to become official, its membership must submit to the state leadership, in a format provided, the name of the local, the names and current contact information of its members, its officer structure (if it has one), and its official contact person(s) for the flow of information to and from the state leadership.
- C) Once the requisite documentation is submitted, the local is automatically an official affiliate of GP-MI and may conduct appropriate business and activism as such. The affiliation may only be ended by a decision on an announced agenda item at an SMM.
- D) Each local of up to ten members may appoint one rep to the SCC. Each local of 11 or more members may appoint two reps to the SCC.

#### *Section 2 – Responsibilities of Locals:*

- A) A local may volunteer to host state meetings and training in its area.
- B) Locals may meet and organize as seems best to them, but are responsible for providing a quarterly update to the appropriate Locals Liaison as to their numbers, structure, and efforts.
- C) Locals are responsible for having their reps be active on the SCC. If a rep is not active, the local may be invited to replace that rep.

**PROPOSED Article III – Locals**

***Section 1 – Locals Defined:***

A) A local may be created by three or more GP-MI members living in a single county or up to three contiguous counties, except that Upper Peninsula members may combine counties as they determine may work best for them. There may be more than one Local in a county.

B) For a local to become official, its membership must submit to the ~~state leadership~~, Locals Liaison in a format provided, the name of the local, the names and current contact information of its members, its officer structure (if it has one), and its official contact person(s) for the flow of information to and from the ~~state leadership~~ Locals Liaison.

C) [Same as original C above.]

D) Each local of up to ten members may appoint one representative to the SCC. Each local of 11 or more members may appoint two ~~reps~~ representatives to the SCC.

***Section 2 – Responsibilities of Locals:***

A) [Same as original A above.]

B) Locals may meet and organize as seems best to them, but ~~are responsible for~~ shall providing a quarterly an update to the ~~appropriate~~ Locals Liaison as to their numbers, structure, and efforts, in advance of each SMM.

C) Locals are responsible for having their representatives be active on the SCC. If a representative is not active, the local may be invited to replace that person.

**NEW Article IV – Identity Caucuses [The Articles following shall be automatically renumbered]**

***Section 1 – Identity Caucuses Defined:***

- A) A caucus may be created by three or more GP-MI members, who identify as persons of traditionally oppressed groups, including, but not limited to, African-American, Asian-American, Disability, Indigenous Peoples, LatinX, Women.
- B) For a caucus to become official, its membership must submit to the state leadership, in a format provided, the name of the caucus, the names and current contact information of its members, its officer structure (if it has one), and its official contact person(s) for the flow of information to and from the state leadership.
- C) Once the requisite documentation is submitted, the caucus is automatically an official affiliate of GP-MI and may conduct appropriate business and activism as such. The affiliation may only be ended by a decision on an announced agenda item at an SMM.
- D) Each caucus of up to ten members may appoint one representative to the SCC. Each caucus of 11 or more members may appoint two representatives to the SCC.

***Section 2 – Responsibilities of Caucuses:***

- A) A caucus may volunteer to host state meetings and training.
- B) Caucuses may meet and organize as seems best to them, but shall provide an update as to their numbers, structure, and efforts in advance of each SMM.
- C) Caucuses are responsible for having their representatives be active on the SCC. If a representative is not active, the caucus may be invited to replace that person.

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**PROPOSED BY-LAWS REVISIONS for October 2017 SMM--D**

***CURRENT ARTICLE IV. Section 12 – Representatives to Committees of the Green Party of the United States (GP-US):*** The number of GP-MI representatives on the GP-US National Committee and other GP-US committees is determined by GP-US. These representatives are also elected at the first state membership meeting of the calendar year, with vacancies filled as for other officers

**NEW ARTICLE IV. V. Section 12 – Representatives to Committees of the Green Party of the United States (GP-US):** The number of GP-MI representatives on the GP-US National Committee and other GP-US committees is determined by GP-US. These representatives are also elected at the first state membership meeting of the calendar year, or when GP-US Procedures require a different date. ~~with~~ [V]acancies shall be filled as for other officers.

**NEW ARTICLE IV. V. Section 13 – Locals Representatives At-Large:** Two members, who live in counties not served by a Local, shall be At-Large Representatives to the SCC for all members living in counties not served by a local; preferably they shall come from unserved areas distant from each other. A representative shall serve out the remainder of the year if the county in which s/he lives becomes served by a Local.

#### **ARTICLE V. VI. Committees**

**Section 1:** The State Central Committee (SCC) is composed of the officers defined above, and representatives of locals, ~~which includes two representatives for any members living in counties not served by a local.~~ The SCC is the decisionmaking body of GP-MI between State Membership Meetings (SMMs). The SMM is the supreme decisionmaking body of GP-MI.

#### **Article VIII – Amendment of By-Laws**

The by-laws may be amended, altered or repealed by the membership at a regular SMM upon at least thirty (30) days' notice to the membership.

### PROPOSED BY-LAWS REVISIONS for January 2018 SMM--E

#### CURRENT

**Section 11 – Merchandise & Office Manager:** The Merchandise & Office Manager has a supply of GP-MI literature and merchandise and has a budget for replenishing this supply and shipping these to locals and tabling events, and is responsible for providing them to state meetings. This position is also responsible for collecting mail sent to the GP-MI address and answering the GP-MI phone.

#### PROPOSED

**Section 11 – Merchandise & Office Manager:** The Merchandise & Office Manager has a supply of GP-MI literature and merchandise and has a budget for replenishing this supply and shipping

these to locals and tabling events, and is responsible for providing them to state meetings. ~~This position is also responsible for collecting mail sent to the GP-MI address and answering the GP-MI phone.~~

#### RATIONALE

We have no office to be managed. Meanwhile, we have enough members to recruit one who lives in or near Warren to check the PO Box weekly, even if one moves away. The telephone should be in the possession of the Chair as likely most calls are from media or prospective members and would be best handled by our Cheerleader(s)-in-Chief.

#### PROPOSED BY-LAWS REVISIONS for January 2018 SMM—F

#### CURRENT

##### ***Section 12 – Representatives to Committees of the Green Party of the United States***

***(GP-US):*** The number of GP-MI representatives on the GP-US National Committee and other GP-US committees is determined by GP-US. These representatives are also elected at the first state membership meeting of the calendar year, with vacancies filled as for other officers.

#### PROPOSED

##### ***Section 12 – Representatives to Committees of the Green Party of the United States (GP-***

***US):*** The number of GP-MI delegates and alternates on the GP-US National Committee and other GP-US committees is determined by GP-US. These positions shall be elected at the Fall state membership meeting in odd-numbered years for two year terms, unless otherwise specified by GP-US. Those in office as of Fall, 2017 are grandmothers in. Vacancies shall be filled as for other officers.

#### RATIONALE

This will relieve the first SMM of the year from being top heavy with business matters of electing all officers. We can concentrate more on State matters. Having this in the fall will also be after the GP-US Annual meeting and hopefully inspire more involvement at that level. This past fall, we appear to have had more members filling in NC Committee spots than ever.



## **Additional Proposals**

### **Proposal 1**

#### Rules for Green Party of Michigan State Central Committee

A problem currently exists within the Green Party of Michigan (GP-MI) in that rules for administering and participating in the State Central Committee, (SCC) are defined in multiple documents that conflict with each other, and contain terminology that is not defined. The rules fail to address the serious problem of personal attacks during debates. The primary rules document defines itself as a draft document. It is unofficial, informal, and unapproved.

A copy of the primary SCC Rules document may be found here:

<http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/SCC/instructions.pdf>

Rules for the SCC are also found redundantly throughout the By-Laws and the Handbook.

Considering all the above, we present the following proposal:

#### Green Party of Michigan State Central Committee

1. A committee of GP-MI members will edit the contents of the existing SCC rules document, and publish the results to our website for review by the membership.
1. The committee will be composed of members who express an interest at the February, 2018 SMM, along with any assistants selected by these members.
1. Publication shall occur no later than April 1, 2018.
1. The published results of the committee's work shall be presented at the April, 2018 SMM for a vote to approve as a formal amendment to our By-Laws.
1. Once approved, the SCC Rules shall be included within the Handbook and shall be published to our website.

## **Proposal 2**

### Rules for Green Party of Michigan Membership Data Access and Management

A problem currently exists within the Green Party of Michigan (GP-MI) in that it has no existing, agreed upon, or adopted policy concerning the use of our membership data.

Considering the situation just described, we propose the following rules to govern use of GP-MI membership data.

#### Michigan Membership Data Access and Management

1. The following officers will have full access/control of the membership list; Membership Manager (primary), Chairperson, Treasurer, Local Liaison, and Meeting Manager.
2. Designated Contact People for each Local may have read-only access to all member information for the counties that are included in their particular Local.
  - a. Designated Contact People are charged to take all reasonable care to protect the information of those member in their county or Local.
  - a. Requests for data inserts/updates/deletes may be submitted through the existing, publicly available, online form. Emailed data will be accepted, but that method should be phased out.
  - a. Designated Contact People will gain access to data only after creating an account on the web application and then being granted permission on the system. Data can be viewed and downloaded.
  - a. The Membership Manager shall not email membership data (except in the reduced format as noted), for many of the same reasons that doctors and bankers do not email personal information.
3. New members are recognized as such only after completing the membership form, either online or as a printed document.

- a. Information that is submitted by other means will be recorded and saved for future use, but these people will not be considered GP-MI members.

4. Recognizing that Green Party Members seeking our party's nomination for Statewide and Federal offices have an imperative to make their qualifications and views known to our fellow members, who have the greater responsibility of selecting the best candidates to represent the Green Party of Michigan, any members of the Green Party who wish to seek our nomination for Statewide or Federal office may request a copy of our full member list as of the date of the request. To protect the rights and privacy of the entire membership, upon receiving a completed request on the form provided, with all information requested and properly signed, the Membership Manager will provide a secure link for a one-time download of the current membership list that will contain only the **name, email address, and county of residence**. This should be sufficient for members to pursue their nomination.

- a. The form which must be completed to request such list includes confirmation that they accept and adhere to the Ten Key Values and will do their best to conduct themselves according to those values. (Request form attached.)
- a. The list shall not be given to any other political parties or groups, nor will it be shared with anyone who is not a Green Party of Michigan member. Those members must be directly involved in the nomination seekers behalf. The nomination seeker holds all responsibility for the proper use and protection of the list. If the Membership Manager feels that the use of the list does not meet these guidelines, he will not provide any updates, nor sanction its continued use by the nomination seeker. They will further urge the GP-MI Membership to keep any such rulings, should they occur, in mind when the times to select our candidates.
- a. All requests must come from the nominee seeker to the Membership Manager.

(Request form follows.)

### **Nomination Seeker Membership List Request Form**

To the Membership Manager,

I \_\_\_\_\_, am seeking to be nominated by the Green Party of  
*(Seekers name)*  
Michigan, to be their candidate for the office of \_\_\_\_\_. I have been  
*(State or Federal nomination sought)*  
a member of the Green Party of Michigan since \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_. As such I would like a copy of  
*(Date I joined the party)*  
the current membership list so that I might make myself known to them in support of my  
nomination.

I fully support the Green Party's 10 Key values and will do my best to campaign using  
those values. I accept that the membership list is for use in my efforts only and will not share it  
with other political parties or groups, nor with persons not directly aiding in my efforts to gain  
our Party's  
nomination as noted above.

Please send the file to me at the following e-mail address; \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you very much,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

### **Proposal 3**

#### **Green Party of Michigan Handbook and Operations Manual**

A problem currently exists within the Green Party of Michigan (GP-MI) in that its Handbook and Operations Manual, which is described as a formal set of rules, is actually an incomplete and unofficial draft document that contains statements that conflict with itself and with statements found in our By-Laws and SCC Rules. It is also difficult to locate.

By-Laws reference the “GP-MI Handbook” in Article II, Section 5; Article IV, Section 1(d); Article IV, Section 5; Article IV, Section 10; and Article V, Section 2. However, “The Handbook” is not made available to the GP-MI membership.

Currently, one needs an obscure URL in order to access the resource. And since anyone with the link can edit the document, its location is kept secret. According to former Committee Chair, “The Handbook” is actually an unofficial draft document. (We asked the GP-MI Chairperson, the Treasurer, the Archivist, the Locals Liaison, and the Meeting Manager for the Handbook, beginning at the March 2017 SMM. The Committee Manager finally gave us its location last July.)

[http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/Rules/HandbookLink\\_ArtMyatt.pdf](http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/Rules/HandbookLink_ArtMyatt.pdf)

Here are copies of the current Handbook document:

<http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/Rules/GPMIHandbook.2017.12.10.pdf>

(Does not contain comments)

<http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/Rules/GPMIHandbook.2017.12.10.docx>

(Does contain comments)

Considering all the above, we present the following proposal:

#### **Green Party of Michigan Handbook Formulation and Publication**

1. A committee of GP-MI members will edit the contents of the existing Handbook, and publish the results to our website for review by the membership.

2. The committee will be composed of members who express an interest at the February, 2018 SMM, along with any assistants selected by these members.
3. Publication shall occur no later than April 1, 2018.
4. The published results of the committee's work shall be presented at the April, 2018 SMM for a vote to approve as a formal amendment to our By-Laws.
- 5.
6. Once approved, the Handbook will be posted to our website, along with our By-Laws.

## Proposal 4

### Consensus Model for the Green Party of Michigan

A problem currently exists within the Green Party of Michigan (GP-MI) in that it has not agreed upon the details of the “consensus model” that it claims to follow.

By-Laws Article II, Section 3 states that “Members shall become familiar with the consensus model used by GP-MI”. However, that model has not been defined and published.

At the October SMM in Marquette, questions over the use of terms that are defined in Robert’s Rules were answered by the chairperson’s statement that the SMM procedural rules are defined by “tradition”. This situation, of course, puts members who are unfamiliar with the chairperson’s particular tradition at a great practical and psychological disadvantage.

Green Party of Michigan Handbook and Operations Manual, Sidebar comment #3, (visible only in the Word document version and not in the PDF version) reveals efforts by former Committee Chairperson, Art Myatt, to remedy this situation. He provided six different consensus models, published by various organizations, and asked MI-GP leadership to adopt one of them or to create one of our own. The models Art supplied varied in length from one page to an entire book. They differed in many other ways, too, making it obvious that there is no way for members to “become familiar with the consensus model used by GP-MI” unless we define the model and publish it where it can be found.

It would be right to briefly review the details of our consensus model and to highlight where it can be found at the beginning of all SMMs.

The six consensus models provided by Art Myatt are listed here for reference:

1. <http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/consensus/AlaskaConsensus.pdf>
2. <http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/consensus/Consensus2.pdf>
3. <http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/consensus/ConsensusDecisionMakingWhatWhyHow.pdf>
4. <http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/consensus/ConsensusRolesStructuresTools.pdf>
5. <http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/consensus/FormalConsensusPart1.pdf>
6. <http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/consensus/GPTXconsensusProcess.pdf>

Besides the models that Art suggested, we've studied these online articles:

1. <http://www.consensus.net/ocac2.html>
2. <http://www.txgreens.org/consensusprocess> (same as 6)
3. <https://www.greenparty.ca/en/party/documents/rules-procedure-abridged> (very general)
4. <http://sfgreenparty.org/about-us/14-consensus> (very general)
5. <http://gpus.org/organizing-tools/a-process-manual/> (very general but includes many options)
6. <http://www.vagreenparty.org/consensus.html> (very general with broken links) (good outline)

**Note:** None of these articles defines the terms “motion”, “amendment”, “Point of Order”, or much of the other language that is frequently used during GPMI SMM discussions.

We also studied the “Rules of Procedure” published by the Green Party of Canada

1. <https://www.greenparty.ca/en/party/documents/rules-procedure-full>

This is also a “consensus seeking procedure”, but is more formal and does make use of the terms “motion”, “amendment”, and “Point of Order”.

Four of the first six articles address the serious nature of the “extremely rare”<sup>4</sup> blocking concern, and narrowly define what constitutes a valid block. Three of these suggest methods to limit its use.<sup>3, 4, 6</sup>

What follows is an attempt to combine the best of each article with what appears to be our customary procedures. Below the proposed model, we've included an outline with references to the referenced articles.

### **Proposed Consensus Model for the Green Party of Michigan**

The word “consensus” means that all members must consent for a decision to move forward<sup>3</sup>. This approach cultivates 100% participation and cooperation. It stands in contrast to the “majority vote” method, which is more expedient but tends to foster competition and division.

In the GP-MI, we strive for consensus but retain the option of a fallback vote where consensus cannot be achieved.



## **Beginning**

The GP-MI Meeting Manager, Chairperson, or other available officer will **begin the meeting on time**. A timely start is necessary to ensure that all agenda items are addressed sufficiently, but this also signals respect to members who made the effort to arrive on time.

The attending officer will make arrangements to have members **sit in a circle**, if at all possible. In this way everyone will be seen and heard, and 100% participation can be achieved by simply “going around the circle”. Symbolically, the circle promotes the concepts of equality and democracy.

The attending officer will **start with introductions**, having everyone state their name and why they came. This establishes the point that everyone is important and will be heard.

The attending officer will briefly define the **Roles** necessary for conducting the meeting, and determine by vote the members who will fill these roles. Roles include:

- Facilitator
- Co-Facilitator.
- Time Keeper
- Note Taker
- Door Keeper / Late Greeter

Once selected, the Facilitator will briefly **explain the decision making process**, and show how participants can find the complete description. It is important for everyone to know how to participate. The brief explanation will include:

- Reference to graphics that describe the **Flow of Discussion**,  
<http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/Consensus/FlowChart.pdf>
- **Hand Signals** for communicating with the facilitator,  
<http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/Consensus/HandSignals.jpg>
- **Terminology** used in our process.  
<http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/Consensus/ConsensusTerminology.pdf>
- **Rules** and procedures that promote respect.  
<http://public.michgreenparty.org/files/Consensus/ConsensusRulesPromoteRespect.pdf>

- Request that participants use paper/pen to organize their thoughts, in order to make efficient use of discussion time.

Meeting details, which include the meeting agenda will be established by methods defined in another document. The meeting Agenda will direct the course events that follow. This document focuses on the GP-MI process for reaching decisions.

### **Decision Making Process**

In all that follows, Participants will address the Facilitator or other official such as the Note Taker. The Facilitator will not allow comments and questions to be directed from one Participant to another. This rule will be strictly enforced and is intended to avoid personality conflicts.

The decision making process depends on vigorous debate about the merits of a Proposal. When the arguments on all sides are fully aired, the group is most likely to come to a wise decision. While a Participant may attack an idea in strong terms, the Facilitator must never allow personal attacks, no matter how veiled.

Under no circumstances will the Facilitator allow Participants to speculate upon the motives of others. Not only is it impossible to prove what motivates another, it is entirely irrelevant! Issues, not personalities, are always to be the subject of debate. The Facilitator will not allow the use of such terms as “liar”, “lie”, or “fraud”.

If the Facilitator allows personal attacks, a Point of Process should be made immediately by any Participant, alerting the Facilitator to the infraction. If the Facilitator allows personal attacks to continue, a Point of Process should be made to immediately replace the Facilitator. If a Participant continues with personal attacks after being warned by the Facilitator, the Facilitator will exclude the offender from all further discussion on the topic of discussion.

The decision making process begins with a **Proposal**, (aka a Motion).

- A qualified Participant will describe a perceived need for a decision on some issue.
- A proposed remedy submitted to the Note Taker aurally or in writing will constitute a Proposal.

Once a Proposal is duly noted, the Facilitator will ask for **Clarifying Questions**.

- These pertain only to the wording and intended result of a proposal.

- Debate and discussion about accuracy or validity of the Proposal are not permitted at this time.
- The Note Taker will record all questions with the names of the Participants who asked.
- After all Clarifying Questions have been asked, the presenter will provide answers directly or with the help of others.

**A General Discussion** will follow

- This is a broad discussion of the related thoughts and ideas held by Participants.
- The Facilitator will consult the Agenda and the Plenary to determine a time limit for discussion. The Time Keeper will make note and periodically interrupt discussion to remind Participants of the time remaining.
- If many people want to speak, the Stack Taker will prepare the Stack
- If a Stack is used, the Stack Taker signals when it is someone's turn to speak and announce who will follow.
- Concerns are to be noted, but not discussed individually at this time. The focus should be on the Proposal as a whole.
- The Facilitator will acknowledge points of agreement and disagreement, and examine the underlying reasons for both, which may be philosophical, principled, or based on practicalities.
- If there are no concerns, the Facilitator will announce that a consensus has been reached.

**Identify and Resolve Concerns**

- If there are concerns, the Co-Facilitator will list them on the whiteboard, hearing briefly from each Participant who has a concern. An effort will be made to group concerns that share some commonality.
- Discussion will proceed on one concern at a time.
- The Facilitator will ask for ways to modify (Amend) the Proposal to make it acceptable to the Participants who had the concern and the one who made the Proposal.
- If it becomes clear that agreement cannot be reached, the objection will be recorded and the Facilitator will move on to the next concern.
- When an Amendment is made, the Facilitator will ask the Note Taker to read back the Proposal with its amendment.
- The Facilitator will ask if there are other concerns. If none are expressed, the Facilitator will announce that a consensus has been reached. Otherwise, the process is repeated.

## Closing Options

- If all concerns are not resolved before time runs out on the Proposal, the Facilitator will poll the Plenary to determine the next course of action, which may be 1) to table the Proposal until a future meeting, 2) ask opposing members to work out a solution in committee and then submit their solution as a new Proposal, or 3) vote on the issue, with a 2/3 majority required for approval.

Note that the Plenary may decide at any time that a concern is a valid **blocking measure** because it shows that the Proposal violates one of our **Ten Key Values** in a specified way. In that case, the Proposal as stated is rejected. Also note that a concern does not constitute a blocking measure unless it is shown to violate one of our Ten Key Values.

When a consensus has been reached, the Proposal is accepted. The Note Taker will record it as a Decision.

## References

- Sit in a Circle if possible (6, 4, 12)
- Begin on time (6, 4)
- Introductions (6)
- Explain the Process (7, 5)
  - Graphic / flowchart (7, 5)
  - Respect, cooperation required (5)
  - Personal attacks no matter how veiled are not tolerated (6)
  - Participants should have paper/pen handy (6)
  - Set reasonable time limits (6)
  - Signal for “Point of Information” defined (6)
  - Signal for “Process Point” defined (3)
  - No dialog between participants (6)
  - Signal that process is breaking down, defined (6)
- Determine Roles (7, 5, 4, 3)
  - Facilitator
  - Stack keeper
  - Peace keeper

- Timekeeper
- Note taker
- Public scribe
- Door keeper, late greeter
- Present Proposal, in writing (7, 5, 3)
- Accept Clarifying Questions (list, answer after the list is complete) (7,5, 3)
- General Discussion (7, 5, 3)
- Call for Consensus (“any unresolved concerns”) (7, 5, 3)
- List concerns (list, do not discuss) (7, 5, 3)
- Friendly amendments (6)
- Discussion to resolve concerns
- Signaling a block (6)
- Define Blocking Concern (7, 6, 4, 3) (4 is best definition. No, 3 is. 3 defines it in two places)
- “Tyranny of the minority” defined. (4)
- Closing Options: Send to committee, Stand Aside, Blocked (7, 5, 4, 3) 3 is best
- Restate outcome for the note taker (4, 3)
- Evaluate this part of the meeting. (7, 6, 5, 4)

## Proposal 5

### Rules for Video Recording Green Party of Michigan Membership State Membership Meetings

The Green Party of Michigan (GP-MI) recognizes certain benefits of video recording its State Membership Meetings, (SMM). Video recordings provide an accurate and detailed account of what actually happens at the SMM. They can be useful in helping to settle debates after the fact. Video recordings also allow members who could not attend to become fully informed and thus more capable participants in actions that follow.

However, in general, it would be improper to make video records of the entire SMM available to the public.

Currently no rules exist to govern the act of video recording and publishing video records of the GP-MI SMM. This unresolved situation could create confusion and even cause conflict between well intentioned members with differing perspectives.

Therefore, we propose the following rules for video recording of the GP-MI SMM:

1. The Green Party of Michigan (GP-MI) will allow for as many as two video recording of its SMM.
  - a. One recording may fail for a number of reasons, and the second would provide a backup.
  - b. The second recording may offer a more favorable perspective or clearer audio at times.
2. The SCC will decide who will make video records at the start of its proceedings through its consensus process. This step shall be included in the agenda.
3. Members who do not wish to be video recorded should be directed to an area that will offer them full inclusion in the SMM processes but exclude them from the cameras.
4. Video records shall be published only to the Official YouTube account. They will be published as “Unlisted”, making them accessible to those who have the link, but not generally available to the public.

5. Links to the videos will be made available to authorized members through links from the GP-MI web application.

## **Proposal 6**

### **Rules for Green Party of Michigan Electronic Resources**

The Green Party of Michigan (GP-MI) currently has a problem in that electronic resources are distributed across many outside platforms, making access and maintenance difficult.

Transmission of the resources is unsecured in that email plays a central role. Furthermore, these generic platforms do not provide the customized functionality that is required by our large and growing enterprise. Currently, GP-MI members and officers must create accounts with Yahoo!, Google, Survey Monkey, Weebly, and others, each with their own set of login credentials and Internet addresses. For example, a 'Globally Unique Identifier' (guid) web link to a Google Document is shared for access to "The Handbook". As Art Myatt has stated, anyone with the link can edit the document, and so it is kept secret<sup>1</sup>. Another example is that the State Central Committee (SCC) requires a Yahoo! email account in order to access discussion/debate/voting processes. The SCC is difficult to administer, and does not provide statistics about the results of its use. Additionally, GP-MI officers continue to with personal email accounts for business communications. Those wishing to contact an officer must discover which personal account the current officer is now using. When the officers are changed, a new list of email addresses needs to be composed. All past email for all offices is lost. A final example is that membership data continues to be emailed rather than accessed directly via the GP-MI secure web application.

Authorized GP-MI members need quick, easy, and secure access to Bylaws and other rules, archived documents, business data, debate and voting statistics, DNS, database, web application, FTP, and email server information and to be able to update these resources from one centralized location, with one set of login credentials. This is possible and the option has been available but has not yet been adopted.

In March of 2017, the GP-MI obtained a state of the art "marketing email" system to replace the Yahoo! group system. The new system has been used ever since.

The purchase of a new domain name was required because the individual member who took ownership control of 'migreenparty.org' would not let it be used.

Also in March, multi-featured "Outlook" email accounts were provided for several of the officers. These have gone largely unused. Officers persist with personal email accounts for GP-MI correspondence.



A state of the art relational database with secure multi-project web application was developed to provide authenticated and authorized GP-MI members with ability to access and manage membership data, and to participate and administer a forum for discussion/debate/voting. Plans have been to continue to add features to the application and to improve the existing features, although they are not being used.

A content management system has been developed to allow members with the Web Master authorization to maintain the GP-MI public web pages.

The prospects for what the web application might become are boundless, given the available technologies and the fact that at least one capable member is willing to invest heavily in this undertaking.

The database and multi-project web application will run as is without maintenance for an estimated 20 years. The only need for a developer would be to add or alter features. However, complete backups of the application and its database should be kept on a separate computer drive that GP-MI owns and controls. This will protect against loss from unforeseen circumstances and allow the GP-MI to deploy to whichever servers it wishes.

In light of all the above, we propose the following Rules be adopted by the GP-MI:

1. The Godaddy account currently owned by the GP-MI will become the sole container for all GP-MI electronic resources. This includes public web content, officer email accounts, marketing email accounts, official documents, business and membership data, debate and decision forums, and online store.
2. Up to date backups for the database, web application, and all documents and electronic resources shall be maintained on a separate computer drive that is owned and controlled by the GP-MI. This set of resources shall include details for access and use of the Godaddy account, marketing email account, all officer email accounts, the file server, database server, and web application server. Additional backups shall be maintained by the Treasurer and Membership Manager.

3. The domain name for the GP-MI shall be 'michgreenparty.org'. If the GP-MI is successful in securing ownership of the 'migrainparty.org' domain name, that domain name shall be registered with the Godaddy account that is owned by the GP-MI. In that case, the GP-MI official domain name may be changed to 'migrainparty.org'. Until that time, the privately owned 'migrainparty.org' shall redirect to 'michgreenparty.org'.
4. All business emails related to the GP-MI shall be conducted from the official email accounts, where those accounts exist. Official GP-MI emails shall not be conducted from personal email accounts where an official email account is available.
5. All GP-MI elected officials shall create and maintain personal accounts on the secure GP-MI web application.
6. All official documents, including rules, regulations, procedures, archives, online account and server access information, shall be stored at the Godaddy account owned by the GP-MI and made available to authorized members through the web application.
7. Online discussion/debate/polling/voting shall be moved to the michgreenparty.org web application.
8. A "web master" position shall be created to accommodate the regular maintenance of the GP-MI public web site.
9. Membership data, and other business related data, shall be accessed and maintained from the secure GP-MI web application. Sensitive information shall not be emailed where there is a secure option.

### **Proposal 7**

Dissolve the “Green Party of West Michigan” local which includes Kent, Ionia, and Allegan counties. This will allow the active members in Kent County to rename their local and refile local chapter registration to include only Kent County.

## Officer Reports

### January 2018 Chairperson's Report, Sherry A. Wells, Sept. 28, 2017 to January 25, 2018

Part of my goal in most if not all of these meetings is to bring a Green Party presence to them:

Oct. 1 Attended ACLU Let People Vote meeting

Oct. 2 Attended Detroit Greens meeting

PROPOSAL\* 20170930 (Expedited) -- Oppose Mich. House Resolution 154 on Hunting Sandhill Cranes –PASSED though not announced.

Oct. 3 Attended "Fix It!" film about universal health care—excellent! A company produced it because of the escalating costs and decreasing benefits to their 180 employees.

Oct. 5 Attended Detroit Environmental forum of Detroit City Council candidates. Lou Novak videotaped it and the best by far was our own Beverly Kindle-Walker.

Oct. 6 Prepared and emailed to Linda Cree and LuAnne Kosma documents required to be posted at

SMM: List of Officers, Committee members, By-laws. Submitted the proposed By-laws revisions –which I'd worked on after Monroe SMM and after Detroit elections work.

Oct. 7 Attended Democratic Socialists (DSA) meeting in AM; Motor City Freedom Riders at noon.

Oct. 10 Spoke at Detroit City Council meeting for 3 minutes about "Elections lawsuit number 2 being "Bi-partisan—Democrat and Green!" and supporting indigenous peoples representatives to rename Columbus / Discovery Day.

Evening—Attended Motor City Freedom Riders meeting in Mt. Clemens.

Oct 13 Attended court hearing about Detroit Primary Election. (Left right after for Georgia.)

Oct. 21 (My birthday!) Attended Gray Panthers meeting.

Proposal to select JALP for Committee Manager blocked by Lou Novak wanting the post too. Nov. 2 Attended Sierra Club meeting. Its political director informed about the Governor's candidates and included our Greens too!!

Nov. 3 Birmingham Temple for film about young Israeli and Palestine women getting to know each

other and discuss their experiences.

Nov. 5 SURJ Meeting—(whites) Showing Up for Racial Justice

Nov. 6 At printer's to pick up signs for Mike Zubas' campaign, solicited 3 Greens to help us

Nov. 7 ALL DAY in Mt. Clemens at polls for Mike Zubas' campaign. Bill Ferrari, Mitchell Bonga

and Tom St. Mary all helped that day, too. THANK YOU GUYS!

Nov. 9 Met with several Detroiters about Detroit Elections, recounts and other strategies.

- Nov. 11 Southfield --Let the People Vote meeting; evening in Troy to film “I Am Not Your Negro.”
- Nov. 13 Detroit Elections certification meeting, 1900 E. Jefferson  
Evening—Marygrove College for talk about Hate Speech; spoke up at Q and A period.
- Nov. 14 Detroit City Council evening meeting, spoke in support of City Airport and STEM activities.
- Nov. 16 Oak Park Democratic Club for its program –talked up Green of course
- Nov. 17 Court hearing as attorney of record ( ! ) for lawsuit no. 3  
Evening—Michigan United campaign fundraising training
- Nov. 18 8 AM Clinic escort with DSA in support of a woman’s choice  
10 to 6 Michigan United campaign fundraising training
- Nov. 19 SURJ Meeting—Showing Up fro Racial Justice  
Evening—fundraiser for Voters not Politicians at GO Comedy  
(Nov. 23 to 29 GA)
- Nov. 29 Evening—meeting about Race---Peter Hammer and Tawana Honeycomb Petty
- Nov. 30–3 PM at City Airport for its 90th anniversary fest, 1967 Rebellion play at NW UU Church
- Dec 2 DSA meeting, at 3, Detroit League of Women Voters about car insurance, evening Peace Action Potluck as nominated board member
- Dec 3 SURJ Meeting—Showing Up for Racial Justice—Lou Novak was there, too.
- Dec. 5 Ferndale meeting about proposed housing project

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- Dec. 9 Let People Vote meeting—spoke about definitions (including “nonpartisan”)
- Dec. 11 Cinema Detroit film—Peace Action sponsored.
- Dec 12 Mt. Clemens, met with Mike Zubas, researched local history
- Dec. 14 Detroit Greens meeting's
- Dec. 16 Clinic escort with DSA, Gray Panthers meeting  
(Dec. 18 to 30 GA)
- Dec 31 Proposal re: Great Lakes Protection met with blocking concern; moved no further
- Jan. 4 Proposal re: MLK Day passed
- Jan. 6 DSA meeting; Let People Vote meeting
- Jan. 7 Wright Museum—Poor People’s Campaign
- Jan. 8 Sherry Gay-Dagnogo “tea”--re: car insurance anecdote
- Jan. 13 Let People Vote meeting, speakers about immigration and clerk about elections
- Jan. 15 MLK Day—at Speech, Church for Green Party booth—handed out flyers galore

- Evening MLK Dinner in Macomb County with DSA table
- Jan. 16 Webinar on Community Education—very good!
- Jan. 17 Attended Detroit Greens meeting
- Jan. 20 Clinic escort with DSA, Gray Panthers meeting and board meeting  
Wrote Green Party of Michigan State of the State, videotaped by Eric Borregard with Clyde Shabazz as host and Jennifer V. Kurland interview guest.
- Jan. 21 Attended Sparks/Wokring Class Party Meeting talk about Detroit and the “Comeback City.”
- Jan. 23 Participated in Motor City Freedom Riders Transit Promotion in front of Cobo Hall during Auto Show
- Jan. 24 Attended showing of Bernie Sander’s Health Care Town Hall at DSA member’s home
- Jan. 25 Attended Peace Action of Michigan Board Meeting as new board member’s

NOTE: I have been attending and active with the Democratic Socialists and Gray Panthers and Peace Action, and accepted a position of the boards of the latter two. These three organizations focus on one or more of the Four Pillars and a Green presence is good. Peace Action’s 501(c)(4) arm endorses as part of its Peace Voter task force.

DSA actively works for candidates it believes best follows its principles and can win. My challenge is to provide them candidates who can qualify for its fundraising, phone banking, canvassing work for candidates. And yes, I have heard from their Co-Chair at least how the Greens have spoiled elections and I have learned “the rest of the story” and passed it on as best as I can. Lon Herman is a GP-MI member and encouraged me to join the DSA. He speaks up for us offering better choices for them—in the Presidential election for sure. I expect to be doing much of the same as I have been during the month of February and if the SCC Admin. chore can be reassigned, would like another year as Chair in order to do more outstate as well to promote the Green Party of Michigan.

*Sherry A. Wells*

## Treasurer's Report

As of today (1/23/18), we have \$87.73 in our Administrative account  
\$83.55 in our Political account  
\$1604.65 in our Money Market account

Incoming donations from the End of the Year mailing have been slow. Not sure if the mailing is off or I am just getting things from the mailbox. We have not broke even on the mailing at this point but I have not received regular packets from the PO Box in a long time.

The phone is running \$23 a month and seems to be working well.

All bills are paid.

All reports to the state are up to date. Next report due the end of the month. Will be on time.

As always, I will have the balance sheets and detailed P&Ls available at the SMM next month.

Respectfully submitted by,

Paul Homeniuk  
Treasurer  
Green Party of Michigan

## Meeting Manager's Report

The first SMM for 2018 has been scheduled for Feb 24th (where this report will be read). We have spent significant time preparing for the upcoming SMM. I have worked with Jacob, Dan, Sherry, and Paul in order to achieve a successful event. We will be having our Nominating Convention in May. The host city will be Flint. Current plans are underway. For our last SMM of 2018, we are planning on hosting in Detroit. More information will be available as the time approaches.

Respectfully,

Joseph Jordan  
Meeting Manager  
GPMI



## Membership Manager's Report

I would like to start by thanking Rita Jacobs, Paul Homeniuk, Joseph Jordan, Sherry Wells, and everyone else who worked last year to help me learn the ropes in maintaining the Green Party of Michigan membership data, and in sending Marketing email and U.S. Mail notifications to our members and financial contributors. With their help, we didn't miss a beat!

Note that I began as Membership Manager after the Kalamazoo SMM in early April, 2017. We had 1238 member records at that time. Since then some have dropped out, but as of January 23, we have 1471 members. We could always do better, but that's certainly moving in the right direction.

Since the October, 2017 SMM in Marquette, per requests, I began the development of a content management system for the maintenance of our public web pages. That work was not a priority for me though because of the poor reception my efforts received in Marquette. If it becomes apparent that my IT contributions will be accepted and used, I will again make them a top priority.

I'm looking forward to a new year, and I ponder the possibilities it brings for the Green Party of Michigan. The SMM in Grand Rapids will be the kick

off. I hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted by,

Daniel Martin-Mills,  
Membership  
Manager