

New London Green Party
September 10, 2017 - 19 Evergreen Avenue, New London

In attendance: Mirna Martínez (facilitator), Erick Carrión, Ronna Stuller, Bob Stuller, Margarita Mogollón (recorder), Bud McAllister, Mo Connaughton, Mark Robel, John Balchunas. Guest: Olive Martinez-Good.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Mirna.

1) Minutes from the 8/6 meeting: Bob moved to approve, 2nd by Bud; passed unanimously with one abstention (Margarita M.).

2) Treasurer's report: Revenue from this August's yard sale is \$489; income from Pridefest, personal donors and the Barret house party equal \$641.50, and expenses for mailers and campaign signs were \$455; leaving a balance of \$920.78. News: We now have a debit card for party expenses. Bud moved to accept treasurer's report, 2nd by Erick, accepted unanimously.

3) State Central Committee: The next State Central Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28, and tonight the Executive Committee will be meeting September 18th to set the agenda. If you have any suggestion for an agenda item, please email it to: GPCT-executive@greenregistrar.us

Additional meetings scheduled for October 25th and November 30th.

4) Old business

(a) Outreach and fundraising: See treasurer's report and Municipal Campaign below.

(c) New London Green Youth: No report

(d) 2017 Municipal Campaign: Now in full swing. Office space to be confirmed by the end of the week. Mirna, Erick and Team Green now have facebook pages. Please "Like" and share them. A "Donate" page to be launched as soon with links to our website and facebook page as confirmed with SEEC. A Donation form can be downloaded from the web page. Office Launch Party scheduled for Friday, Sept. 22nd, 6-9 p.m.. The candidate letter writing event scheduled for August 11th was post-poned in order to attend and network at the St. Francis House community picnic.

Volunteers are needed to get sign locations and drop off signs, knock on doors, get donations, phone banking, house parties, etc. We need to ensure Mirna is the #1 vote-getter to become President of the NL Board of Ed.

5) New business:

(a) Ronna was approached to buy an ad for GP in the event program booklets such as Boys & Girls Club, NAACP MLK event and NL Landmarks. Discussion ensued on the effectiveness of such ads v. cost. Attendees agreed that it is more effective to focus on the campaigns, attend events and make personal connections.

6) Updates

(a) State of the City: On Election Day there will be 2 referendum questions to vote on regarding the budget. We need to get very educated on the content and impact of these issues. There was also a short discussion on the present separation of the Education Budget and the City Budget. A vote passed several years ago to merge these budgets to reduce problems/costs with red tape and redundancy. Unresolved problems with feasibility and lack of agreement between Board of Ed. and City Council have kept this merger from being implemented.

(b) Education and the Board: Regarding the Education Budget, Mirna reported that even with \$1M added back to this budget, this year's budget will be below previous years amounts due to responsibilities passed back to the Board of Education that the City DPW previously was assigned responsibility. There is continued hope that NL will be allotted more education funding from the State.

The new Interim Superintendent, Dr. Steven Tracey is presently contracted for 3 months. Mirna stated he seems to be looking into current needs and not just maintaining the status quo in this interim. Upon discussion of his salary, Mirna noted that it is more than the previous Interim Superintendent's salary but is actually comparable to salaries in the area.

(c) Riverside Park/NENL: Release of funding for construction of the stairway connecting Winthrop STEM Magnet School with the park, advocated by Riverside Park Conservancy and the Parks & Recreation Commission, continues to be stalled. The issue is to be discussed at tomorrow's meeting of the Education, Parks and Recreation Committee of the City Council. The committee is chaired by John Satti. They are asked to take the land back to the City to allow for funding. In 2015, this land was transferred to Winthrop School Building Project, but the "stair building" phase of the project never materialized. A \$700K grant was allocated for the project and much of that was spent on planning studies and reports. We want the remaining funds to be released to fund the building of the stairway.

Animal sculptures are now up at the north side art installation at Williams St., making this area a friendlier walk.

The annual Down By the Riverside Festival is Saturday, September 16th from 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and will have music, food, artists, a magician, insects from the Denison Pequot Nature Center and balloon sculpture-making.

(d) Environmental Actions and Social Advocacy:

Regarding recycling, Mo phoned Cristina Kripala (sp?) about a month ago, leaving a couple of messages but got no response. She talked to Carabetta Property Management – all recycling containers in their fenced dumpster areas are about 1/3 the size of the trash containers. They discussed meeting with the supplier of the containers.

The recycling proposal of individually-purchased recycling bags by property owners was discussed by City Council. Council discussion did not include the advantages and disadvantages of this program. The efficacy for rental properties is a concern.

Mo also looked into efforts for Green Home Ownership through Land Trusts followed by a brief discussion on this concept's advantages for lower income home ownership and buy-in of services.

Mo and Andrew Lopez went to the SCRRA meeting. The take-away was that there is a crisis in trash disposal in CT wherein trash is currently having to be sent out of state. If the need continues, this will affect everyone financially.

(e) Thinking Green:

Runs Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Discussed advertising the shows as facebook events.

Oct. 3rd will be the first show after the break and guests are Mirna and Erick.

Suggestions for following shows include inviting Rob Funk to talk about the school budget, getting someone from SCRRA to talk about the state trash crisis and getting serious about recycling and reducing trash volume.

Announcements/Upcoming Events:

-Community Land Trust meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. after the community meal at Benny Dover School. There will be a table to continue the discussion from the "Homes and Hands" movie. A brief synopsis of the key points of the movie was given.

Next meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017 at the new Campaign Office, address to be announced.

Bob moved to adjourn, 2nd by Erick; adjourned at 8:26pm.

Approved on November 5, 2017,