



January 9, 2011 CAGP Meeting Minutes

Attending: Alan Burns, Kathryn Koppers, Samiron Dutta, Bre Reiber, Lucy Arnold, Gina Hartmeier, Deanna Bridgewood, Steven Ashley, Dennis Peterson, Donna Shaver, Nick Triplett, Michele Clapsaddle, Rich Deming, Sandra Deming

-Rich Deming spoke to the group about Slow Food Charlotte, the organization of their group, projects, partners, etc.

-Nick reported that we had \$68 in the bank.

-Nick gave an update on the ballot access situation, the Supreme Court case, the party's plan of action for positive/negative decision.

-Alan spoke on the possibility of endorsing (Dem) John Autry for county commission. Alan explained what we would ask of Autry in return for our endorsement. Samiron expressed reservations about endorsing Autry, citing that there is little benefit for the Green Party to endorse a Democrat who has no background with the Green Party and has not pledged to do anything for the Green Party. Several people (Deanna, Lucy, Michele) noted benefits of endorsing "green" candidates at a time when we do not have ballot access. Nick explained that the Green Party (locally and nationally) has long struggled with the relative benefits/drawbacks of endorsing non-Green Party candidates. The group discussed Autry attending the April meeting. Samiron added that he'd support if John Autry agrees to speak in favor of the GP if we hold a fundraiser.

-Nick and Alan explained the comments of Bill James regarding "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the LGBT community. Nick explained the weak statement forwarded by Democrats and passed in response to James' comments. Michele volunteered to write a "letter to the editor," denouncing James' statements and questioning the timidity of the Democratic response. Alan will create a statement for the website. Nick will contact GetEqual, QueerRisingQC about additional actions.

-Alan spoke explained the ReVenture Project and suggested qualified support from the CAGP. There were several questions about the scientific processes involved in gasification. Kathryn questioned the urgency with which the county was pursuing the project. Kathryn and others were displeased about Duke Power's ability to use the energy from the project toward their renewable energy portfolio. Kathryn noted that the benefits of ReVenture's additional recycling could be achieved at any time, with or without a gasification facility, but that the political will is lacking. Several (Dennis, Michele, Lucy) noted that ReVenture, despite some questionable elements, has environmental benefits. Gina emphasized that ReVenture would reduce the amount of methane emitted from landfills. Debate was spirited. No motion was forwarded. Alan will keep the group updated through the Yahoo Group.

-Alan explained the environmental benefits of using dollar coins, and suggested creating a small committee to think of ways to use this issue to raise the profile of the CAGP in the community.

-Alan proposed that we pursue a plastic bag ban. Many thought this was a good idea. There was some discussion about whether discouraging plastic bags with fees or an outright ban is best. Gina and Kathryn agreed to work in a sub-committee on this.

-Next stream Clean-Up was set for April 9th at 9 AM.

-Nick and Alan requested that the Co-Coordinator position be referred to as Co-Chair instead. Kathryn felt we did not need to change the bylaws.

-Samiron introduced Steven, who spoke a bit about his background and profession. Samiron and Steven proposed that Steven could work as the media coordinator for the CAGP. Steven, a SC resident, noted that he might also be able to work with SC Greens.

-Samiron noted that he may have found a School Board candidate. He will update the group soon.

-The next CAGP meeting was set for April 9th at approximately 11:30 AM, to take place at Hawthorne's Pizza following the stream clean-up (begins at 9 AM).