

Minutes
Green Party of Michigan
Statewide Membership Meeting
held on ZOOM August 12, 2023 9:00 a.m.

Present: Paul Ragan, Rita Jacobs, Donnely Hadden, Douglas Marsh, Jeff Sparling, Sherry A. Wells, Jim Becklund, Eric Borregard, Matt Crehan, Lou Novak (arr. 10:15), Destiny Clayton (arr. 10.19), Charlotte Aikens (arr. 10:33)

Sherry A. Wells opened and facilitated the meeting.

The following **proposal** was made by Donnely Hadden advocating the repeal of the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution:

MOTION: THE GREEN PARTY OF MICHIGAN ADVOCATES THE REPEAL OF THE 2ND AMENDMENT

The Second Amendment of the U. S. Constitution has been twisted and deceptively maneuvered until it has become in direct conflict with other more important rights of people. It is a shield used by the gun lobby to thwart efforts at reasonable regulation of firearms. It must be repealed.

1. *The U. S Constitution in its Preamble states that a duty of government is, “. . .to insure domestic Tranquility.” There is no domestic tranquility when mass murderers are at large with assault weapons slaughtering people.*

2. *In 1941 POTUS Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed the Four Freedoms. In 1948 these were incorporated by the UN into the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Fourth Freedom is Freedom from Fear. The second amendment has morphed into a grotesque monster that has put us in fear of going to school, to the mall, to worship, to walk in public and even for children asleep in their beds who may be killed by stray bullet from gang fights.*

Where is our tranquility? Our Freedom from Fear? Our lawmakers are intimidated, the gun lobby hides behind the 2nd Amendment, The 2nd amendment has become a mockery of itself. It must give way, it must be repealed.

What happens if it is? The power to regulate firearms defaults under the 10th amendment “. . .to the states respectively, or to the people.”

Amending the Constitution by Repealing the 2nd Amendment is consistent with three of the key values of the Green Party: grassroots democracy, non-violence, and decentralization. The Greens are admirably suited for this endeavor.

Amending the Constitution is a long and tedious process. It could take seven years. But for the sake of our future it must be initiated now and here.

WHEREFORE be it resolved that the Green Party of Michigan:

A. *Hereby endorses and supports a movement to propose and ratify the amendment of the U. S. Constitution by repealing the Second Amendment;*

B. *Authorizes the party to appoint committees to (1) draft a proposed initiative proposition to be presented to the voters of this state in the next general election on Tuesday November 5th,*

2024 for this purpose, and (2) reach out to all Greens and like-minded citizens to solicit signatures to place the proposal on the ballot.

Matt Crehan had a blocking objection to the proposal based on his observation that any attempts to limit rights under the second amendment caused the crime rate to go up and increased donations to the National Rifle Association (NRA). After discussion of other concerns about the ability of our state party to establish a committee to actually draft a proposed initiative to be submitted the voters, Sherry Wells suggested that it be referred to the State Central Committee (SCC) for further discussion. There were no objections to her suggestion.

Jim Becklund requested that these minutes contain his request to have the proposed bylaws amendments that could not be considered at this meeting (because of a failure to give 28 days of notice to the members) be placed on the agenda for the November Statewide Membership meeting. He also requested that a discussion of instituting dues be placed on the agenda for the November meeting.

Eric Borregard gave a report of the Washtenaw County local. Clyde Shabazz is running for U.S. Congress in the Michigan 6th district. His platform is on reparations and universal basic income. The local is trying to find black candidates to run for local offices because they think they could get elected.

Lou Novak reported on the Annual National Meeting that had a great keynote speaker on climate change.

Charlotte Aikens, Treasurer, presented the following **proposal** regarding changes in the bank accounts:

- 1) Open a second bank account at Independent bank so that we can manage separate funds for admin and political purposes.
- 2) Remove Paul Homeniuk as the second signature on the account.
- 3) Designate an active, trustworthy, and reliable member to be the second signature on both GPMI accounts. This member would have no Treasurer responsibilities but should be prepared to take over the Treasurer responsibilities, if for some reason the current Treasurer is unable to perform duties.

This proposal was originally submitted to the State Central Committee for discussion, and was supported there by Sherry A. Wells, Robin Lauraine, and Jeff Sparling. Voting was postponed to take place at this meeting. It was further supported by Lou Novak and Rita Jacobs. After discussion, Gerard Akkerhuis was selected to replace Paul Homeniuk as the second signature on both accounts.

Both the proposal and the selection of Gerard Akkerhuis passed by consensus without objections or concerns.

Sherry A. Wells announced that our next meeting would be held on November 11, 2023 at Camp Cavell near Lexington, Michigan. Unit buildings are available for sleeping for a charge of \$30 per person, and a meeting room is available for \$15. Arrangements can also be made for campaign training.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Submitted by Rita Jacobs, Acting Secretary