

Green Valley Democrats

Minutes of the Board Meeting September 20, 2024

George gaveled the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Doug took the roll:

Present through the online use of Zoom: George McGaughey, Henne Queisser, Judith Holley, Judy Knape, Lois Connell, Sandie Stone, Tatiana Hladky, and Tom Hladky, Tom Lobb, Nelda Lobb

Laura Callejon was excused. Arlynn Ostlund joined the meeting at 3:29 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the Aug. 29 meeting required corrections; a revised version will be distributed for approval at the October meeting.

Online votes approved the following without dissent:

- 1) Donation of \$500 for 2023
- 2) George asked permission to buy four 4X8 Harris-Walz signs
- 3) George asked to send a request to large donors for the action to oppose Project 2025

Treasurer's Report: Lois

Lois reported that at this time there is more than \$60,000 in our bank account as a result of steady traffic at HQ. Lois reported that she was working with Sandy Eckstein in preparation for Sandy's becoming treasurer in 2025. Lois said she and Sandy are meeting with Nina Campbell, who may help the treasurer. Lois and George displayed the September month-to-date summary to provide current information.

Lois suggested giving Sany Eckstein online access to the BMO-Harris account to review deposits Sandy is making. Lois moved that Sandy be given password access to the GVD account to track transactions without signatory authority at this time. Tom Hladky seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

George also drew attention to a \$405 donation, for which a thank-you letter will be sent.

The treasurer's report was accepted.

Headquarters: Judy

Judy said that due to an incredible volume of traffic, a third volunteer was added to nearly every shift. She said merchandise is selling out and has been reordered. This month's We Care is for Voices From the Border and Samaritans. Next month's We Care will be for the Green Valley Community Food Bank, with an emphasis on nonperishable holiday items.

Staff training was held Sept. 10 and was well-attended, including about 10 new volunteers.

The previous Saturday was the first Saturday shift and was well-attended.

George asked that notes be initialed to identify the author. Judy said she has asked for this to be done.

Membership: Tom & Nelda

Tom said that some people have claimed they had paid 2024 membership, but we have no record thereof. Equally, some people have paid twice. He said they have added a column in the spreadsheet to note the month of payment, in hope of eliminating this issue. GVD membership is now 537, about 50 % over last year. Tom and Nelda suggested that people who join in September and October be given a cut rate of \$15 for the remainder of the year. It was noted that the bylaws already cover the extension of memberships paid in November and December to the following year in full. After some discussion, it was agreed to maintain the status quo of memberships paid before November being \$30 for the current year. It was agreed that Henne would publicize this in the newsletter and on the website. The membership sign at HQ will be updated to include this information.

Fundraising: Tom & Tatiana H

Tatiana said the trivia event will be Oc. 13 at 3-5 in Room 203. There will be a Halloween party on Oct. 27 from 5-7 at CPAC. It was proposed to have an election night watch party at Findlay's; Tom will be in touch to verify if this is feasible. A Christmas party at CPAC is proposed for Dec. 7; details need to be firmed up.

A wine tour in January is being explored.

A mystery dinner in February is a possibility.

George spoke to Jaimes Walcher, who suggested a progressive restaurant dinner in Tucson. She will have a 15-passenger bus; she also is a certified bartender if needed.

Arlynn noted that mystery dinners require significant work, and she suggested starting immediately to develop ideas.

Programs: Sandie

Sandie said the Oct. 12 meeting will be with Vivian Hart on voter suppression.

The Oct. 26 meeting is still open.

Nov. 9: Carolyn Campbell, retired CEO of the Sonoran Desert Protection, will confirm details with Sandie.

Including the annual meeting, the rest of the year is covered.

George said that the Sept. 28 meeting will cover ballot propositions, and he asked that we publicize the event widely.

George said that the coordinated campaign will host a meeting Sept. 29 on Project 2025 at 2p.m. in Room 203. George noted that the program at Quail Creek Sept. 21 will present all local candidates with the exception of Ruben Gallego, who will send a video for presentation.

Publicity – Henne

The activity level continues high with 10 e-blasts and a newsletter. Constant Contact is being updated with 91 new entries. Henne noted two new volunteers, Becky Beaton and Kathleen McCullough (sp?) were a great help

People may now sign up for the newsletter on the website, and 31 names were added in August.

The website had about 1,100 visits, and it's a challenge keeping all election information up to date. George reminded the meeting to get Henne information in a timely manner. Henne noted that GV News needs two weeks' notice.

Voter Outreach: Arlynn

Arlynn said the committee would meet on the 30th, but they have been busy with postcards, house parties and canvassing.

George said he had been in contact with the coordinated campaign, which may become more active soon. Lois said that Nancy Anacker in Washington state said that she had heard that LD-19 "was on fire." Lois said it's good to know Arlynn's committee is recognized so widely. George told Arlynn that another person had volunteered their house for an event with Kirsten Engel; he would coordinate with Arlynn later.

At Large: Judith

Judith said that she had purchased a set of sympathy cards and thank-you cards that would be available for her replacement. George noted the death of Lois Norman, but no one had any information about a possible memorial.

Volunteers – George for Laura

George said that volunteer reports for committees are being prepared, and he apologized for their being late. Wendy Pendleton and Scott Kresin are developing the reports, which George needs to review.

President's Report: George

George reviewed rules regarding placement of political signs, and he said he would share those the following Monday with the crew scheduled to put up more signs. George noted that interfering with political signs is a class 2 misdemeanor and he is planning to publish this information in the GV News; he said if people interfering with signs can be photographed, he would seek charges. After the letter regarding political signs George initiated jhad been edited, Doug moved that the letter be sent, signed by George on behalf of the GVD. Arlynn seconded the motion, which carried without dissent.

George showed a sign asking for a "yes" vote on Propositions 139 and 410, with a "no" vote on the rest. Signs are at HQ, and a banner with the same message will be placed on the rail at Continental. It was agreed to give the signs away at no charge, but donations would be invited.

Susan Reynolds bought a small Harris T-shirt and put it on her dog; she suggested having photo-ops of people's dogs supporting Harris. Arlynn suggested that this be incorporated at the upcoming Sidewalk Sales Days.

George said voting by mail or using drop boxes is a safe procedure, and people visiting HQ have been told this.

Henne said the Recorder's Office will send text messages confirming receipt of ballots if requested. It is worthwhile to return ballots quickly, as once received, the voter's name will be taken off follow-up lists. Arlynn said this will usefully save resources which can be spent on other people. Henne said she will publicize this in a newsletter.

George noted that links are available for all slate cards and related voting information.

George noted that Judi Torres had talked with a voter at HQ who claimed that she had received a phone call from a person claiming to be a Democrat saying that she was only registered for federal voting. Judy checked and found the person was registered for all down-ballot votes as well. George said to beware of quirky information. George encouraged all voters to visit the Recorder's Office website and verify their registration.

George noted that a donation of 100 purses was received; the donor was a Linda Allen, and George had not been able to reach the donor, and Lois was concerned that an in-kind donation still needs to be reported. George is trying to establish the donor's address.

George reported that the rally at the corner of LaCanada and Espinoza was featured positively in the GV News.

George reminded the meeting that the event at Quail Creek would take place on the next day.

George requested that we consider placing an ad to publicize our position regarding Propositions 139 and 410 and encouraging voters to vote blue up and down the ballot. Henne proposed that a 5"X7" ad be placed for \$480, and Judith seconded the motion, which carried without dissent.

George showed a request to "Unite for Springfield", on behalf of Haitian immigrants, received from Becky McCreary, and after discussion it was decided that Henne would send this out as an e-blast to let members donate if they so choose.

George noted that the by-laws fail to make the obvious requirement that board members must be members of GVD. George said he would put together a by-laws committee and ask Judith to head it. The deliberations of the committee would be put up for a vote at the October meeting for eventual approval at the annual meeting in December, following 30 days' notice.

The October board meeting will also consider the slate of nominations to be presented to the annual meeting, also following 30 days' notice.

Old Business – None

New Business: - None

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Oct. 10 at 2:00 pm MST.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:33.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Syme

Secretary