

**Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association (SHiNA) General Meeting**  
**TOPIC – Fall Election Topics**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 6:30-8:15PM @ Wayne Morse Family Farm

Attendees:

**SHiNA Board Members:**

Chris Jockheck, Chair

Clay Neal, Secretary

Ralph McDonald

Bev McDonald

Rita Fiedler

**Guests:**

John Quizacoatl – Community Media

Justin Filip – Green Party Candidate for Congress

Ariel – Green Congressional Campaign Committee

Kathleen Filip

Ed Filip

Richard Sulindt

Meg

**ONGOING BUSINESS**

**1. Call meeting to order**

**2. Candidate Election Forum**

- a. 4<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Race
  - i. Invited all candidates for District 4 race
  - ii. Justin Filip – Green Party Candidate
    1. Primary issue of the party – there is a root problem that is money in politics. Two main parties are impacted by that money, which leads to a different agenda compared to typical Americans.
      - a. In 2022 the candidates spent \$7M on the race.
    2. Primary issues for Justin – felt like Val Hoyle was not meeting his expectations for a response to Palestine and Housing and Homelessness.
    3. Greens are offering a different approach. This week, Justin claims that the Harris campaign has released an attack ad on Jill Stein – the national leader of the Green Party.
      - a. Greens don't accept corporate donations.

- b. Green Party US (national party) has raised \$1.1M
    - i. Val Hoyle has raised \$1.7M this cycle
    - ii. Much of Green Party moneys has been spent on lawsuits fighting to be on a ballot
- 4. Justin has been denied access to his facebook congressional page and his Instagram account has been taken down – for him evidence that the Green Party is being targeted.
- 5. Green Party is founded on **4 pillars**
  - a. **Democracy**
    - i. The idea is that they are building people power outside of the two major parties
    - ii. Stance is that the Democratic Party is not supporting Democracy in that they are
  - b. **Peace**
    - i. The last year has been evidence that peace is not at the forefront of the Democratic Party's agenda with their approach to the war in Israel and Palestine.
    - ii. The US has sent 50,000 lbs of bombs to Israel according to Democracy Now.
    - iii. Founding member for UO Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine
      - 1. Justin Filip's statements about Palestine:
        - a. Israel is a colonialist, imperialist experiment. Jews who moved to Israel displaced an existing community and has continued to kill and displace Palestinians to create more resources for Israel.
        - b. Cruel irony that the oppressed has become the oppressors. Zionist jews have an ideology is not that different from Nazis – they think that they are better than other people (the Palestinians) and are displacing those people for their own gain.
- iv. SHiNA Comments:
  - 1. SHiNA Board passed a resolution unanimously (with one abstention) for the City of Eugene to divest from investments in war materials or companies that profit from genocide. City Council didn't act on SHiNA's resolution.

2. 158 countries in UN General Assembly have voted that this is a genocide against Palestine.

c. **Social Justice**

d. **The Environment**

6. DISCUSSION:

- a. Democratic Party of Lane County passed a resolution condemning the War in Gaza. But the national organization is not aligned with that. Is the Green Party organized in a way that aligns policy throughout or is it decentralized?
  - i. Green Party is a decentralized organization – here in Oregon it is called Pacific Green Party and affiliated with the national Green Party.
- b. What is Justin's personal story that brought him to working in politics and with the Green Party.
  - i. The root of Justin's interest is being frustrated by the money that is controlling politics. Listened to a lot of leaders (referred to Noam Chomsky) and read a lot, but didn't just want to be informed and vocal on social media.
  - ii. Second national Green Party occurred in Eugene in 1989 with a platform established. The party has grown over the past 35 years but needs people to get involved to make the true progressive working-class party.
- c. Is there a way to focus on the commonalities between people? Especially common values?
- d. Why do you hear about the Green Party at the Presidential Level but not at the local level?
  - i. Justin sees an opportunity to take the enthusiasm of the Bernie Sanders campaign and directing it into a true alternative like the Green Party.
  - ii. In Oregon, you have to run a statewide candidate who gets a certain percentage of the vote to maintain party status.
  - iii. There are 10 elected greens at all levels of politics in Oregon (judges, city council, water and soil conservation, county commissioners, etc.).
  - iv. National candidates will inspire others to run at lower levels and get a lot more media attention (eg. Jill Stein)
- e. Can Justin describe his position and thinking on homelessness and the unhoused?

- i. It's a function of our system. Dan Bolin shared on Friday at the forum that he is currently unhoused. Some people have jobs and are still unhoused or living in their car. 50% of Oregonians are one paycheck away from housing insecurity. It's super complicated.
- ii. He is learning more through direct engagement with unhoused individuals.
  - 1. Right now they are getting swept and there is nowhere for them to go.
- iii. Green Party supports the Housing First strategy (which is shown to be successful).
  - 1. Financially – how much money do we spend downstream on sweeps, medical, jails, etc. Instead, could we spend that money on a housing first strategy?
  - 2. What are the root causes? We need to address those (medical bankruptcy; foster care trauma). There are several causes and we need to address the root of all of those.

**b. Ballot Measures**

- i. Measure 118 – corporate tax
  - 1. According to Filip - there is a lot of corporate resistance to this with money in the campaign
  - 2. \$1600 to every Oregonian in reduced income tax
- ii. Measure 117 – ranked choice voting
  - 1. According to Filip – Val Hoyle went on record supporting this and Greens absolutely support this.

**3. Approve Agenda**

- a. Approved unanimously

**4. Public Comments**

- a. Spencer Creek Saturday Market – people's ability to sell home grown produce has been impacted by County's restrictions on use of water agriculturally if the garden produce is meant to be marketed. This has been brought up by another community member who experienced this in Springfield. Is this something that Lane County has changed in terms of water restrictions?
- b. Perhaps this is an issue we could investigate a little more.
  - i. Ask Lane County (public information officer or our County Commissioner)
  - ii. Ask the Kiva
  - iii. Ask the Farmer's Market

**5. Approve Minutes, 9/17 Meeting**

- a. Approved unanimously

**6. Approve amendments to SHiNA Charter**

- a. Approved unanimously

**7. Nominations for Board/Officers**

- a. Nominations:
  - i. Chair: Chris Jockheck
  - ii. Vice Chair: Ralph McDonald
  - iii. Secretary: Clay Neal
  - iv. Treasurer: John Rogers
  - v. Newsletter & Communications: Beverly McDonald
  - vi. At Large: Rita Fiedler, Deb Rogers
- b. Nominations are moved forward to a board vote on November 19<sup>th</sup>

**8. Other business**

- a. The board wishes to discuss additional outreach and engagement methods at future meetings. How do we get more neighbors involved?

**9. Adjourn – 8:15**

**NEXT MEETING PLANNING**

**Next General Meetings – November 19<sup>th</sup> at Wayne Morse Family Farm**

**Next meeting dates**

- 1. Proposed meetings:
  - 1. November 19<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting @ Wayne Morse Family Farm
  - 2. December – no meeting