



LIBERTARIAN

PARTY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY October 16, 2019

Date and Time: Wednesday, 16 October 2019 at 4:00pm Mountain time

Where: Online: Zoom

Committee Attendees: Caryn Ann Harlos, Joe Dehn, James Gholston, Ed Fochler, Andrew Kolstee

Other Attendees: Ben Leder, "Vermont"

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm Mountain time.

Records of Past Meetings: The minutes of the 18 September meeting were approved.

Policy Updates: Joe said that he still intends to work on documenting policies relating to disputes and on a "how to create an article" article.

Templates: Caryn Ann reported that she added documentation for a few more templates.

Categories: Caryn Ann described this as now being in a "monitoring stage", during which she is continuing to categorize things as she does regular patrols and making adjustments as necessary, while observing how other people are making use of the categories, before moving on to images and documents.

Site Statistics: Ed reported that traffic is normal, roughly 100 users/day, with the largest interest being in presidential candidates. There was also a burst of traffic relating to a Colorado activist who is running for mayor.

URL Format Transition: Ed presented a 404 page that he created, showing what a user would get when trying to access an article without "/wiki" after the switch is made. Joe suggested including an explanation about why this was happening and an apology for the inconvenience; Ed said that could be done but the additional text would need to be at the bottom to avoid interfering with search engines being able to understand the redirection information.



Platform: There was a short discussion in response to a question of whether there was any problem with the fact that we are posting the text of the LP Platform without any sort of restrictive license when the same text is posted on lp.org with a copyright notice. Nobody believed this to be a problem.

California: Joe said he has been very busy with other things, but he will soon be going to pick up files from a long-time activist in San Jose, and that he has purchased a scanner that he hopes will allow him to scan large-format items himself.

New York: Andrew reported that he added more material, including some newsletters from the 1990s, and expected to be adding more once the current election season is over. He described the state party as experiencing "growing pains" as a result of an influx of something like 100 new activists.

Minnesota: Caryn Ann reported that there is somebody who may be interested in working on history for this state.

Don Parrish: Caryn Ann spoke by phone with this long-time activist; he may have some material he would be willing to donate, or at least allow us to copy.

Nolan Collection: Caryn Ann said she intends to discuss with Joe Buchman whether he is planning to continue working on this; if not we should get those records back.

Complaints from User AJPEG: There was a long discussion of several issues raised by very active LPedia contributor AJPEG, including a recent renaming/repurposing of articles to which he has been the main contributor, inconsistent ordering of chronological lists, promotion of non-serious candidates, and the hosting of an article about how the Platform has been used to attack the LP.

On the question of repurposing articles, Joe suggested that this was an instance of a more general problem, where somebody took action to reorganize something without really understanding the specific purpose of existing material. But it was also noted that since LPedia is a non-destructive platform, it is relatively easy to recover from such errors when they occur. It was decided that in this case an appropriate solution would be to "fork" the articles in question, creating two sets of



articles, one that can continue to serve the original purpose and another the new one.

On the question of chronological sequence, arguments were presented both for having a standard order and for the possibility that the opposite order might make sense in particular cases. It was also pointed out that it is possible to have tables that are dynamically sortable by various fields; we already have some lists that are implemented this way. The general conclusion was that static (non-sortable) lists should be in oldest-at-the-top order by default, but that in cases where a particular list is being actively maintained by one person and that person finds another order more convenient it may be presented that way.

On the question of including information about candidates who are not serious, it was noted that our standing policy for articles and lists is to include everybody who has been involved with the LP, and if somebody says they are a candidate for our nomination that makes them involved regardless of what any of us think of them. If some candidates are more serious than others, or more in line with our message, the best way to deal with those differences in a system like LPedia is for people to add more information about each candidate so that readers will have the information they need to make their own judgement.

On the question of the article about attacks based on the Platform, the general conclusion was that this is a legitimate topic for inclusion in LPedia, as it is both part of our actual history and potentially useful information for candidates and those working on revisions to the Platform, so the article itself should stay. However, it was decided that it would better serve these purposes as part of a more general topic of the history of the Platform, where it can be understood in that context, and that the direct link from the current Platform to this article should be removed.

Ed volunteered to communicate with AJPEG about his concerns.

Scanning Job: Caryn Ann reported that the material has finally been brought to the scanning contractor, who is reviewing the contents and will be estimating the cost in relation to our budget. She clarified that her intention is that everything in this job be scanned; the budget will just determine how much we pay for out of this year's funds vs. next year's funds.



Caryn Ann noted that the amount we previously allocated for this job is likely less than what will remain in this year's budget after other anticipated expenses. James moved and Joe seconded to authorize spending whatever remains of this year's budget on scanning; the motion passed without objection.

Next Year's Budget: Caryn Ann reported that the proposed LNC budget includes \$2500 for this committee, which we will have available to spend regardless of fundraising, but that if we are able to raise more funds than that the budget amount could be increased. She noted that members can earmark their contributions and dues, including life memberships, to specific committees/projects.

Craigslist: Caryn Ann reported that the problem with paying the vendor has not yet been resolved.

Eric Dixon: Caryn Ann reported that the national office is not going to write an article on him, so she is planning to construct something from other sources.

Images on HQ Server: Caryn Ann reported that there are many old image files stored on a server used by the national office, and she plans to get copies of them.

Ustream: Caryn Ann reported that she discovered that all of the recordings of past meetings on this service had been deleted, because the national office cancelled the account, without checking with her either in her capacity as Secretary or HPC Chair. Fortunately it turned out that they could be recovered by re-activating the account, which will allow her to download them (and then the account can be closed again).

Future Meetings: The next meeting is scheduled for 6 November 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm Mountain time.