

Libertarian Party Platform Committee
Meeting Minutes – March 26-27, 2016
Embassy Suites St. Louis Airport – Bridgeton, MO

Document Status: Approved March 27, 2016

Legend for Proposals: Unchanged existing text, ~~Text to be deleted~~, [Text to be inserted](#)

Call to Order

The Libertarian Party Platform Committee meeting was called to order by Alicia Mattson on March 26 at 9:18 a.m.

Attendance

Those present at the call to order were:

Dean Ahmad,
M Carling,
Matt Cholko,
John Fockler,
Jim Fulner,
Lynn House,
Chris Maden,
Alicia Mattson,
Guy McLendon,
Roy Minet,
Hollie Ryan,
John Shuey,
Aaron Starr,
Jason Weinman (arrived at 9:31),
Nathan Wilson

Members not present for the meeting were:

Christian Padgett,
Darryl Perry,
Debbie Schum,
Zachary Silva,
Rebecca Sink-Burris

LNC Alternates: Mike Shipley (1st), Andy LeCureaux (2nd), Nick Frollini (3rd)

STATE Alternates: Bo Brown (VA), Nathan Kleffman (TX)

Agenda Adoption

Ms. Mattson proposed an agenda with a ten minute time limit for each item. The agenda was adopted with amendments.

Alicia Mattson proposed the following item (as amended):

1.0 Personal Liberty - (Mattson) - clarify accepting consequences is an obligation

1.0 Personal Liberty

Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and ~~to~~ must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other individual, group, or government.

The motion was adopted as amended without objection.

1.0 Personal Liberty (Minet) – address adult/children distinctions

Roy Minet moved the following item:

1.0 ~~Personal~~ Individual Liberty

Adults ~~Individuals~~ should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Parents or legal guardians are entirely responsible for raising their children and have the right to nurture them in accordance with their own standards and beliefs, unless a jury of peers finds abuse, neglect or reckless endangerment. Children gain rights as they mature and develop the ability to understand and accept responsibility for the consequences of their actions. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of ~~those~~ any particular choices. No individual, group or government may initiate force against any other individual, group or government.

3.5 Rights and Discrimination

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights. We reject the idea that a natural right can ever impose an obligation upon others to fulfill that "right." We condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant. Government should neither deny nor abridge any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference or sexual orientation. Members of private organizations retain their rights to set whatever standards of association they deem appropriate, and individuals are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts and other free market solutions. ~~Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs. This statement shall not be construed to condone child abuse or neglect.~~

This item was postponed until after the consideration of new 1.6.
Later, this item was postponed until after the consideration 1.7.

New 1.6 Parental Rights plank (Starr) – move language from plank 3.5

Aaron Starr moved the following item:

1.6 Parental Rights

Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs. This statement shall not be construed to condone child abuse or neglect.

3.5 Rights and Discrimination

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights. We reject the idea that a natural right can ever impose an obligation upon others to fulfill that "right." We condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant. Government should neither deny nor abridge any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference or sexual orientation. Members of private organizations retain their rights to set whatever standards of association they deem appropriate, and individuals are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts and other free market solutions. ~~Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs. This statement shall not be construed to condone child abuse or neglect.~~

The motion was adopted 11-1.

Amend new 1.6 Parental Rights (Starr) – amend language moved from 3.5 (contingent on prior motion)

Aaron Starr introduced the following item (as amended):

1.6 Parental Rights and Responsibilities

~~Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs. This statement shall not be construed to condone child abuse or neglect.~~ Children do not begin life as fully autonomous beings capable of making rational decisions. Parents and guardians have a duty to provide for their children and develop them into adults. Their right to do so in accordance with their standards and beliefs should be legally respected, so long as they do not engage in abuse, neglect, or reckless endangerment.

The main motion was adopted 9-2.

1.6 Crime and Justice (Mattson) – general editorial cleanup

Alicia proposed the following item, which was amended:

1.6 Crime and Justice

The prescribed role of government exists is to protect the rights of every individual, including the right to life, liberty and property. Criminal laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, ~~since only actions that infringe on the rights of others can properly be termed crimes. Individuals retain the right to voluntarily assume risk of harm to themselves.~~ We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. ~~We oppose reduction of constitutional safeguards of the rights of the criminally accused.~~ The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must ~~not be denied~~ preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.

The motion was adopted as amended 10-3.

Afterward, a motion was adopted to add an item to the agenda entitled Jury Service to be considered immediately. John Fockler then moved the following:

1.6 Crime and Justice

Government exists to protect the rights of every individual including life, liberty and property. Criminal laws should be limited to violation of the rights of others through force or fraud, or deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. We favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, since only actions that infringe on the rights of others can properly be termed crimes. Individuals retain the right to voluntarily assume risk of harm to themselves. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. We oppose reduction of constitutional safeguards of the rights of the criminally accused. The rights of due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must not be denied. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law. The right to serve on juries should not be abridged by reason of conscience or political opinion.

The motion was not adopted 3-10.

M Carling moved to postpone all items concerning 2.2 Environment to after lunch. It was adopted.

2.3 Energy and Resources (Mattson) – delete

Alicia Mattson moved the following:

~~2.3 Energy and Resources~~

~~While energy is needed to fuel a modern society, government should not be subsidizing any particular form of energy. We oppose all government control of energy pricing, allocation, and production.~~

Motion was adopted 8-7.

2.4 Government Finance & Spending (Starr) – split into multiple planks

Aaron Starr moved the following (as amended):

~~2.4 Government Finance and Spending~~ Taxation

~~All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. So that States shall serve as a check and balance against expanding government, we advocate repeal of the income tax and the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service, and advocate that the U.S. Government be funded solely by States in proportion to population.~~

2.5 Balanced Budget

~~Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent.~~ We support the passage of a "Balanced Budget Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes. No government should incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent and is therefore a form of taxation without representation.

The Starr motion was adopted after amendment by 8-7.

The committee adjourned for lunch at 12:25 until 1:45 pm.

The committee came back to order at 1:55 pm.

2.2 Environment (Carling) - rewrite

M Carling moved the following:

2.2 Environment

~~We support a clean and healthy environment and sensible use of our natural resources. Private landowners and conservation groups have a vested interest in maintaining natural resources. Pollution and misuse of resources cause damage to our ecosystem. Governments, unlike private~~

~~businesses, are unaccountable for such damage done to our environment and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection. Protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights in resources like land, water, air, and wildlife. Free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems. We realize that our planet's climate is constantly changing, but environmental advocates and social pressure are the most effective means of changing public behavior.~~

Individual rights are pointless without a clean, healthy environment capable of sustaining human life. Competitive free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems. Private landowners and conservation groups have a vested interest in maintaining natural resources. Governments are unaccountable for damage done to our environment and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection. Protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights and responsibilities regarding resources like land, water, air, and wildlife. Where damages can be proven and quantified in a court of law, restitution to the injured parties must be required.

The main motion was adopted 12-1. (Dr. Ahmad requested that the minutes note that he voted in favor of the motion so that he may bring up the item for amendment at a later time.)

The body gave unanimous consent that this item would be on the agenda the second day.

The other agenda items related to 2.2 were deemed moot and we moved to the next item of business.

2.5 Money & Financial Markets (Minet) – amend final sentence, return to sound money

Roy Minet moved the following:

2.5 Money and Financial Markets

We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated and neither profits nor losses are socialized. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. ~~We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.~~

The motion was adopted 10-3.

2.5 Money & Financial Markets (Minet/Carling) – rephrase “neither profits nor losses are socialized”

Roy Minet made the following motion (after amendments):

2.5 Money and Financial Markets

We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated ~~and neither profits nor losses are socialized.~~ Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.

The motion was adopted 13-0.

New 2.7 Intellectual Monopoly and File Sharing (Fulner) – new plank

Jim Fulner moved the following:

2.7 Intellectual Monopoly and File Sharing

The phrase “intellectual property” is a misnomer. What the state calls intellectual property is more accurately referred to as “Intellectual Monopoly” as the state grants a monopoly on the use of an idea or goods and services derived from an idea to a certain limited group. We call for the elimination of the protection of such monopoly thereby freeing the market, encouraging content providers and product developers to improve on existing products thereby bringing more and better choices to the market.

In particular we call for the end of the prohibition of online file sharing, just as we oppose all victimless crimes. When content is shared it is not stolen as no one loses any property, only a potential loss of some future revenue, which is natural in any open market.

The motion was not adopted 3-12.

New 2.8 Public Employees (Starr) – new plank

Aaron Starr moved the following (as amended):

2.8 Government Employees

We favor repealing any requirement that one must join or pay dues to a union as a condition of government employment. We advocate replacing defined-benefit pensions with defined-contribution plans, as are commonly offered in the private sector, so as not to impose debt on future generations without their consent.

The motion was adopted as amended 12-1.

2.10 Retirement & Income Security (Minet) – insert “even”

Roy Minet moved the following:

2.10 Retirement and Income Security

Retirement planning is the responsibility of the individual, not the government. Libertarians would phase out the current government-sponsored Social Security system and transition to a private voluntary system. The proper and most effective source of help for the poor is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals. We believe members of society will become [even](#) more charitable and civil society will be strengthened as government reduces its activity in this realm.

The motion was adopted 10-3.

1.5 Abortion (Starr) – Same as Email Ballot 08 but with “along” instead of “across” (contingent on adoption of all previous motions on Abortion)

Aaron Starr moved the following:

1.5 Abortion

[Libertarians along the spectrum present logical arguments in support of their principled positions on abortion.](#) While we may respectfully disagree on the subject of when individual rights begin, we are united in our belief that taxpayers should not be forced to pay for other people's abortions. Moreover, we advocate eliminating regulations that prohibit over-the-counter sales of contraceptives, which prevent unwanted pregnancies.

A point of order was raised as to whether this item may be introduced because it is not substantively different than the original motion. Chair Mattson put the question to the committee to decide and it decided that the motion to introduce this was in order.

The Starr motion was adopted 6-5.

1.5 Abortion (Minet) – alternative new language

Roy Minet moved the following to rescind the four prior abortion recommendations (as amended) and adopt the following instead:

1.5 Reproduction

[As defenders of individual rights, the legal definition for when a new individual comes into existence is of fundamental importance to libertarians. Libertarians strongly hold differing views on this sensitive issue. Libertarians do agree that abortions should be minimized through voluntary use of reproductive technologies and in-utero adoption, and that government must never subsidize abortion. Also, government must not restrict or subsidize reproductive technologies or adoption.](#)

The motion was not adopted 3-9.

3.0 Securing Liberty (Fulner) - rewrite

Jim Fulner moved the following:

3.0 Securing Liberty

~~The protection of individual rights is the only proper purpose of government. Government is constitutionally limited so as to prevent the infringement of individual rights by the government itself. The federal government is constitutionally limited so as to prevent the infringement of individual rights by the government itself.~~ The principle of non-initiation of force should guide the relationships between governments. [To secure liberty governments should do nothing more than protect individual rights.](#)

The motion was not adopted 3-11.

It was moved and adopted that we would adjourn at 6:00 pm until 9:00 am tomorrow.

3.4 Free Trade and Migration (Cholko) – remove first sentence & change title

Matt Cholko moved the following:

3.4 ~~Free Trade and~~ Migration

~~We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade.~~ Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.

The motion was not adopted 2-11.

3.4 Free Trade and Migration (Cholko) – replace second sentence

Matt Cholko moved the following motion (as amended):

3.4 Free Trade and Migration

We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Individuals, goods, and financial capital must not be unreasonably constrained by government from crossing political boundaries so as to facilitate economic freedom, political freedom, and escape from tyranny. ~~Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders.~~ However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.

The main motion was adopted as amended 8-7.

3.4 Free Trade and Migration (Cholko) – remove final sentence

Matt Cholko moved the following motion (as amended):

3.4 Free Trade and Migration

We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a ~~credible~~ demonstrable threat to security, health or property.

The motion was adopted as amended 8-6.

At 5:43pm a motion to adjourn until 9:00 am was adopted 8-3.

Call to Order

The Libertarian Party Platform Committee meeting was called to order by Alicia Mattson on March 27 at 9:08 a.m.

Attendance

Those present at the call to order were:

Dean Ahmad,
M Carling,
Matt Cholko,
John Fockler,
Jim Fulner,
Lynn House,
Chris Maden,
Alicia Mattson,
Guy McLendon,
Roy Minet,
Hollie Ryan,
John Shuey,
Aaron Starr,
Jason Weinman,
Nathan Wilson

Members not present for the meeting were:

Christian Padgett,
Darryl Perry,
Debbie Schum,
Zachary Silva,
Rebecca Sink-Burris

LNC Alternates: Mike Shipley (1st), Andy LeCureaux (2nd), Nick Frollini (3rd)

STATE Alternates: Bo Brown (VA), Nathan Kleffman (TX)

The minutes from yesterday were reviewed and approved without objection.

M Carling moved that once the committee minutes were approved, those minutes will be made public. The motion was approved without objection.

2.3 Energy and Resources (contingent upon deletion of the original plank).

Guy McLendon moved to create a new plank (as amended).

2.3 Energy and Resources

While energy is needed to fuel a modern society, government should not subsidize any particular form of energy. We oppose all government control of energy pricing, allocation, and production. Ethanol subsidies, in particular, have caused market misallocations that have led to higher food prices and demonstrate the tragic consequences of charging bureaucrats with the task of overruling the discipline of markets. Likewise, the use of military power to assure the supply of crude oil from foreign sources stifles innovation by US energy companies who would otherwise be driven to develop alternative energy supplies.

The motion was adopted 13-2.

Hollie Ryan moved to amend the proposal adopted yesterday as follows (as amended):

2.2 Environment

Individual rights are pointless without a clean, healthy environment capable of sustaining human life. As inseparable parts of nature, individuals have a right to shared natural resources like clean air, clean water, and wildlife and a duty to protect them. Governments are the worst polluters on record and have a terrible history regarding environmental protection, yet are not held to account for any damage they do to the environment. While private landowners have at times been guilty of environmental damage, they nonetheless have ~~Competitive free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems. Private landowners and conservation groups have~~ a vested interest, along with conservationists, in maintaining Earth's natural resources. Competitive free markets and property rights stimulate the kinds of technological innovation and behavioral changes necessary to prevent or mitigate pollution and the misuse of resources. In considering enforcement efforts aimed at protecting the environment, ~~Governments are unaccountable for damage done to our environment and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection. Protecting the environment requires a clear~~ individual rights must be weighed against the potential to directly or indirectly damage the health, well-being, and livelihood of all human beings as a result of ~~definition and enforcement of individual rights and responsibilities regarding~~ damage caused to ecosystems. These resources like land, water, air, and wildlife ~~rights and responsibilities must be clearly prescribed, and w.~~ ~~Where~~ damages can be proven and quantified in a court of law, restitution to the injured parties must be required.

The motion was not adopted 0-14.

3.6 Representative Government – alternative for first sentence

Roy Minet proposed the following motion.

3.6 Representative Government

~~We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state and local levels.~~ We support voting methods that allow voters to select more than one candidate in elections with more than two candidates, and which require a majority for election. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We advocate initiative, referendum, recall and repeal when used as popular checks on government.

The motion was adopted as amended 11-3

3.6 Representative Government (Starr) – add form of government language

Aaron Starr proposed the following motion:

3.6 Representative Government

Libertarians support a constitutional republic with enumerated powers limited to defending individual rights to life, liberty and property. We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We advocate initiative, referendum, recall and repeal when used as popular checks on government.

The motion was not adopted 7-7.

4.0 Omissions – (multiple) – options for new plank

Roy Minet moved the following (as amended):

4.0 Omissions

Each plank of this platform has been derived by the consistent application of libertarian principle. The elucidation in this platform of certain positions shall not be construed to deny or disparage any other rights retained by the people. The Liberty of the people, and of the individual, is always the highest concern.

The motion as amended was not adopted 6-9.

New 1.7 Death Penalty (Ahmad) – new plank

Dr. Ahmad moved the following motion:

1.7 Death Penalty

The death penalty is irreversible and no recompense can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Since 1973 there have been more than 155 exonerations of individuals wrongfully sentenced to death in the United States. Further, the death penalty is not fairly and uniformly applied, but disproportionately imposed based on the race of the victim. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Apart from differences reasonable people may have as to the morality of the death penalty, the government's record in unfair execution of innocents requires an indefinite suspension of the death penalty.

The motion was adopted 10-5.

Dr. Ahmad moved the following as a substitute for the four previously approved motions on abortion.

1.5. Abortion

As defenders of individual rights, libertarians believe the legal definition for when a new individual comes into existence is of fundamental importance. We firmly believe that the desire for the preservation and protection of innocent lives is shared by all reasonable persons who, in good faith, often hold different views on the metaphysical question as to whether human personhood begins at conception, at birth, or at some point in between. Absent a consensus regarding the point at which human life begins, we hold that the highly sensitive decision to terminate a pregnancy must be left to each person's conscientious consideration, which may include matters of family, religion, or privacy. Nevertheless, libertarians agree that abortion must not be used as a common contraceptive, nor be paid for by taxpayers. Unwanted pregnancies should instead be minimized through alternative means, access to which must not be restricted by government, nor paid for using taxpayer funds.

The motion was not adopted 3-8.

We took up the item previously postponed from Roy Minet (as amended) as follows:

1.0 Personal Liberty (Minet) – address adult/children distinctions

1.0 ~~Personal~~ Individual Liberty

~~Adults~~ ~~Individuals~~ should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Parents or legal guardians are entirely responsible for raising their children and have the right to nurture them in accordance with their own standards and beliefs, unless a jury of peers finds abuse, neglect or reckless endangerment. As children mature and develop the ability to understand and accept responsibility for the

consequences of their actions, they become responsible for the exercise of their own rights. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of ~~those any particular~~ choices. No individual, group or government may initiate force against any other individual, group or government.

3.5 Rights and Discrimination

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights. We reject the idea that a natural right can ever impose an obligation upon others to fulfill that "right." We condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant. Government should neither deny nor abridge any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference or sexual orientation. Members of private organizations retain their rights to set whatever standards of association they deem appropriate, and individuals are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts and other free market solutions. ~~Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs. This statement shall not be construed to condone child abuse or neglect.~~

Motion as amended was not adopted 0-12.

M Carling proposed the following (as amended):

Preamble

~~As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.~~

~~We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.~~

~~Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.~~

The Liberty of the people, and of the individual, is always the highest concern. Our aim is to keep the Republicans out of your bedroom and the Democrats out of your pockets, so that you can make your own choices and live your life as you choose.

In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles. The elucidation in this platform of certain positions shall not be construed to deny or disparage any other rights retained by the people.

~~These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.~~

The motion was adopted as amended 11-4.

Chris Maden made the following motion (as amended):

1.7 Intellectual Monopoly

Copyright is a government-granted monopoly on intellectual work for the purpose of promoting progress in arts and science. File sharing and other personal-use infringements of copyright law should be a matter of civil law, not criminal law, with penalties limited to a reasonable multiple of the retail price of the copyrighted item. The term of copyright should be limited to the longer of twenty years or the life of the author.

The motion as amended was adopted 10-2.

The minutes for March 27 were approved without objection.

The meeting adjourned to the call of the chair at 2:28 pm.

Appendix A
Email Ballots Conducted Prior to This Meeting

Email Ballot 01

Motion: to elect the permanent chair of the 2016 Platform Committee

Formal Nominees: Chris Maden, Alicia Mattson

Start Date: January 19, 2016

End Date: January 29, 2016

Co-Sponsors: Carling, Minet, McLendon, Schum, Starr

Voting for Alicia Mattson: Ahmad, Carling, Cholko, Frollini, Fockler, House, Mattson, Maden, McLendon, Minet, Schum, Sink-Burris, Starr, Weinman, Wilson

Voting for Chris Maden: Fulner, Perry, Silva

With 15 of 18 votes, Alicia Mattson was elected Chair.

Email Ballot 02

Motion: to elect the secretary of the 2016 Platform Committee

Formal Nominees: Aaron Starr

Start Date: February 2, 2016

End Date: February 12, 2016

Sponsor: Mattson

Voting for Aaron Starr: Carling, Cholko, Fockler, Frollini, House, Maden, McLendon, Minet, Schum, Silva, Sink-Burris, Weinman, Wilson

Write-In Vote for M Carling: Fulner

Specific Abstention: Perry

With 13 of 14 votes, Aaron Starr was elected Secretary.

Appendix A
Email Ballots Conducted Prior to This Meeting

Email Ballot 03

Motion: Recommend that the delegates delete plank 1.5 Abortion

~~1.5 Abortion~~

~~Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue and that people can hold good faith views on all sides, we believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.~~

Start Date: February 14, 2016

End Date: February 24, 2016

Co-Sponsors: Fockler, Fulner, Mattson, McLendon, Minet, Schum, Shuey, Silva, Sink-Burris, Starr, Weinman, Wilson

Voting “aye”: Fockler, Frollini, Fulner, Mattson, McLendon, Minet, Padgett, Schum, Shuey, Starr, Wilson

Voting “no”: Carling, Cholko, House, Maden, Perry, Sink-Burris

With a vote tally of 11-6, the motion was adopted.

Email Ballot 04

Motion: Recommend that the delegates delete plank 4.0 Omissions

~~4.0 Omissions~~

~~Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination should not be construed to imply approval.~~

Start Date: February 24, 2016

End Date: March 5, 2016

Co-Sponsors: Carling, Mattson, Minet, Sink-Burris, Starr, Weinman, Wilson

Voting “aye”: Carling, Mattson, McLendon, Minet, Schum, Shuey, Sink-Burris, Starr, Weinman

Voting “no”: Ahmad, Cholko, Fulner, House, Maden, Perry, Shipley

With a vote tally of 9-7, the motion was adopted.

Appendix A
Email Ballots Conducted Prior to This Meeting

Email Ballot 05

Motion: Recommend that the delegates adopt a new plank, contingent upon their adoption of our proposal to delete the current plank:

1.5 Abortion

Taxpayers should not be forced to pay for other people's abortions.

Start Date: February 27, 2016

End Date: March 8, 2016

Co-Sponsors: Carling, Cholko, Schum, Sink-Burris, Starr, Weinman

Voting "aye": Carling, Cholko, Fockler, Frollini, Mattson, Padgett, Schum, Sink-Burris, Starr, Weinman, Wilson

Voting "no": Ahmad, Fulner, Maden, Minet, Perry, Ryan, Shipley, Shuey

With a vote tally of 11-8, the motion was adopted.

Email Ballot 06

Motion: Recommend that the delegates amend ...contingent upon their adoption of our proposals to delete the current plank and create the replacement plank.

1.5 Abortion

Taxpayers should not be forced to pay for other people's abortions. Moreover, we advocate eliminating regulations that prohibit over-the-counter sales of contraceptives, which prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Start Date: February 27, 2016

End Date: March 8, 2016

Co-Sponsors: Carling, Cholko, Schum, Sink-Burris, Starr, Weinman

Voting "aye": Carling, Cholko, Fockler, Frollini, Mattson, Padgett, Schum, Sink-Burris, Starr, Weinman, Wilson

Voting "no": Ahmad, Fulner, Maden, Minet, Perry, Shipley, Shuey

With a vote tally of 11-7, the motion was adopted.

Appendix A
Email Ballots Conducted Prior to This Meeting

Email Ballot 07

Motion: Recommend that the delegates amend...contingent on our passage of Email Ballots 05 and 06, which create and modify the plank.

1.5 Abortion

While we may respectfully disagree on the subject of when human rights begin, we are united in our belief that ~~Taxpayers~~ taxpayers should not be forced to pay for other people's abortions. Moreover, we advocate eliminating regulations that prohibit over-the-counter sales of contraceptives, which prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Start Date: February 27, 2016

End Date: March 8, 2016

Co-Sponsors: Carling, Cholko, Schum, Sink-Burris, Starr, Weinman

Voting "aye": Maden, Mattson, Padgett, Schum, Sink-Burris, Starr, Weinman, Wilson

Voting "no": Ahmad, Carling, Frollini, Fulner, Minet, Shipley, Shuey

With a vote tally of 8-7, the motion was adopted.

Email Ballot 08

Motion: Recommend that the delegates amend...contingent on our passage of Email Ballots 05, 06 and 07

1.5 Abortion

Libertarians across the spectrum present logical arguments in support of their principled positions on abortion. While we may respectfully disagree on the subject of when human rights begin, we are united in our belief that taxpayers should not be forced to pay for other people's abortions. Moreover, we advocate eliminating regulations that prohibit over-the-counter sales of contraceptives, which prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Start Date: February 27, 2016

End Date: March 8, 2016

Co-Sponsors: Cholko, Schum, Sink-Burris, Starr

Voting "aye": Maden, Mattson, Padgett, Perry, Schum, Sink-Burris, Starr, Wilson

Voting "no": Ahmad, Carling, Cholko, Frollini, Fulner, Minet, Shipley, Shuey

With a vote tally of 8-8, the motion failed.

Appendix A
Email Ballots Conducted Prior to This Meeting

Email Ballot 09

Motion: Recommend that the delegates amend plank 3.6 Representative Government as follows:

3.6 Representative Government

We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be ~~allowed~~-free to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We advocate initiative, referendum, recall and repeal when used as popular checks on government.

Start Date: March 10, 2016

End Date: March 20, 2016

Co-Sponsors: Carling, Cholko, Fulner, Minet, Ryan

Voting “aye”: Ahmad, Carling, Cholko, Fockler, Maden, Mattson, McLendon, Minet, Perry, Ryan, Schum, Shuey, Shipley, Silva, Starr

Voting “no”: (none)

With a vote tally of 15-0, the motion was adopted.

Email Ballot 10

Motion: to amend the recommendation in Email Ballot 07 to strike out “human” and instead insert “individual”

Start Date: March 10, 2016

End Date: March 20, 2016

Co-Sponsors: Carling, Maden, Minet, Starr

Voting “aye”: Carling, Cholko, Frollini, Maden, Mattson, McLendon, Minet, Schum, Shipley, Silva, Starr, Weinman

Voting “no”: Fockler, Fulner, Perry, Shuey, Sink-Burris

With a vote tally of 12-5, the motion was adopted.

Appendix A
Email Ballots Conducted Prior to This Meeting

Email Ballot 11

Motion: Recommend that the delegates adopt a new plank as follows:

1.7 Death Penalty

The death penalty is irreversible and no recompense can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Since 1973 there have been more than 155 exonerations of individuals wrongfully sentenced to death in the United States. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Even if the death penalty were morally appropriate, it cannot be implemented without risking the execution of innocents. Since it is impossible to trust any government with this kind of power we oppose any state sanctioned death penalty.

Start Date: March 16, 2016

End Date: March 26, 2016

Co-Sponsors: Cholko, Fulner, Perry, Shuey

Voting “aye”: Cholko, Fulner, House, Maden, Perry, Shuey, Silva, Wilson

Voting “no”: Ahmad, Carling, Fockler, Mattson, McLendon, Minet, Padgett, Ryan, Schum, Sink-Burris, Starr

With a vote tally of 8-11, the motion was not adopted.