



Annual General Meeting North Okanagan-Shuswap Green Party

MINUTES

Date: April 28, 2016

Location: Schubert Centre, Vernon, BC

Call to order at: 6:05 p.m.

Members present: 11

1. Welcome by Greig Crockett.

- We are pleased to see 11 members, which will provide us with our 5% quorum based on current membership numbers of 205. We are up from 188 members at this time last year.
- Renewed apologies for the confusion surrounding the initial AGM mailout, which was not properly vetted by the local EDA, and might have given some the mistaken impression that our GP is somehow linked with the non-partisan civil society group, SENS. A correction and apology were dispatched to rectify any initial confusion.

2. Acceptance of Agenda:

- Distribution of the meeting agenda, 2015 AGM minutes, financial report.
- Motion to Accept the Agenda, with no additions by Kelli; Second: George. Approved by majority.

3. Approval of AGM 2015 Minutes:

- Motion to Accept the previous AGM minutes by Kinna; Second: Jim

4. Financial Report of Marilyn Courtenay, Presented by Greig Crockett

- See financial handouts including: GP Okanagan Shuswap Riding Association's "EDA Financial Statements for the Year 2015" and Elections Canada "Summary by Electoral District" for the 42nd General Election, Oct 19, 2015.
- GC reviews the EDA financial statement for 2015 (Jan. ~Dec.), highlighting some of the main points:
 - We are rather lucky to have had such a healthy bank account at approximately \$30,000, placed in a high-interest savings account, and enabling our EDA to assist not only our own local candidate but also three other candidates in the expected "Green Wave" here in BC.
 - Current bank balance is at \$8,830.18. With \$5,000 of this now placed in a long-term GIC savings account for three years.
 - Income Earned:
 - \$716.64 in transfers from national GP
 - \$893.85 in memberships and donations
 - \$213.03 in interest
 - Former local GP candidate, Dave Smith, repaid one-half of the expenses for office, administration, promotional materials after he resigned his candidacy.
 - Major expenses are for:
 - Speakers (Fair Vote Canada, 200; Climate Change speaker \$656.63)

- \$ 234.15 for a Chamber of Commerce membership, now handed over to former candidate Chris George
- \$1000 receiver general deposit (with only \$888 recuperated from Chris George)
- \$1,401.40 for office and administration
- \$28,000 for transfers to candidates including: [a] our own riding's GP candidate, Chris George, for \$10,000.
 - Chris was given this initial contribution with expectations to show progress (e.g. sign up volunteers, fundraising, GP membership drive) in a rather late-starting campaign in the second week of September, 2015, when nomination papers were filed. No more money was requested by the candidate from the EDA. Polls showed steadily that GP would not garner the 10% of the popular vote necessary for a 60% refund.
 - Transfers of funds were provided, at the GP President's urging of a "break through fund", to three other candidates who, upon research by Heather Clay, showed great promise in their respective ridings:
 - 1. North Island-Powell River Brenda Sayers \$8,000
 - 2. Vancouver Centre Lisa Barrett \$8,000
 - 3. Vancouver East Wes Regan \$2,000
 - Funding was lent to these candidate with written consent to pay back the 60% of the principal given to our EDA. However, none of the candidates attained the required 10% of the vote to qualify for any reimbursement.
- Into the future, we will face some difficulties in the future since we will lose our per-vote subsidy (\$1.75) from the government.
- We also did not get the 60% return of spending on the election if our party's candidate wins at least 10% of the vote in the federal election. None of the three other candidates we lent money to managed to garner the needed 10% for a 60% reimbursement of expenditures.
- Motion to accept the financial report, and appoint Chris Miles of Culver and Associates, Vancouver, as the auditor by Grieg; second Kevin. Approved by majority.

5. CEO Report "The Last *Unfair* Election and the First *Fair* Election" by Greig Crockett

- Proportional Representation will make a huge difference for the GP into the future. Strategic voting hurt the GP in this recent federal election. We need PR, since once again the majority party in power has managed to gain only 39% of the popular vote. The GP will take action and strive to show our favour for PR, waiting to see what happens in the Liberals' newly struck multi-party committee on electoral reform. As it stands, Liberal favour a preferential vote or ranked ballot, revealing stronger similarities to first-past-the post than to PR.

6. Board of Directors: Nominations and Elections

- Three current EDA board members are stepping down this year: Marilyn Courtenay, Janet Dennison, and Heather Clay.
- An expression of great appreciation was made for all the outstanding work done and considerable time volunteered by these outgoing board members.
- New self-identified volunteers to serve on the board: Sarah Clark/Armstrong; Kevin Babcock, Linda Elmore, Greig Crockett (who will take a back-seat role, remaining for the sake of continuity)
- Call for volunteers for nomination from the floor: None.

- Members were called upon to volunteer for events, fundraising and other work with the EDA without becoming official board members, and to ask friends if they might be interested in volunteering for the GP.
- Call for any objections to the current slate of BOD members for the upcoming elections: None.
- Motion to accept the slate of BOD members as presented made by Greig; Second: Wayne. All in favour.

7. Open Discussion of Future Goals and Priorities

- The floor was opened to general discussion by members about future plans and goals. The comments made are as follows:
 - One expressed view holds that the EDA needs to be less keen in fundraising and promoting the party over the next 1~3 years, leading into the next election. Without PR, there is little chance that the GP could be a viable party, so it's best to keep a low profile, with few meetings, with a goal of preserving our minimal funds. If PR is introduced, then GP could become active again. There is exhaustion and frustration amongst GP members and voters at the current reality (e.g. strategic voting, our current electoral system).
 - Contrarily, other members voiced the opinion that we need to keep a higher profile for GP, and possibly its next candidate, by attending events (e.g. festivals, clean up) writing op-eds and letters to the editor. We should assist our next candidate (or several interested candidates) for the next federal election gain a profile in the community in order to increase his/her chance of gaining votes or being elected. Party candidates tend to disappear between elections, and they shouldn't. We need a GP spokesperson to comment on stories or events locally. Granted, such efforts to write short letters to the editor is time consuming, and no guarantees of publication.
 - GP itself should be increasing its profile, and gaining recognition, and promoting its ideas to potential voters.
 - Follow the momentum being driven by Andrew Weaver.
 - GP should focus on how to raise awareness of, and demand for, electoral reform and the introduction PR in the country. We should join with other local groups fighting for PR.
 - One suggestion, based on a US professor's views, is that green Politics and environmental concerns must be more positive, focussing on outcomes and achievements, if we wish to mobilize GP voters or simply interest citizens in environmental/social justice issues over the long-term. We could be involved in activities that attract and retain "green hearts", and try to increase our membership to keep the momentum going. This momentum is strong in the wake of the recent GP Leadership Review.
 - We need to get youth more engaged and involved in the green movement. Fulton high school has a Global Studies program, whose students might be interested in attending our events. Also OC students and UBCO students (although this university is not in our riding).
 - We could be prudent with our expenditures, and keep costs low by meeting in cost-free venues (e.g. People's Place, Credit Union upstairs, coffee houses), or attending free/cheap events like the Sunshine festival, or community clean-up events, River Day, Food Drives, Lake Trail issue in Salmon Arm, Bike to Work Week.
 - We should look into other ways to reduce costs, such as sponsored hotel stays for guest speakers, or other sponsorships by green-minded companies.
 - Produce a local green business coupon book.
 - EDA and local GP members could help out in the upcoming BC election.
 - We need to show that we can induce change, solve problems, and "be the change we want to see".

- Find out about local events from the Allan Brooks centre, Swan Lake Naturalist Club, SENS newsletter, which could be usefully sent out to all GP members.

8. Other Business/Motions:

- A proposal that we invite Seth Klein of the Centre for Policy Alternatives to be a guest speaker in the Fall.
- Motion to invite Seth Klein by Kinna; Second: Gail. Approved by majority.

9. Adjournment : 7:20 p.m.