



Annual General Meeting North Okanagan-Shuswap Green Party MINUTES

JUNE 10, 2015

Location: Schubert Centre, Vernon, BC.

Call to order at: 7:15 p.m.

19 members present.

1. Welcome by Greig Crockett:

- A small meeting was anticipated given our current situation of losing our candidate.
- However, we have a large agenda, including the introduction of two new nominees for candidate.

2. Acceptance of Agenda:

- Motion to Accept: Heather Clay; Second: Steve Fultz
- Distribution of the meeting agenda, 2014 AGM minutes, financial report.
- No suggestions for additional topics, or new business.

3. Approval of AGM 2014 Minutes:

- Motion to Accept : Steve Fultz; Second: Karen Durant

4. Financial Report by Marilyn Courtenay

- See Financial Statement (handout)
- MC shows the year-end statement from Elections Canada (online)
- EDA Financial Statements for Year 2015; income & expenses for the year; net profits.
- Comments:
 - o The income statement is quite healthy, so we'll be ready for the election campaign.
 - o Expenditures included activities (e.g. home shows), advertising for speakers, and candidate election preparation (e.g. office, business cards, brochures)
 - o We are temporarily in the red due to lower donations; and a technical glitch with transfers from national office, which will be remedied shortly.
- Motion to accept the Financial Report: Marilyn C.; Second by Greig C.
- **Motion to continue the Appointment of Chris Miles of Culver & Associates, 305-1177 West Hastings, Vancouver V6E 2K3, as auditor.** Marilyn/Steve

5. CEO Business Report by Greig Crockett: "Growing Greener"

- One of the Harper Administration's first anti-democratic moves was to phase out per vote subsidies for EDAs achieving 10% of the popular vote. With this income loss, our board will need to do more fundraising.
- Coincidentally we began nominations for our local Okanagan-Shuswap candidate this time last year and in October 2014 Dave Smith was selected. Dave has been very busy, spending a great amount of time and effort promoting the party. We launched a Facebook page, Twitter account, and web page on which were uploaded some active videos. Letters to the editor and opinion pieces in local newspapers were written. Dave and the team participated in a number of pre-election

promotional events, including in Armstrong and Salmon Arm, and a very successful Vernon Home Show in April, at which Marilyn was a well received green morph-suit maiden. We'll be looking for volunteers to don the morph suit for the 5-day August IPE (Interior Provincial Exhibition) in August.

- We were a principle organizer of 'Make 2015 the Last Unfair Election', hosting a Fair Vote Canada speaker with Renewing Democracy Through Cooperation for events at UBC-O and the Okanagan College campuses in Vernon & Salmon Arm as well as two public presentations in Vernon & Salmon Arm in February. The FVC speech explained the value of proportional representation electoral system over our long-standing first-past-the-post/winner-take-all system. This was a unique event jointly sponsored by the three opposition parties to consider electoral reform as a way to rejuvenate our democracy.
- We hosted 'The Climate is Changing' by Brian Guy, PhD on climate change and its impacts, locally, nationally & globally.
- Our membership database has been updated by Heather. Throughout the riding we now have approximately 2000 contacts, exceeding the 800 from the previous year, and we now have approximately 180 Green Party members in the area.
- The sudden resignation of our candidate, Dave Smith, just a few weeks ago, was a surprise and a setback. Dave was an excellent candidate who made great progress in drawing new people to consider the GP. We appreciated his calm and considered approach. Tensions arose from outside interference and differing opinions with some members. The board was stressed and depressed at his departure. We are grateful for all of Dave's work and for his wife Kathy's energetic event organization.
- With Dave's management, the GP is polling locally at around 20%; a statistic that bolsters our resolve to work hard for our next candidate. Two volunteer nominees are here tonight to speak to us and introduce themselves. I am pleased to officially **announce the re-opening of nominations**. If anyone in attendance or someone you know is interested to volunteer as a nominee please let us know. The call for nominees will be open to June 30, 2015.
- Tentatively, we'll vote for our new candidate from the slate of nominees at a meeting on July 23.
- We are pleased to expect Elizabeth May to visit our riding this summer, and we'll need to organize some fundraising events around this visit.
- Upcoming events include Lumby Days (June 13, 14) and Vernon Sunshine Festival (June 20). And the Grindrod Garlic Festival (August 16). We'll need volunteers.

6. Board of Directors: Nominations and Elections:

- Nominations were called from the floor and the following slate for board of directors was presented: Janet Dennison, Marilyn Courtenay, Heather Clay, Linda Elmore, Greig Crockett.
- Motion to accept the slate for Board of Directors as presented; Greig / Chris.
- All in favour; none opposed.
- Thanks goes out to all our Board members for their work over the past year: to Marilyn as our financial advisor, to Janet for calling GP members and attending our Board meetings via Skype from Great Britain, Heather our trained campaign

manager & web guru and to Steve who left the position of secretary due to long distance work commitments.

7. Other Business/Motions:

- No other business suggested.

8. Special Presentation: “The Power of Voter Engagement: How Elizabeth May climbed from 10% to 46%” [in Saanich Gulf Islands, Federal Election May 2011.]

- Main Findings for the Climb:
 - o Grassroots support won the day
 - o Seniors who normally don't vote green, but care about the environment for their grandchildren, supported Elizabeth
 - o Fresh ideas for a new economy
 - o Respect, trust, honesty
 - o Teamwork
 - o Voters were ready for change
 - o Voter fatigue of corruption, cheating (e.g. robocalls) ; getting around Conservatives' skill at voter suppression
- GP Top Priorities:
 - o Sustainable economy
 - o Fairer tax system
 - o Invest in small businesses (E. May's new bill)
 - o Solving the climate crisis
 - o Green transport
 - o Green jobs for a green economy : Tomorrow's technology is today's renewable job.
 - o 6 principles, including : democratic reform, freedom and civil liberties, Canada's global role, non-violence.
- Green Party Successes:
 - o 2 GP MPs
 - o 3 GP MLAs
 - o 4/9 members of Vancouver City Council
 - o High profile GP candidates in Vancouver, Vancouver Island
 - o Elizabeth May to be invited to debates, which raises GP stature

9. Introduction of Candidate Nominees

- Keli Westgate and Chris George outlined their aspirations as candidates for the coming 2015, October election.
- Both answered questions from attendees. (Are you in favour of co-nomination or cooperation, or fused candidates for the upcoming election? Are you in favour of Proportional Representation? How will you engage youth voters?)

10. Guest Presentation: Dan Ryder from Kelowna-Lake Country Green Party on the Co-nomination option of pre-electoral cooperation amongst party candidates

- See two handouts: [1] Motion from Lake Country EDA to be sent to Federal Council for a Ruling ; [2] Pros and cons of the co-nomination option.

11. Proposal from the floor : Show the video presentation “Years of Living Dangerously” at another time. Promote the event.

- Proposal accepted.

12. Roundtable Discussions: 2 Groups

* Report of Group 1:

- We need to promote small and medium enterprises
- jobs for youth and jobs training; youth are leaving the area in droves
- get out the vote is an important message; we could work with registration drives and provide people details on how to register

* Report of Group 2:

- Get out the vote should be a big focus, and voter engagement
- We discussed/debated if co-nomination is a good idea
- renewable energy should be stressed in the election campaign
- farmers are aging with few to replace them; we could support food action, youth farmers, and other food and water security initiatives
- need to move online to Info News and Castanet to bring the Green Party message to online discussion groups

13. Adjournment : 9:20 p.m.