

Guatemala Stove Project
Perth, Ottawa and Extended (Texas) Volunteer Zoom Meeting
Tuesday April 20,2021

1. Chair: Tom Minute taker: Paul

Present: Rita, Liz, Erika, Norah, Terri, Tammy, Bob, Joni, Pierre, Diana, Bill, Elaine, Judy, Livio, Lynn, Phill, Rob, Janet.

Regrets: Ken, Romaine, Peggy, Bev, Chuck

Note, Action items in Red

2. Review of minutes from March 16 meeting.

Actioned by Liz to investigate cleft pallet surgery for child in Comitancillo. Liz advised another group has undertaken to have this child cared for. Further advised that the hospital in Guatemala city would perform this procedure for free should we become aware of other cases in the future. Helps International used to be our contact for cases such as this and others.

Minutes accepted as reviewed, moved by Tammy, seconded by Norah.

3. Progress of Grant Advance Foundation

Liz advises the committee is almost ready to send out letters of inquiry to about 6 different large foundations asking for funds to build 50 stoves, they will then focus on smaller foundations asking for funding of a lesser number of stoves eg. 25, 15, or 10 stoves.

4. Update of possible Spring Fundraiser.

Fundraiser meal at Biagio's Italian Kitchen in Ottawa is on hold because of Covid.

5. Ways to maintain social presence with GSP Facebook page.

Action- Rita will prepare and distribute a schedule whereby each week a different volunteer will post a Guatemala-related photo, memory or story on their own FB page as well as to the GSP Facebook page. In so doing we hope to engage our friends, relatives and followers.

Volunteered for this initiative are: Tammy, Tom, Liz, Rita, Rob, Paul, Janet

Action-Liz offered to send out a mail chimp notice to all our contacts to encourage donations in honour of Mother's Day in lieu of the Mother of a Dinner event which has been cancelled due to Covid.

6. Retraining of AMMID mason to construct new firebox design.

Tom advises that Marvin has procured the bricks and is poised to go to Comitancillo to retrain AMMID's mason, Sebastien. He is presently waiting for AMMID to procure remaining stove components which have been ordered by Ruben. If time permits Marvin may also train Sebastien to construct the school stove which is a larger unit.

7. Implications of increasing costs for stove construction.

AMMID has advised the GSP of an increase of approximately \$5.00-\$6.00 for the steel components of the stoves. Those being the Plancha (stove top), Chimney and rain cap. The extra cost has been approved and paid for by a surplus from an earlier transfer to AMMID.

Discussion ensued with regards to advertising an increase cost per stove in our brochures and agreed to print the cost as \$325.00 in our next brochure printing.

8. Date for 2019-2020 Annual General Meeting

Agreed that Sunday August 15 at 01:00pm our AGM will be held in either Stewart Park near the Millennium Gate or held as a Zoom meeting dependent on weather and Covid restrictions at the time.
Action-Phill to contact Shannon who works with the Perth Parks department to advise of our intentions. Livio also offered his cottage at McLaren Lk as a potential location for AGM but because of access issues we declined at this time. Thanks for the offer Livio.

9. Next Meeting

Group agreed the next meeting will be Tuesday, June 1 at 07:00pm via Zoom.

Some general unscheduled discussions ensued listed below:

Action-Phill, Rita Phill is looking for a list of people who attended the past couple of Mothers of a Dinner in hopes to send out an appeal for donations in lieu of this event. Rita offered to help and take a look for this info.

Action -Liz offered to send out the same sort of appeal to our Mail Chimp list of people.

Action- Pierre Discussion around a GSP calendar to be produced for 2022, Pierre will send a link to Liz and Judy for his photos to be reviewed. Pierre also advised he can send a method to potential photo donors so they may have their favorite photos included in the calendar.

Bob advised that Bethel United Church is presently running a 32 Auctions live on-line auction should anyone be interested to look at items for sale. There are many hand-made items and some great food and meal options available.

Bethel Church has been an excellent supporter of the GSP over many years, in fact we just received a handsome cheque from this fine group of caring people.

Paul advised that Perth Rotary has cancelled Perth Rotary Ribfest 2021. Citing they are very anxious should any cases of Covid in either volunteers or supporters be traced back to Perth Rotary and this event.

Tom mentioned in a recent conversation with Jose of CEDEC, that Covid cases are on the increase, there are some deaths and no vaccines yet available in Guatemala.

Bill mentioned a group of vaccinated nurses from Texas traveled to Guatemala from US as volunteers and although Covid cases are rising, they had no issues getting in or out of Guatemala and Covid tests were readily available in Antigua for their return trip. Bill advised there was no quarantine required for this group on their arrival home.

Rita advised of an interview aired on CBC The Current with Matt Galloway.

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-63-the-current/clip/15838208-increasing-number-guatemala-migrants-heading-mexico-u.s.-border>

I personally listened to this entire interview which lasts about 25 minutes. I think it gives a very good description of the current Maya situation in Guatemala and the migrant situation at the Mexican/US border. I might suggest this is a 'must listen to' for all our volunteers and anyone who wants to better understand this awful situation. Hopefully this piece can be included on our web page and FB page.

Meeting Adjourned 08:05pm moved by Phill, seconded by Tammy
Thanks to all who participated.