

Guatemala Stove Project

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Sunday, August 15, 2021

Location: Last Duel Park, Perth and via Zoom

Attendees:

Directors: Janet Allan, Erika Johner, Rob Bowyer

Coordinator: Tom Clarke

Others: Paul Hauraney, Bob Klatt, Catherine Smith, Elaine Scott, Steve Scott, Hans Buser, Holly Blair, Ken Morin, Livio Persi, Liz Ballantyne-Jackson, Nancy Maynard, Rita Redner, Terri Henderson, Phill Brackenbury, Shawn Breen, Ron Powers, Tammy Morrison, Norah Hall, Murray Kronick, Jeanette Avery, Peni Gagnon, Carole Gagnon, Judy Field

By Zoom: Ishim Colop, Utzil Colop, Lesley Rowe

Regrets: Joni Seligman, Dave and Heidi Mundy

1. Janet Allan, chair of the meeting, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Phill Brackenbury volunteered to be the secretary for the meeting.
2. Janet reviewed the need for all attendees to sign in, and she reviewed Covid protocols for in-person attendees of the meeting
3. Janet introduced the member of the Board of Directors (Janet, Erika and Rob) and the Co-Ordinator (Tom)
4. Tribute to Jose Yac

A special tribute was held to honour the memory and achievements of Jose Yac who passed away recently from complications due to Covid. Jose was a co-founder of the GSP with Tom Clarke and the head of CEDEC, the key NGO that facilitates the efforts of the

GSP in Guatemala. All participated in a toast (“Hoon Sum!”). Tom summarized the incredible life of Jose. He explained that Jose’s 2 daughters, Ishim and Utzil, have been named to carry on the leadership of CEDEC.

Tom, Rita, Janet and Paul shared memories of Jose.

5. The agenda was reviewed. No new items were added.
6. Janet asked all to consider nominations to the Board of Directors and announced that all current members of the BOD were willing to continue their roles for another year.
7. The minutes of last year’s AGM, held 2020-Aug. 30 1300h, were reviewed. Paul Hauraney moved to accept the minutes, Tammy Morrison seconded the motion, and it was approved.
8. The members of the Board of Directors presented the 7 page annual report, identifying highlights and challenges of the past year.

Rob Bowyer gave an overview of the history of the project and the three NGO partners in Guatemala. Rob noted the importance of the improved masonry cookstoves to the lives of recipients. He noted that despite the many challenges of this year, 250 stoves were built in Guatemala. Current total of stoves is 7368 family stoves and 19 larger school stoves. Rob noted that increasing costs has meant that family cookstoves priced at \$300 and school cookstoves priced at \$550 rose to \$325 and \$600 respectively after the end of the reported fiscal year which ended March 31 2021.

Janet described the Education Bursary program in place with AMMID, our Guatemalan partner organization in San Marcos.

Janet noted that restrictions due to Covid made schooling more difficult, but with the help of Jovita, the school coordinator with AMMID, all 15 students graduated. Janet noted that there 14 new girls for middle and high school for the new year which began

January 2021. There is also a mature student attending school each Sunday for a total of 15 students.

Janet explained the Microloans program. She noted that it has been in place since 2012 and has contributed \$26,000 of microloans in amounts starting at \$150. She explained that there is now an environmental component of the Microloan program which incentivizes recipients to plant trees and shrubs to prevent soil erosion/ deforestation.

Erika then reported on the emergency assistance provided by the GSP in the past year. Drought and corn blight compounded the difficulties created by Covid. She noted the great hardship in western Guatemala. Erika also noted the increase in the number of people attempting to emigrate from Guatemala and sadly reported on 19 Guatemalans who were discovered murdered in Mexico. 11 of these were from the area of San Marcos in which our partner AMMID works. Money was sent from Canadian donors to help offset the funeral costs for these families.

The Board decided to temporarily pivot to providing emergency relief rather than building stoves. \$22,000 was divided equally between the 3 partner organizations. Bulk food was purchased and distributed to 500 families.

Janet then noted some important developments within the GSP in Canada:

- website was updated with the help of Algonquin College students. She noted that there will be a need for constant updating of the site to keep it relevant.
- The Calendar for 2022 has been created and will be printed and distributed in the early autumn
- Rob Bowyer joined the BOD last August

- The Child and Youth Care Worker program at Algonquin College held a fundraising event and will continue next year in September 2021 with a new group of year one students
- in October Don Juan Puac, a key Guatemalan mason throughout the history of the GSP, died due to complications from Covid
- began use of Knightsbridge software to convert Canadian funds to Guatemalan funds. This has reduced service fees for the GSP.
- a joint Perth/ Ottawa on-line auction raised \$21,000 for the GSP
- GSP began use of Grant Advance software to help identify prospective organizations and foundations for funding requests
- although Canadian GSP members were unable to travel to Guatemala to document stoves, Ishim Yac did document 50 stoves
- Rob recognized the many volunteers who have played key roles in assisting the GSP meet its objectives

Bob Klatt made a motion to accept the Directors' Report. This was seconded by Rita Redner. This motion was passed.

9. Nancy Maynard presented the Financial Report for the fiscal year from April 2020 to March 31, 2021

-there was some discussion about increase in office expenses and Nancy explained that was in part due to the costs of purchasing the Grant Advance services

10. Tom Clarke was called upon to give a Coordinator's Report

Tom began by showing Ishim Yac the memorial to her father Jose Yac and Ishim spoke of his accomplishments for a short time. Unfortunately, our Zoom connection to Ishim was lost.

Tom focused his message on the Carbon reduction inherent in building cookstoves. He noted that estimates say 5-10% of manmade carbon comes from cooking over open fires. One stove can equal a reduction of 20 -30 tonnes of carbon (more than the individual footprint of a single person in the first world).

Tom continues to stress that this message is a key for the GSP to focus upon while educating others and raising funds for more stoves.

11. Liz Ballantyne-Jackson gave a report on the use of the Grant Advance software. She explained that it is a list of all CRA registered charities in Canada which is organized to help organizations look for potential sponsors.

She outlined the steps taken to identify 150 potential sponsors and then reduce that to a short list of 15 foundations that align with the GSP mission. A Letter of requests were sent to these foundations. So far there has been one rejection and two requests for more information about the GSP.

Liz mentioned the plan to look into local funding through the Perth and District Community Fund (Gord Jackson Fund), and there was some discussion about fundraising through Foundations.

12. There was no New Business

13. Election of Board Members – the three current members were acclaimed.

Tammy Morrison expressed an interest in shadowing the Board over the next year to find out more about its roles and responsibilities.

14. The next Volunteer meeting (ZOOM) was set for:

Tues., Aug. 31 at 7 pm

The next AGM was set for:

Sunday, June 12, 2022 1 – 3 pm (location to be determined)

15. Catherine Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ken Morin seconded. The motion was passed, and the meeting was adjourned.