Guatemala Stove Project Volunteer Meeting Minutes

Perth& District Foundation, McMillan Building Unit 1a, 77 Gore Street East, Perth ON

and via Whats App

May 25, 2026 at 7 pm

Present: Tom Clarke, Bill Avery, Paul Huaraney, Liz Maltby Beatric Rickenbacher, Derek Brisson, Phill Brackenbury

Via WhatsApp: Liz Ballantyne -Jackson, Janet Allan, Jan Christensen

Regrets: Jenn Campbell. Bob Klatt, Tamy Morrison

1. Chair: Liz Maltby, Secretary: Phill Brackenbury

2. Welcome and introductions

Derek talked to Beatrice at Stewart Park GSP booth 2 years ago and after learning about the GSP he has followed the project since. He is present for his first GSP meeting. Welcome Derek!

3. Additional Items

- Tom informed the group that Tim Wilson, a GSP volunteer, passed away suddenly last week. He will be missed by family, friends and the GSP family of volunteers.

- Tom also informed the group that a transfer was sent to Guatemala for another 50 stoves to be built by our partner, CEDEC and Clara was sent a further $200 US to continue aiding people who were receiving eye operations through HELPS International

4. Janet moved to accept minutes of April 13, 2026 and Bill seconded

5. Guatemalan news – Ishim was not present to give a report on current conditions in Guatemala

6. Volunteer interest in serving on the board of directors

Liz M. explained that Janet Allan would be stepping down from the BOD at the AGM after 10 years of tireless work. This means the GSP is looking for a new Director.

Phill appealed to every volunteer who has not yet been on the Board to consider a two year term since they understand the importance of the work the GSP does. Without a BOD, the GSP cannot continue its work.

7. Status of GSP banner

Liz B-J informed the group that a draft of a new banner is completed and needs final approval. Phill to check with Elaine Scott if she has the stand provided by the PDCF and possibly go in to Prodecal if they have the stand

8. Emergency funds used for eye surgeries with Clara coordinating

- Clara has been supporting 7 people to get to their eye operations with HELPS International in Huehuetenango, Guatemala. Six operations have been completed and she is taking the 7th person now. We hope to receive pictures of these recipients of GSP emergency support and hear more about their stories.

Janet added that $300 was provided to purchase medicine for a Maya man in Comitancillo who has been experiencing increased pressure in his eyes that was making his vision deteriorate. Hopefully the medicine will relieve the pressure and his sight will improve, * There should be some Emergency Funds remaining from the funds collected in an on-line appeal for Roselia in Comitancillo last year.

9. Rising cost of materials for cookstove

As mentioned above, another transfer of 50 was just completed to CEDEC. All of our partners, like everyone due to changing global economic conditions, are experiencing increased costs and are asking for more money to offset the higher costs of building stoves. An order of 50 stoves now costs $14,000 US or about $384 CAN per stove. With the documenting cost for each stove added in, this means each stove now costs nearly $400 apiece to build though we currently advertise that stoves cost $350 CAN.

10. Past events May 21 - get together for Ottawa supporters of GSP

- There was a gathering of Ottawa GSP volunteers, supporters and allies on May 21 at Chances R restaurant in Nepean. Seventeen people attended and enjoyed food and good company

11.Upcoming events

June 6 Ottawa garage sale

Any items that you would be willing to donate can be brought to Liz Ballantyne- Jackson or contact Phill or Liz who will be dropping off items next week

July 17-19 Stewart Park Music Festival

Paul will email out a schedule with shifts that need to be covered over the weekend. Please respond to Paul's email and he will complete the schedule and share with all

July 31- Aug 2. Blue Skies Music Festival

8 people received tickets to help out over the weekend and Liz M. and Phill will be attending Saturday, Sunday. Anyone who is available to help on Monday does not need a ticket to enter the grounds and this is a big clean up day

September. AGM - Date to be determined between either Mon., Sept. 14, Mon., Sept. 21 or Mon., Sept. 28. To be held at the PDCF office on Gore St. in Perth at 7 pm.

October 3. Perth dance and Silent Auction

As there are no meetings from now until September, a committee will need to be struck in early August to plan for the dance and Auction

November Online Silent Auction Other

Janet confirmed we will do another On-line Auction as it seems to have become an opportunity for our supporters to make a yearly donation

12. Other business

-Liz B-J requested anyone who has interesting/ good pictures from the exposure trip or any GSP events to send them to her for use in the calendar. Looking for photos from the Fall events from last year.

-Liz M. will approach the CFUW in Perth to see if they would be willing to make a donation to the GSP

-Phill to see if Projector is among GSP items stored in his basement

13. Date of next meeting (AGM) and adjournment at 7:54 pm