

North Okanagan-Shuswap Green Party Electoral District Association
Annual General Meeting
May 18, 2022

Minutes

1. Meeting by Zoom called to order at 7:05 PM, quorum achieved (13 voting and 2 non voting members).
2. Heather Clay, CEO gave welcoming remarks and introduced special guest, Dr. Amita Kuttner, Interim Leader of the Green Party of Canada.
3. Amita Kuttner spoke generously about their vision for this moment for humanity and the way forward. They spoke about justice, truth, sharing, responsibility and large amount of work to do to rebuild both the Green Party of Canada (GPC) and our society. They spoke about the honour of representing the GPC, which really seems to be considered by all Canadian political parties to be “the conscience of the house”. They spoke about the GPC’s governance struggles making space for everyone and an environment that lines up with our values.

They spoke about the crisis of conflicts (war, injustice, oppression), health, inequality, climate and the political divisions and divisive rhetoric that surrounds them. They find hope and optimism in the broad realization, partially produced by the pandemic, of the awareness of dissatisfaction in society, that governments have forgotten to care about our true needs – food, water, shelter, and caring for each other, and people are ready for a transformation. They believe this is rooted in our societal focus on individuality and extraction, and that individual strength and fighting each other is seen as necessary for survival – that we have created a culture of scarcity in abundance.

They spoke about Greens needing to get in line with green values – what is our vision? What are we capable of? We all want dignity and sustainability, and that is achievable. Structures depend on us and there is excitement in the journey of building the future we want. They spoke of our beautiful planet that contains everything and everyone we love, its interconnectedness and that we are all part of the universe. They asked “why is there so much suffering?” They spoke about the necessity of transformation, and the importance of considering what we want to create, that we have a choice and will create what we expect. Do we expect that we can’t do better or do we dream of a better world? Wellbeing, care and community – in community we can change everything, undermine fears and find resilient ways to get what we need. Current societal structures are too rigid and are fracturing in crisis. Greens can be the guide to dreams for the future through building community and things as simple as “teaching your neighbors to grow carrots”.

Andrea Gunner asked about combatting fear and negativity, to which Amita suggested leading with love, building security at the neighborhood level, establishing community without judgement and tempting people with an irresistible future.

Craig Stone asked about value-based conversation and changing how we talk, which lead to a discussion about readiness and communication.

Janet Parkins asked about current GPC governance issues and how we could encourage movement in the right direction. Amita spoke about the members being the foundation of the party and that currently there is a disconnect between the power and the people, that the GPC is struggling with their own value of participatory democracy and impersonal issues had become personal. They said that they would be holding a town hall which would focus on governance and recommendations which would include a recommendation that the EDAs lead a call for a constitutional update to restore oversight, accountability, participatory democracy and access. They stated that in a structured democratic process it was up to the collective.

Amita Kuttner was thanked for being our guest speaker.

Business Meeting

4. Motion to approve Agenda – moved by Andrea Gunner, seconded by Jane Weixl, passed.
5. Motion to approve 2021 AGM meeting minutes – moved by Jim Boyd, seconded by Janet Parkins, passed.
6. Financial Report was presented by Heather as Marianne Wolters was away. There is a total of \$3,387 in the account at the end of 2021. Further funds are expected to be returned from Andrea's election campaign after Elections Canada complete their review.
7. Motion to approve Financial Report - passed by unanimous poll.
8. Motion to appoint Culver and Company as auditors for 2022 financial year – passed by unanimous poll.
9. CEO Report 2021-2022 by Heather Clay
 - A. GPC Leadership race will be initiated May 24, 2022 with Elections Canada for an unknown length of time.
 - B. Politikos Voter Mapping Report, May 2021 identified priority demographic areas, and recommended connecting especially with the 30% of non-voting district members. The report is interesting, worthwhile and will be useful in future elections.
 - C. Election 2021 – nomination contest held in June with 3 candidates – Geordie McComb, Andrea Gunner and Elizabeth Robertson, resulting in the selection of Andrea Gunner as our candidate. Writ dropped August 15, the beginning of a seriously difficult wildfire season for this area. Election on September 20 in which we did not do as well as hoped. The difficult campaign was overshadowed by the pandemic and was marked by significant disinformation. Despite a good social media presence the Green Party lost support to the People's Party of Canada. The loss of support was attributed mainly to bad press about the national leader, as well as pushback from voters with anti vaccine and anti vaccine passport sentiment.
 - D. Election Lookback – organized by Marianne Wolters and Angie McLaren, ongoing, has so far identified a need for better preparedness and the following positions – communications chair, webmaster, volunteer coordinator, organizing chair, fundraising chair, and a candidate handbook.

10. Events committee report presented by Jane Weixl –

It was agreed that Greens need to be more visible in the community and the committee invited all federal and provincial Greens to share in several events.

- A. December 2021 – Vigil for Heat Dome Victims and those affected by wildfires and atmospheric river flooding with Vernon Climate Action Now! (CAN!) at Harwinder Sandhu, MLA's office.
- B. January 2022 – Snowshoe Outing in Silver Star Provincial Park.
- C. February 2022 – Winter Carnival Parade with a theme of “We Nature” – costumes, banners, signs, music, and a gorgeous day! We even won a prize!
- D. March 2022 – “Day of Action for a Just Transition” coordinated by 350.org with participants from Vernon CAN! and the Sustainable Environment Network Society. Forty people met outside Mel Arnold, MP's office. We had speakers and signed letters to our MP and MLA regarding our recommendations and the need for their action on climate, which we delivered to the politicians.
- E. April 2022 – Earth Day Guided Walk in Swan Lake Reserve guided by naturalists Harold Sellers and Norbert Maertens from the North Okanagan Naturalist Club.
- F. May 2022 – Prose, Poetry and Sharing Evening for Heat Dome and Wildfires co-hosted by the Vernon Library.
- G. We will be taking a summer break and have many great ideas to start up again in the fall!

11. Nominations and Election of Board of Directors - Janet Parkins

- A. The outgoing board was thanked for their valuable contributions.
- B. Five members from the past board and two new nominations were received by the nominations committee. Candidates were each given an opportunity to introduce themselves and speak about why they want to be on the board. Each candidate was elected using Zoom poll including one phone-in voter.

New board of directors for 2022/23:

Heather Clay, Chief Executive Officer

Marianne Wolters, Financial Agent

Jane Weixl, Director

Janet Parkins, Director

Andrea Gunner, Director

David Price, Director

Amy Timleck, Director

Motions for election to the Board of Directors were each passed by unanimous poll.

New Business

12. There was no new business

Adjournment

13. Next EDA meeting will be Wednesday, June 8 at 7pm on Zoom

14. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM, moved by Andrea Gunner, seconded by Angie McLaren, passed

Respectfully submitted by Janet Parkins