

# Saanich Gulf Islands Green Party

## Electoral District Association

### Annual General Meeting

June 18, 2016

#### **Meeting was called to order at 1:10pm**

- Dave Charles confirmed that a quorum of 25 people was present

#### **Approval of Agenda**

- Acknowledged Bruce Hyer, Deputy Leader of the Green Party
- Acknowledged Andrea Oldham West Coast Organizer
- Grace Cockburn moves to approve agenda: Seconder: Jean Simpson

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **Adoption of 2015 Minutes**

- Jocelyn Gifford moves to approve 2015 Minutes. Seconded: Murray Weisenburger

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **Adam Olsen Welcoming Address**

- Recognition of host territory
- Saanich Gulf Island riding very closely encompasses total Wsanec territory
- Proud to have Greens “emerging” in territory of emerging peoples
- Thanks SGI EDA for respectfully representing traditional Wsanec as well as modern Saanich

#### **Acknowledgement of Volunteers**

- Dave acknowledges help from volunteers in setting up room for this event

#### **CEO Report: Recap of the past year (Dave Charles)**

- Successful and fortunate in electing a candidate
- Only 4 visits from Elizabeth in SGI during election campaign
- Draws connection between high campaign spending and extreme generosity of local donors
- 950 people donated about \$200,000
- Recognizes large group of dedicated volunteers for canvassing and more
- Recognizes Ann Eastman and her fabulous efforts as communications chair
- We issue tax receipts. Recognizes tremendous effort of Sharon Forester for her work on keeping us in check with elections canada
- Neil Drewbrook for hard work in data management

- Recognises former coordinator Jocelyn Gifford and thanks Thomas Teuwen for stepping so effectively into her shoes
- Many events on Saanich peninsula and Salt Spring,
- Speaks on the nature of Electoral District Associations and the reality that there are few guidelines in place for how to operate
- Introduces concept of EDA version 2.0 and the opportunity for SGI EDA to assist other green riding association in getting organized and increasing engagement
- Presents concept of fundraising as a price for Green Engagement: roughly cost of cup of coffee every month (after Elections Canada rebate)
- \$10/month, \$120/year, \$90 tax rebate = \$2.50/month donation
- Reminds us that all efforts are being made to support our MP

### **Bruce Hyer Addresses the meeting**

- Speaks on topic of Proportional Representation
- Gives example of distortions of voting behaviour due to current electoral process
- Recognizes that Thomas Teuwen is making great efforts of the front of PR campaign
- Suggests that Liberals are going to make the final decision; persuasion will be necessary
- Insists Alternative Voting is not proportional
- Liberals are run top-down and those at the top do not want PR
- Ensures that the details of PR are not as important as the...
- Presents comic on Carbon Fee & Dividend and explains how this policy would drastically reduce carbon emissions while helping to end poverty

Bruce will email a copy to anyone interested, write to him at: [bruce@brucehyer.ca](mailto:bruce@brucehyer.ca)

- Discusses his transition from NDP to Green Party of Canada
- Praises the hard dedicated work of Elizabeth May
- Thanks all those who show up and offer their time, treasure or talent
- Commits to return to Salt Spring Island to help campaign to Adam Olsen

### **Coordinator's Report (Thomas Teuwen)**

- Expresses gratitude to Jocelyn Gifford, former coordinator
- Points out that our modest fundraising plans will not step on heels of Adam's provincial campaign
- Tells short story about advice from P.E. Trudeau to his young son about holding to his values
- Recognition of Elizabeth hitting the ground running to get govt ready for COP, to great success
- Green Media Group began just in time to see the positive potential
- Explains the power of potlucks in exhibiting a sense of giving and trust, effectively building community; this ritual married to communications technology is how GMG functions
- GMG activities are getting noticed in Ottawa; and it is now possible to actually have influence on sitting government ministers

- Lists numerous location across country where Thomas has travels to hold Green Media Group potlucks
- Focus is on “Reinventing the way democracy is run between elections”
- Gives example of Tween4Canada to Maryam Monsef regarding electoral reform committee make up

**Financial Report (Sharon Forrester):**

- Total income: \$269,000
- Spent non election expenses: \$80,000
- \$350,000 towards election including \$200,000 campaign for elizabeth
- Some contributions to other EDAs
- Contribution to GPC to further some of their activities
- \$133,000 towards other associations from prior savings and generous contributions
- Confident that money was well-utilized
- \$67,000 remain in bank at end of year
- Still expect rebate from Elections Canada once their audit is complete

Sharon Forrester MOVES to approve financial report: Seconded by: Sue Sheane

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Constitution and Bylaws (Dave Charles):**

- Draft done by september and will be posted on website
- Expresses need for a more robust set of operational guidelines especially when making sizable financial decisions
- Better guidelines around how this EDA runs internal election process
- Will set out rules on terms
- About confidence and transparency between executive and membership

**Elections of the Executive Committee (Grace Cockburn)**

- Explains procedure before beginning

Position of CEO:

- Asked for nominations from the floor three times
- No nominations made
- Dave Charles is reelected by acclamation

Position of Financial Agent:

- Sharon agrees to stand again
- Asks for nomination from the floor three times

Sharon reelected by acclamation

Positions of Members at Large:

- 7 are existing executive members
- Introduces candidates present
- Asks for nominations from the floor
- Jean Simpson nominates herself
- All candidates elected by acclamation

Dave Charles gives thanks to recurring and new executive members

Question:

How is the position of secretary assigned/filled?

Dave: Three formal positions: CEO, FA, Secretary, but we've had chairs for several responsibilities. Please to have representation from across the riding and as diverse a make-up of individuals

Question suggesting the opportunity to still recruit two more members to the executive

Dave elaborate on how members bring their special talents and are

Jack: Notes appreciation for Thomas' sunday newsletter. Expresses thanks to the individual who sends out the parliamentary week in review

Elizabeth mentions the individual

Recognition to Laura Parker for hard work in background

Dave: Don Scott is leaving EDA; thanks for political wisdom he has brought

Recognition to Marilyn Redivo for tremendous contribution

ADDRESS FROM ELIZABETH:

- Gives great thanks to the executive and underlines the utmost importance of this highly functioning leadership of this local organization
- Ken Melamed to become President of GPC
- National recognized the great potential of the work Thomas Teuwen has champion with the Green Media Group potlucks
- Identifies unique position during last federal campaign of SGI and specifically Marliyn and Jocelyn in having the best locally funded campaign

- Points out that more and more Greens are being elected locally, provincially and nationally
- Shares reality that this session in parliament is extremely hard
- Expresses hope that many SGI Greens will be able to attend 2016 convention in Ottawa
- Explains that toxic strategic voting was instrumental in swaying local Green voters away
- Focus in general these days in 'fixing what Harper broke' - and having success already
- Made effort immediately post election to meet with all newly appointed ministers to express top concerns
- Bill C6 repeal most of what was in Bill C24 on immigration
- Emphasizes broken beaurocracy giving bad advice to ministers and serious inertia within parliament
- Re-emphasizes great value of Green Media Group's grassroots campaign: Tweet4Canada
- Still working hard on list of post-Harper fixes
- Speaks on new summer responsibilities of Electoral Reform Committee
- Expresses hope for post first-past-the-post era in ushering in a far more cooperative parliament
- Every MP is being asked to hold a town all on Electoral Reform and report back
  
- Every committee meeting should be televised/live-streamed
- Need to assign spot for questions from public for Canadians to tweet in live during committee meetings
- Really pushing for innovative means of engagements

Takes questions:

Question on deadline for committee to report back

- E: November will be spent writing reports
- Committee travelling most of August and September
- Stakes are high if committee fails
- Job one for Greens right now is ensuring that the recommendation to parliament are for a true proportional representation

Changes on CSA

- Gives report on current state of Canadian intelligence services
- Closes by listing numerous key issues and policies under review that would benefit from citizen engagement
- Encourages everyone to once again contact politicians a tell them what you think

Dave requests executive members to huddle for a quick discussion

MOTION to adjourn made by Harald Hommel at 3:20pm

