

Toronto Climate Action Network – General Meeting May 11, 2013 - Minutes

Present: Liz Rice, Anthony Ketchum, Rita Bijons, Judy Vellend, Paul Antze, Patricia Warwick, Rob Shirkey, Kai Reimer-Watts, Adriana Mugnatto-Hamu, Milan Ilnyckyj, Bruce Stewart, Amelia Rose Khan, Ben Donato-Woodger

Applications received to date:

Citizens Climate Lobby
Climate Citizens
For Our Grandchildren
Green 13
Green Neighbours 21
Just Earth
Our Horizon Society
Post Carbon Toronto
Toronto350.org
Transition Toronto
Zero Carbon Ontario

Application pending: Council of Canadians, Toronto Chapter

Election of Officers

Nominations

Chair

Nomination of Paul Antze by Judy Vellend, seconded by Bruce Stewart

Treasurer

Nomination of Kathryn Tait by Adriana Mugnatto-Hamu, seconded by Liz Rice

Other Steering Committee Members

Nomination of Kai Reimer-Watts by Rob Shirkey, seconded by Kai

Nomination of Liz Rice by Liz Rice, seconded by Paul Antze

Nomination of Benjamin Donato-Woodger by Benjamin, seconded by Anthony Ketchum

Nomination of Judy Vellend by Adriana Mugnatto-Hamu, seconded by Paul Antze

Nomination of Patricia Warwick by Adriana Mugnatto-Hamu, seconded by all present

Decision: For this meeting, each nominee must receive at least 50% of votes of those present to be elected.

Some info about candidates:

Adriana reported that Kathryn has served as treasurer for PCT in the past, and that she is competent and hard-working.

Ben shared a bit of information about himself. The group he works with is Climate Citizens in Etobicoke. It lobbies local MPs, and does education and outreach in high schools. He has been involved in Just Earth, and has access to the U. of T. environment listserv.

Kai shared a bit of information about himself. He is currently working for Our Horizons. His biggest interest is bringing groups together to share their wisdom. He is writing a novel, and has a blog, on the theme of climate change. He will be doing a Masters in Waterloo in the fall.

Motion to destroy ballots after election. Passed.

The ballots were counted and the full slate was accepted.

Report from Communications Team – Patricia

- this team (which consists of just Patricia to date) is responsible for the website and newsletters
- thanks to Milan for the header
- we need a policy re what events are accepted for the calendar; policies to date:
 - must be posted, though not necessarily hosted, by a member group
 - must relate directly to climate change mitigation or adaptation
- if anyone other than Patricia posts events, they will need a user account
- recommendation: one other person should know the access code; the Steering Committee should address this
- Milan has had difficulty accessing the site: perhaps it's a U. of T. firewall
- announcements are also on the site
- there are 2 forms of the newsletter:
 - public: events and announcements; anyone can subscribe
 - members only: reminders of meetings; may now be just for official members
- do we need something for interaction; there was discussion re pros and cons of forums and google groups
- each campaign could set up its own google group
- each group can report via newsletter
- security may be an issue with google groups; info is public; if security becomes an issue we'll deal with it at the time

Report from Outreach Team

- 2 meetings have been held to discuss outreach; mostly brainstorming, from simple ideas to much more ambitious
- suggestion: it's time now to get a little more focused and look at what an outreach team could do to further TCAN's objectives, and what people can bring to the table to make those things happen
- there are in fact 3 components to outreach
 - public education
 - outreach to current members (to maintain interest and commitment)
 - outreach to potential new members
- Judy will organize another meeting of the outreach team; Adriana, Ben and Kai also interested

- thanks to Patricia; the website already performs an outreach function via event listings; and group profiles should come soon; perhaps one of our outreach tasks is to let people know about the site
- the outreach team should connect with the Steering Committee

Campaigns

suggestions:

- 1 – lobby MPs in their local constituency offices all around the city during the last week of June and the first week of July; Just Earth has composed a letter, and will provide more info.
- 2 – Our Horizons suggests that people make a presentation to the Licensing and Standards Committee on June 27th in support of a request for a staff report on Our Horizons proposal; Rob and Kai will prepare a one-page Action Alert to give people all the info they need to act on this
- 3 – Rita emphasized the importance of keeping alive a report commissioned by the city on the city’s future weather and need for adaptation; Green 13 and Green Neighbours 21 have held meetings on this; are there other groups that could also do so?; the need for extensive adaptation is an argument for mitigation
- 4 – Anthony reported on a meeting in Peterborough on May 25th “Waking Up to Catastrophe”; he also mentioned that For Our Grandchildren will be involved in a big demonstration on Earth Day next year in Ottawa

discussion:

- Citizens Climate Lobby is developing a roster of experts; TCAN members can be called upon to help create this list
- whenever we’re in Ottawa we should try to meet with MPs
- what about lobbying civil servants; CCL asks to speak with a Minister or his/her policy person or aid; in the past civil servants were respected; now they’re expected to toe the line
- Milan: perhaps the arrival of the pandas would provide an opportunity to do some education re the threat to the supply of their bamboo because of climate change
- there are 2 stages to a campaign: planning, and getting the numbers out
- should TCAN speak, or individual groups? it’s probably more effective to have different organizations
- would TCAN support electoral reform to get a more environment-friendly party into power?; there is some concern re whether this would be effective
- suggestion: at election time, set up all-candidates meetings, ideally a number throughout the city, focusing on environmental issues
- Liz: CCL believes in building relationships, so wouldn’t support anything anti-Conservative
- change will happen from the bottom up; the federal government is not likely to act