

PEOPLE'S POTATO

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 8th, 2011

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SIGN-IN & SIGN-OUT SHEET

Lisa Lapkin

volunteer

Ingrid Ramonta

2271621

Julia Kent

volunteer

Christopher Erb

5856256

Nauss Steeves

Volunteer

Aaron Barlant

9794204

Davita Guslits

6421679

Ivo Pendev

5877873

Kota Harbron

9059520

Ian Bradley

volunteer

Siobhan Kuzak

volunteer

Feral Sage

volunteer

Adam Monaghan

Volunteer

Elizabeth Mackenzie

1977989

Andreanne Levesque

6333931

Joey Cloyne

1962695

Sarah Cote Janelle

2655870

Lorraine Donald

6170706

Jamiey Kelly

9435778

Jeylan Bishop

1129961

Sam Nebosdidig

Volunteer

Heather Nagy

5797640

George Itli

6196977

Colin Wintz

Volunteer

Enrico Lima

Volunteer

Naomi Lange

Volunteer

Gustavo Rodriguez

collective member

S. Jeyathanson

6152805

Elizabeth Higgins

collective member

Lili Eskinazi

collective member

Sarah Lebeau

2679434

David Kuzak

Volunteer

Jim Parks

9517110

Kwaku Adomako

9301941

Michael Heinermann

9438498

Simon Devey Smith

Volunteer

Tracy Wilken

6243455

Gabriella Pedicelli

collective member

Laura Roberts

collective member

Lael Kim

1391968

Guillaume de Montbron

2056386

Diego Eibar

4873394

Vincent Sanjivy

6382428

Pierre Henri Gilotte

6380763

Vianney Laverne

6381375

Alex Matak

collective member

Catherine Delisle

Volunteer

Tobi Crowe

volunteer

Opening

- Sign-in sheets provided at the welcome table in front of food-service area
-
- The People's Potato provided food for all in attendance
-
- Copies of the People's Potato 2010-2011 Annual Report, Comparative Income Statement, 2010 Annual General Meeting minutes and 2011 Annual General meeting Agenda are distributed for perusal during supper

Meeting Begins at 5:30pm

Facilitator (Ashley)

- Welcomes all those in attendance
-
- Introduces herself, the electoral officer (Chris), the minute taker (David) and child care provider (Lenora).
-

- Asks if anyone needs translation of the meeting into French, as there are volunteers who could provide the service – but by show of hands, no translation into French is required
-
- Asks if there is anyone representing the media present – but there is not
-
- Circulates 2010-2011 Annual Report, 2010 Annual General Meeting minutes & financial statement
- - Question (Julia): how many meetings per year
 -
 - Answer (Ashley): usually just once except when extraordinary circumstances arise
 -
-
- Explains procedures and logistics of meeting:
- - quorum: requires the attendance of a minimum of 30 active members
 -
 - encourages people not to leave before election in order to maintain quorum
 -
 - asks that cell phones be turned off
 -
 - board elections: conducted by secret ballot
 -
- Explains decision making process
- - According to constitution, meeting run by Robert's Rules – briefly covers key points
 -
 - Decisions have to be passed by 2/3 of voting members (those signed in)
 -
 - There are ways to intervene during the meeting
 -

-point of order: regarding rules not being followed

-point of privilege: regarding something that is preventing a member from fully participating, i.e., can't hear or see

- However there is no need to be overly formal
-
- To pass a decision, motion needs to be moved and seconded then

passed by a vote

-
- Question (Julia): what if there is not a 2/3 majority?
-
- Answer (Ashley): motion doesn't pass
-
- Question : why do we have to sign in?
-
- Answer (Ashley): Signing in is to record you as an active member (Concordia student, volunteer, Collective member) who counts towards quorum
-
- Reminds attendees to sign out when they leave
-
- States that she will keep note of numbers to ensure that quorum is maintained
-
- Identifies agenda written on board and reads it out
-
- Heather moves to approve
-
- Gaby seconds
-
- decision: unanimously approved
-
-
- Identifies 2010 Annual General Meeting minutes (see appendix I) previously circulated
-
- Gustavo moves to approve
-
- Jeylan seconds
-
- decision: approved – 1 abstention
-

Introduction (Gustavo):

- Brief history of People's Potato and overview of work & mission provided – all information can be found in 2010-2011 Annual Report and web site: see Annual Report 2010-2011 (Appendix II)
-
- A worker-run collective vegan soup kitchen
-
- Serves 400 meals every day
-

- in operation for 11 years and has expanded
-
- in addition to lunches it addresses broader goals of anti-poverty, social justice and environmental sustainability
-
- it is a fee levy group

Board Update (Kwaku/Jeylan/Mike)

- Currently 9 members on the board
-
- Board can consist of 5 to 9 members elected at Annual General Meeting
-
- Duties consist of: setting policy, acting as arbiter on disputes within collective, ensuring financial viability, managing discretionary funds and ensuring maintenance of the constitution and organizational mandate
-
- Last year the board spearheaded a tups and cuts project geared towards fundraising
-
- Provided tabling help
-
- Collaborated with the collective in the launch of second edition of People's Potato cookbook
-
- Launched zine: Potato Peel

Potato Update

Kitchen (Elizabeth):

- main duties include: make sure kitchen is well stocked (order bulk grains, beans etc., purchase produce at market and pick up food donations from food bank) and maintain clean safe kitchen
-
- Shelves have been purchased for organizing food to make the kitchen more efficient
-
- Floors have been redone making them easier to keep clean
-
- A new stove was bought
-
- Fridge was painted

-
- Offered regular food banks: use to be only during exam time, last year held food bank services once a month and are looking to increase that to twice a month

Garden (Ivo/Heather):

- Main summer project for over 6 years
-
- Garden located at the Loyola campus
-
- Many volunteers took part
-
- Harvest was plentiful: surplus distributed to NDG Food Depot and volunteers
-
- children participation from “Head and Hands’ Yong Parent Program”
-
- held workshops
-
- collaborated with the Concordia greenhouse as the Realitea Project, the Loyola City farm School and vert ta ville.

Solidarity (Laura/Gustavo):

- works in solidarity with community groups in mobilization for social justice and environmental sustainability by offering access to kitchen or by cooking for events
-
- provided food to events such as Anarchist Book Fair and QPIRG’s Study in Action Conferences
-
- offered kitchen to Velo Velo
-
- Solidarity servings continue to grow

Education (Alex):

- External education:
- - Provided a free workshop every month: workshop focused on issues of food production, combining politics with practical information
 -
-
- Internal education (for internal collective members):
- - Held educational workshops, collective members underwent MAPAQ certification (kitchen health and safety), held Anti Oppression training

○

Volunteering (Gaby):

- volunteers are an essential part of the functioning of the Potato
-
- only three collective members working at one time, the rest are volunteers
-
- mailing list has over 150 subscribers
-
- need volunteer to help produce and serve food daily as well as cleaning, tabling and helping with solidarity requests
-
- At beginning of semester hold a volunteer orientation: walk them through kitchen, provide them with info on being a volunteer
-
- Could volunteer for any amount of time
-
- At end of semester hold a Volunteer Appreciation party: last year held a Greek-themed party and an Arabic-themed party
-
- Provide internal training for volunteers: this year held a MOTION workshop looking at making the kitchen more accessible for people with disabilities

Year-End Goals (Lili)

- Last year's goals were focused on education, both within and outside the university
- Gave presentation at John Abbot on how the Potato runs
-
- Continued involvement with other social justice organization through solidarity serving
-
- Improved accessibility of kitchen: held MOTION workshop – adapting kitchen for people with limited mobility
-
- Worked on the translation of all policies
- This year one of this year's goals is on food security
- With regards to food sourcing- looking for more sustainable ways of sourcing food
 - Looking in to buying more local, organic food
 -
 - Developing relations with local farmers
 -
 - Paying attention to working conditions of farms
 -
 - Looking to increase food bank service from once per month to twice per month – making food more accessible

-
- Involvement in the reclaiming of student and community space and mobilizing effort against corporatization of student and community space
-
- Anti-Oppression: educating the collective and volunteers on the politics and practice of anti-oppression – holding monthly internal collective anti-oppression training workshops
-
- Solidarity: continuing to build links with other organizations with similar mandates
- - Question : are anti-oppression workshops only for the collective members?
 -
 - Answer: so far it is only collective members, have talked about opening it up to board
 -
 - Question: How big is the garden?
 -
 - Answer: 55x65 square feet, 50 meters squared
 -
 - Question: have any new members been hired?
 -
 - Answer: 4 new members – Sam, Kota, Lorraine and Jamiey
 -

Financial Update (Heather)

- Kitchen in healthy financial state
-
- Last year was a good year: invested in kitchen supplies and equipment
-
- Looking at comparative income statement: see that budgeted for less total revenue than actually brought in – surplus in general revenue
-
- Food budget was well estimated: estimated cost of \$17,000, actually spent just over \$16,000
-
- Came under budget everywhere except Payroll Expense: spent more on labour for such things as solidarity event which often require working overtime and on weekends
-
- Net sales of cookbook were \$2700
-
- Accounting fees were higher as we hired a professional accounting company to

balance and close books for last 2 years

-
- Have surplus of just under \$40,000
- - Question: what does language training cost refer to?
 -
 - Answer: offer to pay for language training courses of collective members
 -
 - Question : what does university bad debt expense refer to?
 -
 - Answer: was created in 2007 for an old debt – there was a discrepancy in past, budget line can't be removed, but bad debt was solved awhile ago
 -
 - Question: why do you keep the goal of a \$40,000 surplus?
 -
 - Answer: revenue comes from fee levy – sometimes money doesn't come in right away, so we don't always have it by the time the kitchen starts up in August
 -
 - Question : can people get copy of budget from the Potato
 -
 - Answer: yes, you can ask for an up to date budget – very transparent
 -
 - Question: what's an amortization expense?
 -
 - Answer: it refers to depreciation of asset value, we don't own space and is evaluated as such – will be meeting with accountant to see why it is not closed
 -
 - Point of Clarification (Gustavo): space was claimed by students on informal basis, have informal access to kitchen – there is no formal contract with the university – we are working on that
 -
 - Laura: have ongoing contract with CSU to use space, but don't pay rent, so no concrete claim to space, so could be taken away at any time
 -

Nominations and Elections

Electoral officer (Chris) explains election procedures:

- Board:

- must consist of a minimum of 5 members and a maximum of 9 volunteer board members
-
- more than half of the board have to be current Concordia students
-
- one year term
-
- members can sit on board consecutively but must be renominated and elected
-
- can nominate themselves, must be seconded, provide brief (2 minute) presentation
-
- if nominated you can decline
-

- **Nominations:**

-

- Jeylan Bishop (student):
 -
- Jim nominates
-
- Jim Parks (student):
 -
-
- Mike nominates
-
- Mike Heinermann (student):
 -
-
- Jeylan nominates
-
- Ian Bradley (non-student):
 -
-
- Gustavo nominates
-
- Sophia Bachilova (non-student):
 -
-
- Gaby nominates
-

- Davita Guslits (student):
 -
 -
 - Guillaume nominates
 -
 - Guillaume de Montbron (student)
 -
 -
 - nominates self
 -
- Tobi Crowe (non-student)
- - nominates self
 -

- **Mini speeches:**

1 Jeylan

- Was on board last year, wants to continue, likes the Potato
 -

2. Jim:

- On board last year, feels a lot was accomplished, wants to continue
 -

3. Mike:

- on the board last 2 years
-
- looking to add more responsibilities to board
-
- last year showed that had capacity but can do more
-

4. Ian

- is a new volunteer, spends time at the Potato
-
- wants to join board to learn more

5. Sophia

- on board for 2 years, wants to come back

-
- she was the board member involved in the hiring process
-

6. Davita

- she volunteers at the Potato and wants to get more involved

7. Guillaume

- He is a new volunteer, wants to work behind the scenes at the Potato
-
- Looking forward to the work
-

8. Tobi

- She is a community member volunteer
-
- wants to contribute to the Potato

- **Voting:**

(Chris)

- write name of nominees you want to vote for and names of nominees you want to block
-
- if a nominee receives 1/3 or more blocked votes, then must be removed and cannot be considered
-
- ballot votes will be ranked from most to least, but at least half of members need to be students so a student nominee with fewer votes may depose another nominee with more votes who is not a student

(Ashley)

- Close to losing quorum, so asks that people stay for the vote
-
- It's important that elections happen by the book

■ Voting Results

-
- Chris announces the results: 31 ballots cast, everyone was elected
-

Thank yous and congratulations are extended

Closing

- Alex moves to adjourn meeting
- Gaby seconds
-
- decision: unanimously approved