

CGPA 2015 Annual General Meeting (Toronto, Ontario) Minutes - Final

Date: May 7, 2015

Attendance sheet attached

President/Chair: Joan-Dianne Smith

Secretary: Colleen Wilkie

Supplemental Documents:

2014 AGM Minutes

2014 Year-end Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ending December 31st 2014 (circulated to members via email)

1. Introduction and welcome

The AGM started at 4:15 pm. Joan-Dianne Smith introduced the board members present (Maureen Coleman, Lois Goodman, Jackie Kinley, Ken Schwartz, Wendy Wildfong, and Colleen Wilkie) and welcomed CGPA members to the AGM. (Regrets: Stephen Gillies, Kasra Khorasani, Jane Mitchell, Ward Yuzda).

2. Minutes of last year's AGM

Colleen Wilkie summarized the minutes from the 2014 AGM. *Motion (moved by Allan Surkis, seconded by Andre Roch) to accept the minutes as received. Carried.*

3. President's Report

Joan-Dianne Smith reported the following:

a) Distinguished Fellowship: John Salvendy was recommended for a Distinguished Fellowship which will be presented at the soiree.

b) Governance and Structure: Instead of having an executive sub-committee, there are a number of committees and sub-committees that meet outside the board meetings and then report back to the board as a whole. The secretary and president receive agenda items and develop the agenda prior to the board meetings.

c) Conference Planning: Joan-Dianne reviewed the conference planning structure developed which outlines the relationships between various sub-committees and First Stage, the company providing administrative support to CGPA. She stated that this formalizes the learning in planning the conferences.

d) Relationship with the Canadian Group Psychotherapy Foundation: Joan-Dianne stated that a Memo of Understanding had been developed by the presidents of CGPA and the Foundation. Both boards have passed this document and it will be posted on the CGPA website.

e) Endeavour: Endeavour provides the board with direction regarding marketing, for example how to grow our network and leveraging our strengths in training. Recommendations in these areas are then followed-up on by the Communication and Marketing Committee and National Training Committee.

f) Membership Committee: There are currently 100 members and a letter will be going out to lapsed members inviting them to return. Biographical information on past presidents and fellows is being requested for posting on the website. A mentorship program has been developed.

g) Communication and Marketing: Rowan Sharkey was thanked for her editorship of the newsletter, In the Loop.

h) National Training Committee: The focus will be on generating income of products developed (e.g., online offerings, webinars) and an increased focus on training relevant to the corporate sector.

i) **Finances:** CGPA continues to struggle financially and the board will be reviewing member feedback regarding the conference for direction as to how to proceed regarding future conferences.

Joan-Dianne reported that in general, CGPA has been in a period of change and transition with more recent consolidation.

Motion (moved by Ruth B Z Thomson, seconded by Allan Sheps) to accept the President's Report as received. Carried.

4. Financial Report

Doug Rosser from First Stage summarized the financial report previously circulated to members. He reported that CGPA is fiscally solvent with about \$23,000 net worth/working capital with about \$50,000 flow through. In 2014 CGPA made ~\$2,000 with a loss of ~\$5,000 for a total loss of about \$3,000. He stated that in the early years of an organization additional money is needed to fund initiatives, and encouraged us to increase our membership base. He described the budget process as focusing on priorities and affordability with a quarterly review with the board. He informed members that the books are kept in Toronto at the First Stage office and are available for review by members at any time.

Motion (moved by Ken Schwartz, seconded by Maureen Coleman) to accept the Financial Report as received. Carried.

5. Survey of members and attendees regarding future conferences

Doug Rosser from First Stage reported that a survey will be emailed to attendees shortly. He stated there are four main questions:

1. Should we rotate the conference location?
2. Should we have the conference in the spring or fall, yearly or every 18 months?
3. Should we change the length/size of the program (e.g., four days? Isolating the training, and ETGs?)
4. Should we partner with other organizations' conferences?

6. Election of four new board members

Colleen Wilkie as Nominations Committee chair reported that the committee revised and updated documents that are posted on the website. A call for nominations went out to members February 19 with a deadline of April 10. Four applications were accepted by the board on April 13; all met the criteria, including two years membership in CGPA: Aida Cabechina (nominated by Allan Sheps); John Sherry (nominated by Lois Goodman and Sandy Ramsay); Rowan Sharkey (nominated by Joan-Dianne Smith); Ruth BZ Thomson (nominated by Joan-Dianne Smith). Each nominee introduced themselves to the membership. Nominations were accepted from the floor. Colleen informed the membership that the board supported nominations from the floor consistent with the values of transparency, inclusion and encouraging member involvement. Andre Roch (nominated by Terry Simonik) nominated himself from the floor, provided a short introduction to the membership, completed the nomination package of documents, and had his two years' membership confirmed by First Stage. An election by secret ballot was held. First Stage counted the ballots resulting in the following four elected board members: Aida Cabechina, Andre Roch, John Sherry, and Rowan Sharkey. Ruth B Z Thomson was thanked for her application and invited to remain involved through committee participation.

7. Thanks to four retiring board members

Joan-Dianne thanked the retiring board members (Maureen Coleman, Lois Goodman, Jackie Kinley, and Janice Popp) on behalf of the board and CGPA for their commitment, hard work, and vision especially during a period of transition in CGPA.

8. Special tribute to the former Toronto Training Program

A review of the history of the Toronto Training Program and its accomplishments was provided by Maureen Coleman. The Toronto Training Program including those present at the AGM (Aida Cabechina, Maureen Coleman, Alina Isaac, Susan Farrow, Karen Redhill-Feinstein, Allan Sheps, Joan-Dianne Smith, and Kelli Young) and all others involved over the last 25 years were honoured for their contributions.

9. Closing

The AGM adjourned at 5:30 pm. Joan-Dianne Smith invited attendees to join her for refreshments.