

Slow Food Canada National Meeting Minutes
Sunday, May 6, 2012, 8:30 am to 12:10
Hotel Selkirk, Edmonton Alberta

Minutes taken by **Grace Evans** and revised by **Valerie Lugonja**
Presided over by Interim President **Bobby Grégoire** Grégoire

Attendance

Delegates

1. Joanne MacKinnon
2. Sinclair Philip
3. Alison Bell
4. Jacqueline Chalmers
5. Kris Vester
6. Valerie Lugonja
7. Tom Rudge
8. Voula Halliday
9. Marianne Stewart
10. Laurie Knechtel
11. Bobby Grégoire
12. Michael Howell
13. Angus Bonnyman
14. Mara Jernigan

Convivium

- Vancouver (BC)
Victoria (BC)
Columbia Valley (BC)
Southern Alberta (AB)
Calgary (AB)
Edmonton (AB)
Whitehorse (YT)
Toronto (ON)
Superior (ON)
Perth County (ON)
Montreal (QU)
Nova Scotia Mainland (NS)
Northumberland Shore (NS)
Past President

Observers

1. Heather Pritchard
 2. Glenda Wah
 3. Janet Henderson
 4. Kathleen Charpentier
 5. Cynthia Strawson
 6. Thea Moss
 7. Maria Iocobelli
 8. Jennifer Cockrall-king
 9. Colleen Ingoldsby
 10. Laura Buckley
 11. Penny McKinlay
 12. Ingrid Jarrett
 13. Judy Corser
- Vancouver (BC)
Columbia Valley (BC)
Calgary (AB)
Calgary (AB)
Edmonton (AB)
Edmonton (AB)
Edmonton (AB)
Edmonton (AB)
Edmonton (AB)
Toronto (ON)
Saskatoon (SK)
Okanagan (BC)
Vancouver (BC)

Lillia Smelkova – Guest on Saturday only

8:30 Welcome and greetings: Bobby

MOTION 1:

Michael Howell: I move that if 11 rolls around and there is still business to take care of I move that we continue the meeting and miss the tour.

- Secunder not recorded. Approved by all.

CONGRESS DELEGATE Presentation

Victoria:

- The international criteria is that every country that has at least 50 members has the right to 1 delegate; with 1000 members there is the right to 1 delegate per 100 members therefore Canada can have 11 delegates
- suggestion was made between March and April to SFC executive and there was a big change in membership, but we must April 30th as the final number of members for this purpose

Presentation of suggestion, and discussion was had with the final suggestion being:

Congress 2012 Updated: 30/04/2012

CV/Province	Members	CV	Members	Congress delegates
<i>1 delegate from each Convivia with more than 100 members:</i>				
CV Toronto	153	Toronto	153	1
CV Calgary	134	Calgary	134	1
CV Edmonton	113	Edmonton	113	1
<i>1 delegate from each province with more than 100 and less than 150 members:</i>				
Nova Scotia - 2 CV	123	Nova Scotia	82	1
		Northumberland Shore	41	
BC - 2 CV	107	Vancouver	74	1
		Vancouver Island	33	
<i>2 delegates from each province with more than 150 members:</i>				
Quebec (3 CV)	174	Abitibi - Témiscamingue	62	2
		Montreal	64	
		Vallée de la Batiscan - Mauricie	48	
		Prince Edward County	35	
Ontario CV (7 CV)	171	Perth County	34	2
		Lanark County	20	
		Sault Ste Marie	20	
		Slow Food Superior	26	
	171	Southern Alberta	36	
Int Counsilor				1
SF Canada Board				1
				Total 11

MOTION 2

Angus Bonnyman moved to accept this (above) proposal

- **Tom Rudge** seconded.
- **Angus Bonnyman** calls for a question.
- Unanimous vote.

Victoria Smelkova: At the beginning of March there were 1135 and at the beginning of April there were 950 (approx) members in Canada.

Michael Howell: Up to what date do we have to physically decide the names?

Victoria Smelkova: End of June

MOTION 3

Michael Howell: I move that we leave this discussion about the non-functional convivia to the next exe to discuss as their first order of business **ACTION**

- **Angus Bonnyman** seconded

- **Paolo di Croce:** Something that really makes a difference in Italy years ago when we decided to close some inactive convivia. Very often closing a convivium means starting something more active in its place. Don't be afraid to do this.
- Carried unanimously.

Canadian Counselor Discussion

Paolo di Croce: re Canadian Counselor

- In SFI there are 3 levels of governing bodies: of the International Council, Carlo is the President and our idea is that we would like to have one person in this group representing Canada, and of course it would be best if you decide this. If you agree that we will discuss this with the executive committee
- This is to be agreed in the country, if there is agreement, the country decides. If there is no agreement then we can decide.

Sinclair Philip: That person should be fluently French and English, if they spoke Italian that will be great as well.

Mara Jernigan: Bilingual is important in our country,

Michael Howell: **Sinclair Philip** what are your intentions?

Sinclair Philip: I don't know yet, my mandate ends at the World Congress.

Michael Howell: This is the last time we'll all be in the same group for the next 4 years to discuss. If we are transitioning to a new phase, I would recommend that **Bobby Grégoire** be considered for the role, if he would consider it. **Bobby Grégoire** is fluently bilingual and has done admirable role. I think we should think about succession.

Bobby Grégoire: **Sinclair Philip** asked me already if I would consider, in the interest of transparency. I must check with my partner first before I decide.

Michael Howell: Is that something you would be happy to mentor him? **Sinclair Philip:** I need to think about whether I would step down, but also I would mentor him.

Angus Bonnyman: Can we set a deadline?

Mara Jernigan: I would suggest not in August, offices in Italy are closed then.

Valerie Lugonja: Can we say June 15th; if that's the end of the application process then we can have someone before we break for summer.

Mara Jernigan: Yes the applications should be open, but given what it takes we need someone who is active and proven active, has attended many national meetings.

Paolo di Croce: It is natural, it is not a position that requires a lot of time, I hope that in the future it will require a lot of time in the future.

Sinclair Philip: I spent a lot of time in Canada but hopefully the new person could do less work and Exec committee can take on more work.

Paolo di Croce: I also want this person coming from a big group, from a convivium. I want to know and to feel what is happening from Canada. I want to share ideas and experiences, so you need to be active here. Experience, knowledge and involvement are important in this person.

Joanne McKinnon: I agree with **Bobby Grégoire's** nomination, is there anyone who could be Plan B?

Voula Halliday: I would love this opportunity. I don't speak French; I would learn it to do so. My barrier is the French. I don't know that I am most qualified but I am interested.

Paolo di Croce: I don't know that language is the most important.

Mara Jernigan: I think it is more important on the Canadian level.

MOTION 4 ACTION

Angus Bonnyman: I move to set June 15th as the deadline to get nominations in for those interested in being the International Counselor should Sinclair step down.

- **Valerie Lugonja** seconded the motion
- Passed unanimously

FINAL WORDS FROM Paolo di Croce

Paolo di Croce:

- I hope that the elections will go without problem, one of the things that you have done a very good job with, you discuss but there are not fights. This happens in many places in the world. I really hope that you will keep this attitude in the next 4 years growing with ideas, with one project, this is very important.
- It is very important to trust people and to empower people. This is why we exist, to trust people.
- When the executive is elected, we must support them. We will not always agree with everything they say. But we must remember to protect diversity, promote diversity.
- At the end, we must have someone to decide, we need leadership, we need action, we need this balance.

- I really believe that if you can identify one thing, one common project can be a real food strength and solution to the national organization: the TM Day can be the unifying element, I like the idea.
- I like the one thing, but my ideal would be to ask each convivium to add something like Time for Lunch in the states, whatever you want, but to clearly say that it is a fundraising for Slow Food in Canada. To create the connection between local and global. Don't be afraid to ask people to be members.
- visit other Slow Food projects somewhere in the world; for me the life changing experience is to spend time in many countries seeing their projects
- Everyone should become members: it is important to do everything we can to change the food system.
- This is the last thing, thank you to all of you for the time and patience and everything that you are doing in your slow food groups.
- Thank you **Mara Jernigan**, one day there will be 1000 members in Belize.
- Thanks **Bobby Grégoire**, he has spent so much time in the last 6 months, the way he handled this meeting very well, thank you and I hope that you can find a way to spend all of the time you have spent in the last 6 months but remember that will never be free for SF.
- Lastly, **Valerie Lugonja** this conference was very well organized. Congratulations.
- Hopefully we will all meet again in Torino. Sorry if I am a chicken without a head and not being able to recognize you.

Structure of SFC and Elections

PROPOSAL for a New SFC Leadership Structure

Michael Howell:

- I've been to 4 national meetings now so **Janet Henderson**, myself **Sinclair Philip** and **Mara Jernigan** are the only people here from 4 years ago. When we get together once a year there is a lot pressure to create something.
- The strength of our conviviums is always back where we are; I sit thousands of km away from you.
- It is hard for one person to coordinate it. In Toronto a board of 19 people was proposed, some of whom were pre-chosen; it was difficult for people who were new, to walk into a position that you didn't know how to fill or have the time to fill.
- These national meetings are full of leaders who are already busy; the additional layering of a national responsibility is a lot; only 4 of us are here from 4 year ago.
- How do we have someone take over national president when we don't have a national association? We aren't registered federally, we don't have a CRA number, we are not a legal entity. We tried over the last 3 years to establish a board that has to be on the CRA form, so that people can get charitable tax receipts. We don't have an official organization and nobody was stepping behind that
- You need 2500 members to be a national association.
- Now we hear from **Paolo di Croce** that many national associations are falling apart in other countries.
- SF is a cooperative that works together with people to share responsibilities. That happens in our convivium; we function because we have a dedicated board of members. I think the only way to do this is to share it. To create a board that shares the responsibility.
- The single most important thing we can do is to ensure a national voice for the country, to share the successes of each locality.
- The brass tacks here are a steering com or advisory board, or 5-6 people, with a rotating chair position, with people who actually communicate.
- The position is daunting when we are still so fragmented. Can we support this new structure?
- We need a few specified positions: a Treasurer and an Ark Coordinator

MOTION 5

Angus Bonnyman moved that we hold an election to elect an executive for the next 12 months and that they recommend a new structure for SFC with proper notice at the next GM

- **Kris Vester** seconded.
- Seconded by **Voula Halliday**
- 9 for, none opposed, 1 abstained.

NOMINATIONS took place

MOTION 6

Angus Bonnyman moved that we accept this slate of officers as nominated.

- 1 **Heather Pritchard** (Treasurer) (Vancouver)
- 2 **Voula Halliday** (Toronto)
- 3 **Michael Howell** (Wolfville)
- 4 **Janet Henderson** (Calgary)
- 5 **Valerie Lugonja** (Edmonton)
- 6 International Councillor
- 7 Last nomination for Francophone.

- **Kris Vester** seconded it.
- unanimous

Angus Bonnyman left at 10:45. Marianne left too.
Break

ARK OF TASTE NOMINATION

Voula Halliday: I would like to nominate **Laura Buckley**, she is very enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

Mara Jernigan: **Laura Buckley** has been a member for a very long time.

Laura Buckley: I've been a member since 1999; I have followed in the background, but I've always tried to go to events and it would be a real honour.

Mara Jernigan: Another thing is that I'm going to say is that it's not really a one year position; it's more like 4 years.

Cynthia Strawson: Is there a support group for this?

Michael Howell: there is someone in my conviv who would be involved: Sheia the secretary.

Mara Jernigan: I would like to stay on the Ark committee, basically you're still CC'd on this from the International Ark committee.

Bobby Grégoire: do we go forward with the nomination that is for **Laura Buckley**?

Kris Vester: this is a flexible committee, there will probably be several more expressions of interest.

MOTION 7

Bobby Grégoire: I move to elect **Laura Buckley** as SFC ARC Coordinator?

- Voula Halliday: seconded the motion
- Unanimously voted for **Laura Buckley**.
- **Mara Jernigan:** to Laura – please include a bio of herself for the website and newsletter. **ACTION**
- **Ingrid Jarret:** This would be one of my communication membership things. The option to champion things, there is no better time to find your favourite picture of regardless of where it came, to build strength for the recognition for the work is being done, a formal press release to media, food, networks, etc. **ACTION**

NEWSLETTER and PRESS RELEASE INFORMATION

Voula Halliday:

- deadline to submit stuff for communications person, writing a brief article about a topic of interest for **Grace Evans**, a date while it is at the top of mind. 2 weeks for a photo and a bio **ACTION**
- bios needed asap from exec and Arc person for website and next newsletter
- Monday May 21st, bio and photo to **Grace Evans**, from the Executive and Ark committee, please **ACTION**

MOTION 8

Bobby Grégoire: I move to keep **Grace Evans** in her position?

- Seconded by **Cynthia Strawson**
- Unanimously agreed.
- **Heather Pritchard:** we will continue on these same terms for 3 months.

What is Slow Food Canada?

Sinclair Philip:

- We are all vague about our vision and defining out objectives for the future. I would like people to read **Paolo di Croce's** document in the newsletter, it is very long, if we want to move ahead as an organization we need to come up with some view of who we are.
- There is real confusion about what this organization is.

- When SF said that we were God Clean and Fair, it was primarily helping focus on the world outside of Europe as a simple way to express it. We need a broader definition; we need express these views to the public.

Joanne McKinnon: I agree that as a part of our own branding that we need an elevator pitch, and maybe **Grace Evans** or myself, can take this one: a Slow Food powerpoint on the International website, does not reflect this.

We're out to change the world - that we want to convey. **ACTION**

Janet Henderson: that would be great to take that on.

Bobby Grégoire: I have done a few presentations in Quebec about this, so I have something like this in French. We reworked a succinct paragraph.

Joanne McKinnon: A sound bite to get from Kevin, **Paolo di Croce's** speech from last night, and someone can transcribe it. One video on our website, on youtube, etc. This is a priority area. **ACTION**

Voula Halliday: we should definitely be thinking about all of this, getting this message out.

Michael Howell: We have been looking at using TM as the opportunity for an AGM, we should discuss this and add this to the table as well. **ACTION**

Sinclair Philip: we already agreed that we would have one next year. **Add this to the bylaw revision. ACTION**

National Meeting 2013

Valerie Lugonja: can we decide to pick a place to have the meeting next year and the year after now? My suggestion is to decide to pick a place for the next two years. I would like to mentor the next convivium taking this on, I have a conference template and I want to help them put this on. .

MOTION 9

Cynthia Strawson: **Angus Bonnyman** said that he'd love to host a meeting at Northumberland Shore. I move that the 2013 SFC National Conference be held in the Oka.

- **Joanne McKinnon** seconded it.
- Unanimous.

MOTION 10

Valerie Lugonja moved that the following year that we hold the SFC National Conference in Northumberland, with the caveat that **Angus Bonnyman** accept, he has expressed interest in doing so. **ACTION**

Michael Howell: I would suggest PEI for the following year, to rejuvenate membership there, I will bring this proposal there. PEI people are pretty keen there.

Valerie Lugonja amended her motion.

Michael Howell moved to propose the National Meeting in two years time be in PEI, and if not possible, then in Northumberland Shore in 2 years time.

- **Joanne McKinnon** seconded
- Unanimous

MOTION 11

Joanne McKinnon moved to adjourn the meeting.

The ends **Bobby Grégoire's** involvement as our acting chair for the past year and executive thanks him for his work. Thanks to Mara, as well, for her outstanding work with SFC.