



THE TRUE GREEN ALLIANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 2018

Held at the Mandela University, Port Elizabeth at 10:00 on 17 April 2018

1. Welcome: Ian Withers took the chair and welcomed all present. He expressed the hope that the meeting will be fruitful.
2. Attendance:
 - a. Present: Ian Withers (Chair), John Rance (President), Ron Thomson (CEO), Pieter van Niekerk, Elma Britz, Gerhard Heyneke, Bool Smuts, Arthur Rudman, Jacques Greeff and Christina Carlyle-Mitchell.
 - b. Apologies: Mia Du Rand, Rodney Genricks, Mike Eustace, John Sharp, Barry York, Chris Jennings, Michel Mantheakis, Guy Glenny, Riette Symmonds, Godfrey Harris, Jocelyn Guest, Jean Henson, Barry Henson, Claire Carter, Tim Ivins, Hunter Roop, Jakes (Andre Frederick Jacobs), Dr Braam Joubert, Paulo Leandro, Jono Joseph, Brent Gericke, Alec Pringle, James Stiles, Gavin Smith, Peter Johnstone, Hannelie Wagener (Chasa), Seugent Adamson, Riem Engelbrecht, Stirling J. Foster, Pieter Nel, Henning Klipp, Alan Herscovici, Eugène Lapointe, Melt Heyneke, Annie Sparg.
 - c. Personalia
3. Additions to the agenda to be dealt with under General
 - a. Bool Smuts intervention
4. Matters arising from the AGM held at the Knysna Elephant Park at 14 00 on Friday 13 January 2017
 - a. Membership drive
 - i. Annie is doing a sterling job on social media.
 - ii. Ron, Elma, Ockie and Elani van Zyl will procure members at the 2018 Huntex.
 - b. Royal membership category was introduced. The following persons qualified for this category:
 - i. John Hume
 - ii. Gianni Ravazzotti
5. ¹TGA Registration
 - a. SARS: On 6 April 2018, SARS confirmed the TGA's application for income tax exemption, effective from 17 January 2017, meeting the requirements of a Public Benefit Organisation.
 - b. PBO status: The BPO status was thus confirmed; number 930060314
6. Marketing strategy:
 - a. Magazine Adverts: TGA advertisements continue to appear in Wild & Jag and African Outfitter
 - b. Marketing
 - i. PHASA split - not discussed
 - c. Fund raising - not discussed
 - d. Ron's Talks report back: Ron Thomson addressed the following meetings:
 - i. WRSA (Eastern Cape) AGM at Kirkwood
 - ii. WRSA (KZN) AGM at Pongola
 - iii. GeoWild AGM in Grahamstown
 - iv. KZN Hunters association AGM at Itala Game Reserve
 - v. Andrew Wyatt blogging: Ron Thomson contributed to Andrew Wyatt's blogging, USA

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- vi. NRA blogs: Ron Thomson contributed to the NRA's blog posts, USA:
- 7. Public relations
 - a. Public Guidance Position Statements: Ron Thomson on an ad hoc basis, continues to write public guidance position statements.
- 8. Wildlife industry:
 - a. Wildlife Forum - Discussion deferred
 - b. HAWASA - Deferred
 - c. Relations with stakeholders of the wildlife industry - Deferred
 - d. Meeting with Lizanne Nel, Conservation manager of SA Hunters: Ron Thomson and Elma Britz had a constructive meeting with Lizanne Nel in Pretoria.
 - e. Chasa - Productive relations are ongoing.
- 9. Affiliations and colour coding: Not discussed because of time constraints.
 - a. Department of Environmental affairs
 - b. Conservation Imperative
 - c. IFAW
 - d. CAT
 - e. EWT
 - f. HSUS
 - g. HSI
 - h. WWF
 - i. WESSA
- 10. Animal Rights acronyms and colour coding - Not discussed
- 11. Department of Tourism (SATSA) - Ron Thomson stated that the members of Conservation Action Trust (CAT) had virtually captured SATSA and this needed our attention.
- 12. International involvement
 - a. CITES and SADC - deferred because of time limitations
 - b. CIC - deferred
 - c. CITES Standing Committee - Ron Thomson and Elma Britz attended the CITES Standing Committee 69 in Geneva Switzerland. Ron received sponsorship from Natshoot and Phasa while Elma paid her own expenses. Ron declared our attendance a waste of time, because of personal interventions by the Secretary General.
 - d. Zimbabwe - Deferred
- 13. Finance**
 - a. The TGA has the following bank accounts and financial facilities:
 - i. Current account
 - ii. Investment account
 - iii. Pay-fast
 - iv. PayPal
 - v. System of debit orders
 - vi. 2017 - 18 Membership fees were rounded off to the nearest hundred (see TGA website)
 - b. Claims:
 - i. Telephone
 - ii. Travel
 - iii. CEO
 - iv. Website

- c. Donations of books for promotional purposes: Ron Thomson continues on an ad hoc basis to provide his personal publication for TGA promotional purposes.
14. Donations:
- a. Italtile owner Mr Ravazotti promised R100 000
 - b. John Hume. R50 000 + R 10 000/m ongoing
15. Reimbursements for Huntex help - not discussed
16. Reports Back: Ron Thomson gave feedback on the following meetings that he attended:
- a. Hoedpruit meeting: – Greater Kruger Development - representing TGA and PHASA, expenses covered by Phasa
 - b. SUCO meeting with Eugene Lapointe in Pretoria and Stakeholders of the Wildlife industry attended by Ron Thomson and Annie Sparg
 - c. WRSA Eastern Cape attended by Ron Thomson and Elma Britz
 - d. WRSA KZN attended by Ron Thomson and Elma Britz
 - e. Invitation to Ron Thomson to attend the Ivory Marketing Conference in Windhoek convened by Eugene Lapointe. Declined due to costs - but participated in a mini Skype conference with members instead.
17. Invitations:
- a. CITES Standing committee 5-day meeting about Sustainable use in Geneva Switzerland, November/December 2017- attended
 - b. Possible HAWASA meeting in December 2017 - declined
 - c. Ron's invitation to be an advisor to the Wildlife Producers Association (WPA) with respect to CITES and Animal Rights from Peter Knipe - accepted
18. Projects
- a. Zimbabwe Community Rhino Breeding project - not discussed
 - b. Young Conservationists League (Standard Bank appeal for sponsorship) - not discussed
 - c. Young Farmers club at Bushman's River - not discussed
19. General
- a. Bool Smuts intervention: Bool Smuts attended the meeting after applied invitation. His intervention started at the beginning of proceedings. Several critical queries were made regarding our activities and public image. Ron Thomson, Arthur Rudman, John Rance and Ian Withers were required to justify the TGA's position versus the Animal Rights groups.
20. Closure: The meeting adjourned at 14h00

Ian Withers (Chairperson)

John Rance (President)

[After the meeting had adjourned, Directors expressed discomfort in the fact that we did not get through all items on the agenda because of repeat interventions by non-directorate members present. It was agreed by the Directors that during all future AGM's, interventions from the floor would only be discussed after official business had been completed].

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