

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CIGUË 6TH OF NOVEMBER 2014

Agenda

1. Welcome, signing of attendance record
 2. Presentation of other business + Explanation of GA procedure
 3. Approval of minutes of last GA
 4. General communications: Ciguë party, construction projects, 30 year anniversary of the Ciguë (2016)
 5. Information about bed bugs
 6. Results of the competition for a new visual identity for the Ciguë
 7. Feedback and discussion on the attribution committee
 8. Complementary election to the Administrative Council (AC) - William Roussel (hired as person responsible for technical matters)
 9. Miscellaneous
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Start of the GA: 19:15

Attending: Marie de Lutz, Nikolaus Wyhlidal, Sandra Papillon, Simon Vouga, Ursula Lehmann, Florent Gachoud, Marjorie Collaud, Christelle Jornod, Maude Cotton, Julie Vanbruaene, Ana Caterina Braga, Christina Gasser, Aline Juon, Lucas Zibung, César Jaquier, Thomas Cornut, Monica Schütz, Guilherme Suedekum, Ignace Cuttat, Kevin Racine, Damian Clavel, Peters Eliis Maria, Elena Giolo, Eliana Laurenti, Anthony Barraco, Laura Couto Rosado, Tabea Ott, Lorraine Astier, Cholodenko, Quentin Stauffer, Davide Prudente, Oussenyou Ndiaye, Lys Kulamadayil, Luca Veuillet, Carlos Klutse, Clémence Lehec, Léonie Givord, Sarah Boxler, Tamara Bommarito, Emmanuel Morice, Yann Baeriswyl, Loris Guerreiro, Mariya Dancheva, Antonella Vitali, Catanina Atalaia, Sebatien Perrot, Alex Pitteloud, Dimitri Petrachenko

1. Welcome, signing of attendance record



2. Announcement of other business + Explanation of GA procedure

No other business.

3. Approval of minutes of last GA

The minutes of the last meeting are approved by the majority with a few abstentions.

4. General communications: Ciguë party, construction projects, 30 year anniversary of the Ciguë (2016)

Ciguë Party

There will be no Ciguë party as the proposed building has been burnt. Not enough time to plan something else. Possibly next spring, the party-planning committee is open to suggestions. Impossible to host at Montbrillant again, since the residents of the neighborhood want to wait at least one or two years before another party.

Possibly at the 'place des volontaires' or another building of the Ciguë? But complicated since that would imply (require?) the residents opening their apartments. The party-planning committee is looking for volunteers to think about it.

In 2016 the Ciguë will have its 30-year anniversary, an opportunity to have a great, big party, which would necessitate more time to plan. To start thinking about now already.

** Contact Marie (marie@cigue.ch) to participate in the party-planning committee.

Construction Site

Vergers project: In Meyrin (eco-neighborhood), 70 Ciguë people in a building .) Invitation to sign up for the building committee (contact Antonella, vitali@cigue.ch or Aline, juon@cigue.ch).

Construction begins next September. There is a platform online for those wishing to inform themselves about projects on the lot.

Chaponnière: Ready beginning of March with 48 rooms. Priority given to residents of the Henri-Golay building, since their rental contracts will come to an end April 2015.



5. Information on bed bugs

Flyers containing pertinent and important information regarding prevention and eradication of bed bugs have been distributed (flyers can be found at the Ciguë office).

Prevention

A lot of spending and mental pressure due to bed bugs at the Ciguë recently. Avoid collecting objects off the streets, as they may very well be infested (reason why they were put out).

Identification

Be careful as they are miniscule and not necessary visible to the naked eye. The bed bugs (small black dots) like the seams of mattresses, upholstery, small folds and are nocturnal. If your furniture or carpet was on sale or found, check it. Important to inform immediately, but don't panic. Contact the Ciguë in case of doubt.

Action

- Contact the Ciguë person responsible for technical matters, so he can send you the protocol in order to avoid propagation.
- Objects which may be infected/touched -> in the freezer (-20°C for 72 hours) or wash at 60°C and then tumble-dry. The Ciguë will provide a freezer for its cooperators.
- Place double-sided tape e.g. around your bed, between your bedframe and mattress, in creases, in the doorframe, around ventilation etc.
- Wrap furniture in plastic before disposing (contact garbage disposal services which provide appropriate, free plastic bags in Geneva).
- Burn the furniture.
- Do not put furniture out on the street (otherwise you risk propagating bed bugs and giving them to other households. Not cool...)
- If you prepare the room well before vacuuming (see points above) = increased effectiveness of treatment

Conclusion of actions undertaken to remove bed bugs at the Ciguë

Chemical treatment. Expensive and inefficient/ineffective.

So the Ciguë has created a commission which will gather information and find another type of treatment.

New steam treatment tested: treat strategic spots with a steam machine, and application of diatomaceous earth, which attacks the bed bugs' shell and desiccates them.

The Ciguë will procure the apparatus (180°C steam) in order to have the ability to act/ directly treat infestations in its buildings.

The *Civiliste* will be instructed on use.



Q: toxic powder (diatomaceous earth)?

A: *The powder is noxious when in the air (bad for lungs). But once settled, the powder is no longer dangerous. This is why one must wait several hours before entering a treated area.*

Q: Pertinent investment in regards to the number of infestations at the Ciguë?

A: *Better prepared, autonomous, better experience, less expensive, less chemical and side effects diminished according to residents' first impressions/experiences. Possibility to keep furniture after treatment.*

Q: Scanbug (dog which sniffs out bed bugs)?

A: *Scanbug is the name of a company which uses dogs to detect bed bugs. There are also other companies which use dogs to detect bed bugs. We had doubts about their effectiveness (overuse), and so we will employ several different enterprises instead of just depending on one. The dogs are useful since they are able to sniff out the exact locations of the infestation(s).*

6. Results of the competition for a new visual identity for the Ciguë

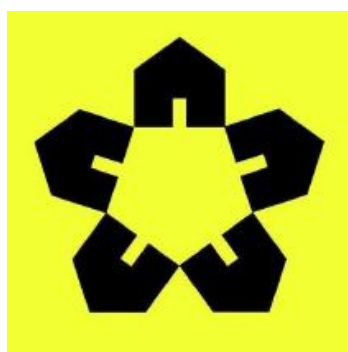
Notter & Vigne, based in Lausanne, winners of the contest. 5 petals (of the hemlock (Ciguë) plant) which symbolize the houses and surround the Ciguë! (It's lovely!)

'La Ciguë' will be used as the name of the cooperative.

All the houses will be able to use it, and adapt it to their wishes/preferences and colors (except for red, which ends up too dark with the black). Background yellow paper, with (lemon) yellow lettering beneath the logo. The internet visual works for cell phones.

Web site and new identity will be put in place around January 2015.

Open reflection on functionality and content of new web site: to participate, send an email to Dimitri or Marie (marie@cigue.ch).





7. Feedback and discussion of the attribution commission

Tamara is the coordinator of the committee, mainly active for new empty housing. Meetings once or twice a year in order to reflect on how best to organize the attributions in an adequate manner. Particularity: attributing people with whom one will not be living (very different from housing-internal attributions).

Feedback on attribution experiences:

- Idea: speed dating type attributions (individually) (technique used at Ouches).
- Seeing more than 8 or 9 people = exhausting for those attributing. Loss of time and difficulties choosing, fatigue causes decrease in attention (experiences made at Ouches).
- Important to stay respectful, even if one doesn't hit it off from the start, since the other person is in a weaker position.
- Difficult to standardize attribution procedure since the various housing situations are very different.
- Hidden voting for deliberations (three people with 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice) then discussion in order to make sure everyone agrees (technique at Clos Voltaire).
- Attribution in form of an apéro = notifying the person that there is a possibility that they will be 'competing' with (many) other people. And every housemate tries to speak with every candidate present and vice versa (technique of one apartment at Pavillons).

Proposals for best possible attribution:

- Discussion within the shared apartment/house before and preparation of attribution before to ensure that everyone is on the same wavelength and shares an understanding of what type they're looking for. (e.g. vetos, non-negotiable criteria..)
- Importance of a clear and precise announcement (if the shared flat/house is only looking for a man/woman, etc.)
- And especially the non-obligation of putting out an announcement = loss of time for everyone if the choice has already been made ahead of time. IT IS NOT MANDATORY TO MAKE AN ATTRIBUTION, it's only necessary that:
 - All the roommates are in agreement on the choice of person, and
 - The newly attributed person complies with the criteria of the Ciguë.
- Be aware that the publication of an announcement can lead to hundreds of responses.
- Important to think about how to prioritize/select the demands beforehand. And important to send an answer (possibly communicate deadlines).
- Deliberation: discuss in groups, take turns, share preferences, possibly several go-arounds, consensus important.
- Possible to hold another attribution if no consensus can be found, or to leave some more time to think.
- Importance of describing/explaining the house/flat and the house/flat mates already present.
- Possible to call upon the attribution committee as consultants on how to hold an attribution, or as a help during the attribution. In the past, both the mediation and attribution committees have intervened at houses/flats experiencing internal conflicts.

- Possible to make the attribution tables/lists used by the attribution committee available to all the cooperation members.



Discussion on presence of families (children) in shared houses/flats: the Ciguë is not against it, but all the flat/house mates need to be in agreement.
So not impossible, but complex.

8. Complementary election to the CA* - William Roussel (appointed as person responsible for technical matters)

Resignation of Romain Legros, previously responsible for technical matters, replaced by William Roussel, effective for the 1st September 2014.

Vote:

Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
For: unanimous

William is elected to the Administration Council. Welcome William!

9. Other business (no other business submitted)

**General Assembly closed at 21.48
Thank you everyone!**

Documents in annex of the minutes (envoyés by email to members of the cooperative):

- Flyer on bedbugs
- Présentation of the attributions committee to the GA