

Tuggeranong Community Council Inc
General Meeting – 1 March 2011
Minutes

Present:

See attendance record of 1 March 2011.

President Darryl Johnston opened the Meeting and welcomed our guest presenter, Damien Haas.

Apologies:

Greg Downing, Brendan Smyth MLA, Martin Devine, Rusty Woodward.

Confirmation of Minutes of February 2011 Meeting:

Accepted: Jan Petrie Seconded: Dugald Holmes

Matters Arising from February 2011 Meeting:

No matters were raised by members.

President's Report (Mr Darryl Johnston):

President, Darryl Johnston presented the following Report:

“Welcome to another meeting of the Tuggeranong Community Council. Much has been going on behind the scenes this past month.

The TCC Executive has engaged local firm and one of our supporters, Sozo, to design a new TCC website. It will remain at the same address and TCC Executive members will, with a bit of training, manage the site. It is envisaged that the new website will have a new look and feel and will be easier to navigate and access information, especially for the disabled and those unfamiliar with the web.

At the last TCC Executive meeting, Executive members were further briefed on proposals for the development of land opposite Bunnings. It is proposed to site housing for more than 2,000 new residents and develop a café/restaurant strip on the lake shores. The TCC plans to host a special public meeting in early April on this issue and the Tuggeranong/Erindale Master Plans.

I hope that you have all received a copy of the Tuggeranong Community Council's new newsletter, *Valley Voice*. It is the first in what I hope will be one of many issues to come. The *Valley Voice* is another way for the TCC to communicate with its membership, other Councils, organisations and our community. It will carry community news, articles and information on issues affecting Tuggeranong residents and, of course, contributions are always welcome. Thank you.”

Accepted: Carole Traise Seconded: Jeff Chapman

Treasurer's Report (Mr Eric Traise):

Current bank account balance is \$17,144 comprising of our Operating Account of \$6,729 and Investment Account of \$10,415. Expenditure totalled \$364, with the main items being for office/meeting costs and telephone/internet charges. Income during the period was limited to bank interest of \$38.

Accepted: Alison Ryan Seconded: Paul Armstead

Sub-Committee Reports:

- Planning and Environment Committee

Glenys Patulny provided an update on the new Centennial Walking Trail and the additional section recently developed.

Eric Traise raised some concerns about the rubbish accumulated in Lake Tuggeranong and the poor condition of the surrounding paths and walkways, including the presence of abandoned shopping trolleys. New legislation has recently been introduced regarding trolleys and the community should take the opportunity to express their dissatisfaction about this issue to the local authorities.

- Transport and Community Services Committee

No issues to report, but the presentation later in the Meeting on the Light Rail issue is anticipated.

Colin Petrie reported on his recent attendance at the Health Forum arranged by the West Belconnen Cooperative which, unfortunately, was poorly attended. He mentioned the proposal outlined for more GPs through the establishment of various Super Clinics, with one being planned for the Tuggeranong Valley. The Group have offered to address a TCC Meeting at some stage when more definite information becomes available.

At this point the Darryl announced a slight rearrangement to the Agenda as no one had (yet) arrived to deliver the usual Police Report.

Update from Local Members:

Darryl invited the local Members in attendance, Amanda Bresnan (Greens) and Steve Doszpot (Liberals) to provide a brief report on current activities and issues of interest in the political forum.

Ms Bresnan reported on the following matters:

- New legislation introduced by Caroline Le Couteur for abandoned shopping trolleys, with fines to apply for delays in collection by Supermarkets. Some discussion took place on this issue and more specific information to be sought and clarification provided.
- Acknowledge problem with rubbish in Lake Tuggeranong – matter under investigation.
- Update on establishment of new West Belconnen GP Practice – fully supported.
- Workplace Privacy issue to be raised during current Sitting week.
- Reference to success of Canberra Show.

A query was raised regarding the timing of the legislation for the removal of plastic bags. The merits of the issue were discussed with various opinions expressed by members.

Ms Bresnan has subsequently provided the following written confirmation regarding the shopping trolley legislation:

“Rangers and police will also have new powers allowing them to direct people who are taking, using, or leaving a trolley outside of a retailer precinct, to return the trolley to the retailer, or to face a fine. Individuals: \$60 on-the-spot fine for failing to return a trolley when directed. Higher fines could apply if it was a special circumstance and offence was prosecuted through court (up to \$1100).”

Mr Doszpot provided the following details:

- Apology for the absence of colleague, Brendan Smyth MLA, who had another commitment;
- Reference to issue of local young couple’s experience with poor building inspection – several problems later identified and house was deemed unliveable. Paltry fine of only \$500 issued and surely legislation controls are more critical on such important issues rather than plastic bag usage.

- Collaboration with ACT Greens on a Liberal Motion regarding the recent National Multicultural Festival and its origins – the support of the ACT community is acknowledged in making it a most successful event.
- Reference made to the relevance of the Al Grassby statue in a City building, with serious opposition raised by many members of the community – matter has been subject to recent debate in the ACT Assembly.

Concern was expressed by Darryl Johnston regarding the latest announcement of a further acquittal on a murder charge in the ACT. Mr Doszpot agreed to pass on the comments to the Attorney General, who has been invited to attend the next General Meeting – no response to date.

A short break was taken at this stage prior to the presentation by our guest speaker.

Guest Speaker: Mr Damien Haas

President, Darryl Johnston provided a brief introductory explanation on the background surrounding the topic under discussion. He proceeded to introduce our guest presenter, Mr Damien Haas, Chair of ACT Light Rail to address the Meeting on alternative public transport options with the introduction of Light Rail.

Damien provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following points:

- Is Canberra Light Rail still on track?
- The ‘Vision’ thing – what would the light rail concept look like?
- Why Light Rail in the ACT? – various benefits, including improved service/frequency, reduced pollution and decreased road congestion, Park ‘n Ride facilities;
- Population trends in nearby areas and future projections;
- Comparative public transport usage during peak hours in all capital cities and vehicle registration statistics;
- Sustainable transport plan targets for work trips – walking / cycling / public transport
- Various reasons for poor usage of public transport – ABS data 2008;
- Details of proposed ‘Rapid’ bus network by 2031, with example of likely Light Rail routes including Darryl Johnston’s suggestions – also possible underground options;
- The way ahead for Light Rail Transport Policy developments – urgent strategic decisions required.

Questions from the floor:

Various queries were raised by members, including the following:

- Increased patronage of existing bus services required (14% increase);
- Reference to funding for proposed Feasibility Study was not previously available – background of subsequent arrangements;
- Was recent upgrade of Belconnen Bus Station designed for likely future introduction of Light Rail? **This is not the case.**
- What precedent of Light Rail usage in similar sized cities? **Perth is a good example.**
- How do we pay for the cost of establishing a Light Rail network?

All matters were suitably addressed by Mr Haas.

Police Report:

Sergeant Rod Anderson, OIC of Tuggeranong Police Station, apologised for his late arrival due to an unexpected incident at the Town Centre. He presented the following brief report on crime statistics and information regarding other local Police activities during February:

- General decrease in various crime statistics during the past month;
- Police conducted 573 Suburban Policing Strategy patrols within the local zone during February;
- Spike in night time burglaries in business premises, including supermarkets;
- Raid conducted on under age drinking in mid-February – offenders referred to a suitable counselling program;
- Deployment of a contingent of local police officers to Christchurch – to assist search and rescue effort and identification process.

Questions from the floor:

Members raised the following relevant issues:

- How many ACT police officers sent to NZ?
Total of 25 selected from various areas.
- Do suitable disaster evacuation plans exist for local suburbs?
Yes, good lessons learnt from past experiences in Victoria – early warning systems are in place. Mobile phones should be registered to enable official contact in emergency situations.
- What common communication channels between emergency service agencies are in place?

Relevant information was provided by Sergeant Anderson.

Other Business:

No issues were raised.

General Announcements:

Darryl informed members of the planned Special Meeting on Tuesday, 12 April with guest presenters from ACTPLA and LAPS to provide an update on the Tuggeranong / Erindale Master Plans and the Bonython development opposite Bunnings.

Steve Doszpot reminded members of Clean-Up Australia Day activities on Sunday, 6 March and invited anyone available to assist to join him at Crozier Circuit in Kambah. Amanda Bresnan issued a similar invitation at her location at Pine Island.

The next General Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, 5 April 2011**, with likely guest presenter, Attorney General, Simon Corbell MLA yet to be confirmed. The meeting concluded at approximately 9.15 pm.