

Tuggeranong Community Council Inc
General Meeting – 1 June 2010
Draft Minutes

Present:

See attendance record of 1 June 2010.

Apologies:

Eric Traise, Donna Smail, Barry Blight, Greg Downing, Susan Penn-Turrall, Dugald Holmes.

President, Darryl Johnston welcomed the attendees and, in particular, our guest presenter, Mr Geoff Zippel from the Better Place Australia organisation.

Approval of May 2010 Minutes:

Accepted: Jane Hedges Seconded: Jill Faulkner

Matters Arising from May 2010 Meeting:

Darryl Johnston raised the issue of the proposed Motion mentioned at the previous Meeting in regard to the Data Centre development. No details have been provided since and the members involved from the CPR Group were not in attendance this evening.

President's Report (Mr Darryl Johnston):

President, Darryl Johnston presented the following Report:

“Thank you for joining us for another meeting of the Tuggeranong Community Council. It has been another busy month for the TCC Executive.

It began with the handing down of the ACT Budget in early May. Following the release of the Budget the TCC was invited to appear before the Estimates Committee Hearing into aspects of the Budget related to Tuggeranong. I appeared before the Committee on 13 May and addressed the Committee on issues around the Budget and its impact on Tuggeranong including the increase in General Rates, public transport issues and environmental concerns. A transcript of the hearing is available on the main table.

Vice President, Col Petrie and I met with the head of ACT Roads, Tony Gill, on 13 May to discuss roads and other transport issues raised in the recent “Talking Tuggeranong” document presented to the Chief Minister. Our discussions focused around the Monaro Highway and other main traffic routes in and out of Tuggeranong. Mr. Gill has indicated an interest in addressing a future meeting of the TCC.

I participated in the ACT Government's Review of its wood smoke pollution program. I attended an Environment ACT workshop held on 18 May with the Australian Lung Foundation's Tuggeranong Lung Life Support Group and the Belconnen Community Council, as well as Government representatives and representatives of the wood heating industry, to discuss programs to educate the community on how to use their wood heaters correctly. Our groups are working up a submission to the review of these programs.

On Sunday, 30 May I attended the launch of the Neighbourhood Watch Program at Isabella Plains. There was a good turnout despite the inclement weather.

Finally, I wish to remind all members that membership fees are now due to ensure that everyone is paid up as a voting member by the new financial year. Membership forms are available on the main table along with copies of the new TCC Code of Conduct. Thank you.”

Accepted: Rusty Woodward Seconded: Alison Ryan

Treasurer's Report (Mr Albert Orszaczky):

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Minute Secretary, Albert Orszaczky presented the following Report:

- On Thursday, 27 May Tuggeranong Patrol arrested a juvenile male at the Tuggeranong Hyperdome. The youth is currently Tuggeranong's priority target and has been charged with aggravated robbery at the IGA store in Lyons, possession of a prohibited substance, and escape from custody. The person was in breach of his bail conditions at the time and is currently remanded at Bimberi Youth Detention Centre. The offender has been charged with multiple burglaries in the Tuggeranong area.

Questions from the floor:

- Sergeant Anderson was asked to define the term "aggravated" and stated that it basically meant "armed" or "in company" (two or more).
- He also confirmed that local Police are in support of Random Roadside Drug Testing and the current procedure is based on the model in place in Victoria.
- The issue of the ban on fireworks over the upcoming Queen's Birthday holiday weekend was mentioned and any apparent breaches are to be promptly reported through 131 444 for investigation.

Assembly Update:

Darryl invited our local Members, Joy Burch MLA (ALP), Steve Doszpot MLA (Liberals) and Amanda Bresnan MLA (Greens) to provide a brief report on current issues and activities in the ACT Assembly.

Ms Bresnan provided the following information:

- Involvement with the Budget Estimates Committee over the previous 2½ weeks and good wins achieved for Tuggeranong, including funding for the Erindale and Tuggeranong Master Plan, the Over 55s Club, Tuggeranong Health Centre improvements and significant funding for the local road network. Extension of the Redex bus service and more Park 'n Ride facilities for Erindale and Tuggeranong are likely additions in the next Budget;
- Further discussions on the woodsmoke in the Valley issue with incentive subsidy for replacement of wood fires with gas;
- Introduction of Random Roadside Drug Testing legislation agreed to in principle with tri-partisan support.

Ms Burch mentioned the following matters;

- Scope for improvement of local community facilities, including introduction of dedicated mural/graffiti walls;
- Budget highlights include:
 - Park 'n Ride facility at Erindale, more bus shelters,
 - Range of training services, additions to P12 school at Kambah,
 - Tuggeranong Health Centre upgrade,
 - Murrumbidgee Golf Club – potable water,
 - Redex bus service and improvements to Monaro Highway.
- Update on Random Roadside Drug Testing (Hansen Bill) – different models being canvassed, including testing for a range of recreational drugs.

Mr Doszpot raised the following issues:

- Planned introduction of Park 'n Ride concept at Erindale is a cause for some concern based on the present traffic situation and road conditions – some issues to be addressed;
- Additional responsibilities beyond activities in Assembly involve representing the interests of constituents and investigation and follow up contact on Federal issues requiring attention, eg. recent insulation "debacle" reported due to lack of interest or support;
- Active involvement with local Neighbourhood Watch expansion - \$20,000 grant provided by ACT Government.

Questions from the floor:

The following concerns were raised by members:

- Update sought from Ms Bresnan on the status of the Hume Data Centre/Power Station development. **Greens colleague, Caroline Le Couteur, was investigating the issue and Bill Reid had been kept informed of the current situation.**
- Query on whether funding had been provided in the Budget for the next stage of the planned Southern Cemetery development.

Ms Burch indicated that only advanced tree planting project was involved at this stage. No final decision to proceed on the planned Mugga Lane site and if a Crematorium is to be included, but project is broadly supported.

- Comment on the minimal funding provided in the Budget for local sporting facilities. Enquiry as to why a second sports stadium was being planned for the northside instead of southside.

This is related to the issue of adequate facilities to support the proposed bid for staging of the Soccer World Cup in the near future. More need to foster grassroots intervention to improve sports grounds for local children's sport - several are currently quite dangerous.

- Query raised on why no funding has been designated for the next stage of the Stage in Tuggeranong Park to enable completion for this year's Tuggeranong Festival as promised.

Ms Burch undertook to follow up and support the prospect of completing the facility as soon as possible. Mr Doszpot indicated that inadequate funds were available due to apparent poor allocation of funding and prioritisation of projects by the ACT Government.

Guest Speaker: Mr Geoff Zippel

Darryl Johnston introduced our guest speaker, Geoff Zippel, Head of Deployment – Better Place Australia to inform the meeting about their plans to develop an electronic car network in Canberra. Darryl asked that members show the usual courtesy and respect to our guest speaker, who had come up from Melbourne. Mr Zippel indicated that he was happy to take any questions during the presentation and provided the following information via PowerPoint:

- Background of company – founded in 2007 with head office in Palo Alto, California USA;
- Details of “Perfect Storm” project involving batteries, electric motors, improved technology, Regulations/Incentives, Infrastructure, auto manufacturers, commercial opportunities;
- Rapid Growth Projection for electric vehicles (EVs) – various models and sizes released since 2006;
- Better Place Solution Elements – provide power for vehicles via:
 - charge spots and battery switch stations at various convenient locations,
 - in hand, in the car: driver services,
 - behind the scenes services.
- EV needs – ease of use, extended range, affordability, positive ownership experience, energy supply;
- Break-even point – 15/20,000, kms per year;
- Charge spots widely deployed;
- Battery switch stations for long trips;
- Recharge facility for depleted batteries to be arranged (eg. NRMA service);
- Impact on Power Grid supply;
- EV taxis currently operating in Japan – using switchable batteries;
- Initial test of full Solution in Israel to commence in 2010, also Denmark in early 2011;
- Pilot of full Solution in Australia in late 2011;
- Canberra planned for October 2011 – pilot timing details;
- Why Canberra? – various benefits involved based on:
 - High income levels, significant number of 2 or more car households,
 - Off-street parking facilities, distances travelled, convenient installation, etc.
- Batteries being manufactured in various electronics-strong countries in Asia;
- Relative Performance comparisons – more efficient, less noise pollution, etc.

Questions from the floor:

Several related issues of interest were raised by members during the course of the presentation and were suitably addressed by Mr Zippel.

General and Other Business:

No particular items were raised, but Darryl reminded members that membership fees were due for renewal by the end of June and could be paid tonight.

The next General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 6 July, and there will be no guest speaker as it is intended to discuss and finalise the review of the TCC Constitution. The meeting concluded at approximately 9.20pm and members were invited to stay on for the usual light refreshments and informal chat.