

Tuggeranong Community Council Inc
General Meeting – 3 August 2010
Draft Minutes

Present:

See attendance record of 3 August 2010.

President, Darryl Johnston welcomed the attendees and informed them of the change to our normal Meeting Agenda, due to our hosting of a Federal Election Forum to be chaired by Mr Archie Tsirimokos, Managing Partner of Meyer Vandenberg Lawyers.

Apologies:

Senator Kate Lundy, Anthony David (2nd Senate candidate for the Australian Democrats), Steve Doszpot MLA, Brendan Smyth MLA, Sergeant Rod Anderson.

Federal Election “Meet the Candidates” Forum:

Darryl introduced the Forum and asked that all members and visitors observe the TCC Code of Conduct by respecting all views and opinions, behave in a civil manner and not interject during the discussions. He also informed attendees that the session was being audio and video recorded and suggested that if anyone had any objection to being filmed they should move to the far corner of the room. Highlights of the Forum will be posted on the TCC website shortly.

Mr Tsirimokos introduced himself and provided an outline of the format to be adopted for the Forum. The panel of candidates consisted of:

- Darren Churchill (Australian Democrats Senate Candidate for the ACT)
- Gai Brodtmann (ALP Candidate for Canberra)
- Giulia Jones (Liberal Candidate for Canberra)
- Sue Ellerman (Greens Candidate for Canberra)
- Senator Gary Humphries (Liberal Senator for the ACT)
- Lin Hatfield Dodds (Greens Senate Candidate for the ACT)
- David Mathews (ALP Senate Candidate for the ACT)

The candidates were invited to introduce themselves and briefly state their reasons for standing for election. Each candidate addressed the attendees for three minutes on their personal background and individual election platforms. This was followed by questions from the audience and various relevant matters were raised, including the following:

- Serious concerns about the recent reduction in old age pension payments and assets threshold;
- Concern about Tony Abbott’s previous comments on pensioners;
- Query regarding clarification on population sustainability – what is a reasonable / “ball-park” figure? Additional concerns on impact of climate change / water shortage with increasing population.
Issues of varying community demographics, individual decisions on family size, environmental concerns, subject to available infrastructure, immigration control, etc.
- Action on oversight by Federal Government on ineptitude of ACT Government regarding land sales for redevelopment;
- Concerns on disjointed climate change policy of major Parties – cohesion and consensus required;
- Dissatisfaction regarding recent removal of Kevin Rudd as Prime Minister;
- Local environment and air pollution concerns – what action proposed by Federal Government on improving pollution levels to comply with minimum health requirements?
- Query on changes to guidelines for broadcasting of sport – ‘free to air’ TV changes proposed;
- What action is proposed for cleanup of graffiti before Canberra’s upcoming significant birthday?

Each of the issues was acknowledged and suitably addressed by various candidates, in line with the broad directions and policies of their Party. Several assurances were made and action proposed, although it was pointed out that some matters actually involved ACT Government decisions rather than the Federal Government. The Forum concluded at approximately 9.00pm and was considered most successful, with a video presentation to be made available on the TCC website.

Other Reports – Police:

Sergeant Rod Anderson, OIC Tuggeranong Police Station, was unable to attend the Meeting. He provided a copy of his usual report on crime statistics and other local Police activities during the past month, which was presented by Darryl as follows:

- Burglaries have remained static in July – 1 more than June.
- Reported incidents of property damage have remained static with an increase of 3 during the month.
- Confirmed incidents of assault are down in July, with 7 less confirmed incidents reported.
- There was a decrease of 14 stolen motor vehicles reported in July.
- A total of 45 arrests were effected by Police in the Tuggeranong Zone during July for offences ranging from breach of bail conditions to outstanding warrants, through to offences such as assault, drug possession, theft, burglary and other property related offences, as well as traffic offences including drink driving.
- Police conducted 594 Suburban Policing Strategy patrols within the Tuggeranong patrol zone during the past month.
- Medical Practices in Tuggeranong and Woden have been the target of burglary offences where offenders force entry and search for money, drugs and prescription pads. Practices are reminded to leave no cash in the tills overnight and to secure valuable items out of sight from patients.
- On Sunday 11 July an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was used to gain entry to the Local Liquor store in Wanniasa. CCTV shows several persons entering the shop to commit a burglary. Businesses are asked to be wary of such incidents and report any suspicious behaviour to Police.

Tuggeranong experienced a significant rise over recent months in aggravated robbery offences, where multiple offenders would assault a victim and steal their mobile phone and wallet. Operation LINUS was set up by Police to investigate these offences. No robbery offences were reported for Tuggeranong in July.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Reports were unfortunately not presented at the Meeting due to time constraints, but were later tabled and details are as follows:

Transport

Recommendation that the TCC support the extension of the RedEx bus service into Tuggeranong as a matter of urgency. Also recommended that the ACT Greens provide details to the TCC of their suggestion for a light rail service.

Safety

Request for the TCC to support the initiative for:

1. A zero alcohol level for all L and P plate holders;
2. Minimum driving hours for Learner drivers to be increased from 50 to 120 hours, as in NSW;
3. The use of the Learners Log Book to be compulsory, recording date, hours, kms driven, road conditions, eg. rain, fog, night time, city/country, with each entry to be signed by a parent/guardian/driving instructor. Log book to be presented BEFORE booking in for a driving test.
4. Restriction of engine size/capacity.

Youth

The TCC to support a drive to engage more young people in TCC activities by identifying issues they may be interested in. Aim to encourage interaction between old and young people and break down the social barriers that sometimes exist.

Karen Klein, Manager of the Tuggeranong Youth Centre was enthusiastic about the proposal and has agreed speak to the participants in their programs and will advise the outcome, and perhaps arrange for a member of the TCC to go along and address them.

Request to be submitted to the ACT Government to make more funding available for maintenance of local sporting fields.

Community

The TCC to request that:

1. the ACT Government reintroduce discussion on a Bill of Responsibility in order to address the need for the courts to consider the rights of the innocent victims of crime when handing down sentences.
2. the ACT Government review the ACT Legislative Justice System, with a view to reforming this system so that more appropriate sentences can be imposed.

General and Other Business:

Darryl reminded members of the Special General Meeting to be held on Thursday, 12 August regarding community consultation on the recently released Eastern Broadacre Study and discussion on other important Planning issues relating to proposed land releases in Tuggeranong. Suitable advertising options will be investigated and any assistance from members in this regard, including 'word of mouth' and distribution of posters, would be most welcome.

The next General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 7 September, which will be the Annual General Meeting and the election of Office Bearers for the coming year, with no guest speaker proposed. The meeting concluded at approximately 9.35pm and members were invited to stay on for the usual light refreshments and informal chat.