

TUGGERANONG COMMUNITY COUNCIL Inc.
Minutes of the General Meeting 2 June 2020
Meeting conducted via Zoom video conferencing application.

Welcome and Acknowledgment

The Meeting was opened at 7.30pm by the President Jeffrey Bollard with an acknowledgement of country and welcome to participants.

Present

See the electronic register of attendance.

President's Report – Jeffrey Bollard

The President reminded participants that the registration process for the meeting recorded names and email addresses, registrations are matched to participants logging in and that the meeting was being recorded. Normal meeting protocol would be followed and the TCC code of conduct applies as it does when we meet in person. Participants were asked to remain on mute unless addressing the meeting. The Chair at times may mute all participants to allow the designate speaker to be heard without extraneous background noise. There are text functions available within the application and the ability to 'raise hands' if participants wished to speak. The text and icon features would be monitored throughout the meeting.

COVID-19

COVID-19 will be the topic of the panel discussion later in the meeting.

The Select Committee on the COVID-19 pandemic response on 18 May 2020 released Interim Report 1. The interim report contains 24 recommendations covering relief concessions, social distancing, training and the pop-up hospital.

Various stimulus programs being undertaken to promote local employment including commencement of the Wanniasa Park and Ride and Monaro Highway Flyover at Lanyon Drive.

Planning and Consultation

The Environment Planning Forum has been rescheduled and will resume as a WebEx meeting on 17 June. Peter Elford president of the Gungahlin Community Council will be co-chair along with Ben Ponton of Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSD).

TCC made a submission on Draft Variation 369 Living Infrastructure. The submission is available on the EPSD website along with the other submissions.

Transport Canberra and City Services provided information to the TCC on the Slower Streets program. Slower Streets is a partnership between the ACT Government and residential communities, with the ACT Government providing the resources (temporary signs, guidance and community messaging) and residential communities implementing it in their suburb according to local circumstances (displaying the signs and discussing with neighbours). Four pilot suburbs are Aranda, Farrer, Crace and Downer. Slower Streets is an encouragement and advisory initiative, not a compliance one. The emphasis is on safe behaviours, rather than any changes to, and enforcement of, posted speeds.

Brendan Forde moved the acceptance of the President's report and this was seconded by Wayne King.

Police Report –

Technical issues prevented Inspector Rod Anderson from joining the meeting.

The meeting expressed the value of receiving the police report and requested the President to work with Inspector Anderson to have the report presented on a regular basis. Suggestions included seeking a written report or pre-recording.

Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly Updates

Nicole Lawder MLA

The use of the drain sock as raised at last months meeting was followed up with Minister Steel without response.

A call on the Government for immediate rate relief was defeated. Other issues being considered are mental health and the Select Committee on COVID-19.

There is one sitting day per fortnight up until the June winter break before resuming in August and the election on 17 October 2020.

Nicole explained that she is working from home like many others and is in contact with constituents via the telephone. With the relaxation of health protection practices campaigning for the election is resuming but not to the same extent as for previous elections.

In responding to questions:

- Expect the election to continue as planned on 17 October however there may be some changes such as extending pre-poll.
- The COVID-19 limitation of church attendance has been noted.
- The issue of dead trees dropping branches and causing a safety hazard will be followed up.
- Synchronization of park infrastructure maintenance repairs and tree planting for Caroline Chisholm Park was noted.

Caroline Le Couteur MLA

The TCC was thanked for continuing the important work of Community Councils by holding on-line Zoom meetings.

The submission by the TCC for the Territory Plan DV 369 Living Infrastructure was acknowledged. No more variations to the Territory Plan will be considered and finalised in the remaining term of the current Assembly.

On 18 June Assembly will be debating planning legislation include climate change considerations and simple changes to allow Directorate to reject a development application that contains false or misleading information, keep development applications on web site for 5 years and changes to concessions to be disallowable instruments.

As a member of the COVID-19 committee noted that the reports of the committee have been consensus reports. First report focused on landlords and tenants and the second on human rights and ensuring getting good legislation.

In response to questions:

- Clarified that the Assembly had no role in the consideration of individual development applications.

Panel Discussion – Tuggeranong Recovery from COVID-19 Precautions.

The President introduced the panel discussion noting that Tuggeranong has been following health precautions to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The panel discussion will look at the effect of these precautions on the education, clubs and recreation and business sectors and how these sectors will emerge to the new normal. The panellists are:

Sue Norton, Director of Schools Improvement for Tuggeranong, ACT Education Directorate, ACT Government

Anthony Hill, Chief Executive Officer, Vikings Group

Graham Catt, Chief Executive Officer, Canberra Business Chamber

Sue spoke of how schools managed making the following points.

- Teachers and Principals have had to pivot direction quickly as circumstances change to continue to provide the education program.
- Gradual return to the classroom with the final year groups, 5 & 6 and 7 & 8 returning today.
- There has been strong attendance by students and teacher with the return.
- Strong engagement was noted through the remote learning time.
- With the return parents and carers are being supportive and respectful of arrangements in place to protect students, teachers and staff in the school environment.
- Good cleaning and hygiene are being followed in schools and additional day cleaners are working through the day.
- Partnerships with families have really strengthened during remote learning.
- There are a lot of parents glad to see students back in the classroom.
- Remote learning was undertaken in asynchronous mode using pre-recorded material and synchronous mode with live on-line interaction.
- Experience in different techniques used pre COVID and during COVID will be used to inform future practices.
- Wellbeing of staff, students and families was focus during remote learning time. Interaction between students important.
- Senior secondary students missed the social interaction and were the first group to return. Programs for Year 12 have been carefully managed and arrangements are in place for the group to complete their year 12 studies by the end of the year.
- Wonderful feedback on remote learning and a greater appreciation of the work of teachers.

Anthony spoke on the club sector.

- The Clubs closed on 24 March 2020 in line with government directions across Australia. This was a shock for everyone with the Vikings standing down 200 plus staff.
- Over a four-week period, arrangements through the Federal Job Keepers program, an ACT Government package and a Club sponsored package were implemented to look after staff.
- Government advice received allow clubs to re-open for a maximum of twenty diners. Reopening for twenty dinner creates logistical issues and limits access for the majority of members.
- Wish to avoid members queuing outside clubs.
- Town Centre Club is reopening for takeaway snacks and coffee.
- Working with contracted caterers to allow them to get their business up and running.
- Looking at experience from NSW clubs that have reopened for bar, food and gambling to shape the ACT reopening.
- On reopening there will be lots of safety precautions. Temperature testing and attendance tracking through memberships with the ability to quickly provide this information to health authorities if necessary. Salt and pepper, and knives and forks will be absent from the tables. More to digital interaction for ordering and other transactions.
- Cleaning has been stepped up during closure and will continue at reopening.

- Discussion has reflected on gambling, but focus is on getting staff back to work. It was noted that most staff live in Tuggeranong and having them working has a flow on effect for other traders in Tuggeranong.

Graham spoke of experience for the business sector.

- The Canberra Business Chamber (CBC) is a not-for-profit organisation representing small to large businesses in Canberra. There are about 30,000 employers engaging two thirds (235,000) of the workforce.
- Clubs and tourism already suffering business turndown due to the smoke from the end of 2019.
- The March announcements of COVID restrictions started a remarkable journey for business. Large flow of information particularly from the Federal Government which was difficult to get head around. Rapid policy and program formation. Job keeper was well received.
- As restrictions ease there will be difficulty in maintaining clear messaging and maintaining safe practices.
- High level of cooperation between unions and employers.
- Coming to critical time in September when government programs wind back and business will determine if they have been in hibernation or just ticking over. No pipeline of work after September.

Discussion

- The President disallowed an off subject question.
- Majority of students back but a few are remaining at home with varying circumstances.
- Currently numbers allowed back into clubs is not enough to function and return employees to work. One hundred with full services would be viable. Seeing major increase in staff seeking assistance from employee assistance program particularly around mental health.
- Fantastic job being done by teachers was acknowledged and the greater connection between schools and families. Remote learning is to be evaluated to continue where this has been beneficial to individual students.
- Pros and cons of mask wearing was discussed. No clear direction.
- Return to sport is being managed by the individual associations. May be some loss of sporting clubs.
- Social distancing doesn't occur for students only for adults. Cleaning increased to allow use of equipment. Excursions limited to 20 students and not outside the ACT.
- Businesses are innovating and adapting to maintain customer services and keeping the business alive. A lot of retailers have moved online and are likely to stay online when shops reopen.
- Schools have benefited from stimulus programs through screwdriver-ready projects.

General Business

Apologies

Robert Lovett

Minutes

Minutes were circulated in advance of meeting. An issue about the recording an answer to a question was clarified.

The President was asked to follow up with David Smith to ensure an open invitation was always available.

It was clarified that the cancellation of Southfest 2020 did not result in any loss for the TCC.

The minutes were moved for acceptance by Glenys Patulny and seconded by Barry Blight.

Correspondence

Correspondence was dealt with during the President's Report.

Treasurer's Report – Sed Bustillo

Expenditure for May 2020 was \$731.28. Funds are Operating Fund \$12,609.71 and Members' fund \$9,950.63.

Expenditure was website maintenance, telephone and printer supplies.

The acceptance of the Treasurer's report was moved by Sed Bustillo and seconded by Wayne King.

The President described a proposal to move from the bulk storage facility to a government operated business centre. The move will provide more room, better access and overcome health and safety issues.

A motion was moved to empower the Committee to negotiate a lease of a business centre office for the use of the TCC to the value of \$1,600 per annum.

Moved Glenys Patulny and seconded by Beverly Flint. The motion was carried.

Environment Sub-Committee

No report.

SouthFest

SouthFest committee will investigate pop-up events post COVID restrictions.

Youth

Term 4 Week 2 has been suggested as a next date for next youth forum. This is to be coordinated with schools. Zoom meeting next moth to discuss with Youth Sub Committee.

Planning, Transport and Communications Sub-Committee

Robyn Rofe, a Greenway resident has established the Greenway Action Group to look at development in Greenway particularly the development on Block 2 Section 57 Greenway (Guilfoyle House). Other issues in the area include parking and access. Robyn spoke about the development and the coordination she is undertaking. Assistance was sought for person with suitable Facebook skills and an offer of assistance was received. It was noted that the Action Group is independent of the TCC however the TCC is sharing information. It was recalled an earlier proposal for a multi-story public carpark.

Community, Health and Wellbeing – Glenys Patulny

Mini survey to clarify crime and safety as identified in the Community Survey. The six questions in the survey were described.

The Meeting concluded at 9.30pm.

Next Meeting Tuesday 7 July 2020 via Zoom.

* * *