

MINUTES of TUGGERANONG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held 2 February 2021 as a hybrid meeting at the Town Centre Vikings, Greenway and via Zoom.

Opened at 7:36 pm

Attendance (32):

Recorded in attendance register.

Apologies: Eva Cawthorne, Robyn Rofe

President's Report – J Bollard

Jeff acknowledged the Ngunnawal people on whose land we meet and paid his respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Jeff welcomed members to the first physical meeting of the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) since March 2020. He noted the meeting was being conducted as a hybrid meeting combining those members present in the room with members online through Zoom. The meeting was being recorded for the purpose of preparing minutes.

The support of the Town Centre Vikings was acknowledged for hosting our meeting and keeping us safe. Members were asked to cooperate with the Club in the operation of their COVID Safe Plan.

The President observed a quiet period over Christmas and New Year with limited travel opportunities and curtailment of local events. The ACT had remained safe from a COVID outbreak.

Jeff drew attention to the Stronger Communities Programme Round 6 Grant offering funding to local community groups in Federal Electorates. Local organisations that could benefit should contact David Smith MP.

The TCC website is about to undergo a makeover and suggestions to improve the site were invited.

The Combined Community Councils of the ACT have been undertaking a joint program to improve National Broadband Network connectivity.

The TCC has been approached about engaging in a project to stop at the source leaf fall pollution of Lake Tuggeranong.

Acceptance of the President's Report was moved by M Crozier/B Flint

Police Report

No police report this month.

MLAs Reports

Mark Parton

Expressed how good it was to be able to meet in person.

Provided remarks on the ACT Budget to be presented next week.

Indicated the pressure on local small business and highlighted the pressure from alternative development was having on the Chisholm Tavern.

Johnathan Davis

Since the last TCC meeting Johnathan has been busy with 48 stakeholder meetings and 49 meetings with individual constituents.

The Assembly is coming into Estimates time which will follow a new process. The new process will combine annual reports with estimates.

Johnathan is participating in three committees including chairing one of the committees.

Additional comments were made on the possible redevelopment of the Chisholm Tavern site by a fast-food chain. It may hinge on approval to integrate a public toilet site.

Electorate office is progressing with an expected opening in May-June.

Improved public space maintenance was discussed. Issues included was dead branch removal from trees, clean-up of leaf fall from around the lake and on paths, and grass cutting.

Presentations

Rebecca Vassarotti the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction.

Minister Vassarotti commenced by giving a snapshot of issues in her portfolios noting the steep learning curve becoming a Minister in her first term as an MLA. Focus has been on budget preparation. Following on from earlier discussion on rapid grass growth there will be additional money in the budget to tackle weeds.

Six Ngunnawal rangers have been appointed to the Parks Service as part of caring for country.

A new reserve has been created providing environment offset and providing rehabilitation of habitat.

Funding is being provided for healthy waterways and this includes support for environmental volunteers.

In responding to questions:

Noted the Food in the Capital program and the importance of urban agriculture.

There are different views on kangaroo culls and the management program is based on scientific advice.

A suggestion on greater use on indigenous language in placename and signs was noted with a remark that this is already occurring in Parks and Conservation.

The Sustainable Building and Construction portfolio covers building quality, registration of engineers and building professionals, construction of accessible buildings and sustainability and environment standards in building practices and material.

Fencing requirements could be addressed in the planning review.

Homelessness and Housing Services – special homeless services. \$18M in parliamentary agreement with \$2.6M committed. Securing accommodation with pets is difficult.

Ian Walker Executive Director Environment - ACT Conservator, Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

Traditional knowledge and practices of the Ngunnawal People are being used to inform current land management.

Ian noted that he has reporting lines to Ministers Vassarotti, Gentleman and Rattenbury.

Recovery of Namadgi National Park is on-going with funding of \$20 million from Federal and ACT Governments. Work will continue for 4 to 5 years. Work is being done with catchment groups and rural lease holders.

Canberra National Park Management Plan will be released in coming months. This covers 63 parks. New parks are being established through offset programs. These programs provide reserves in exchange for natural environment lost to developments.

Commenting on grass areas he observed that native grass land needs to be let grow to accommodate different species.

Lakes and Ponds Management Plan – continued investment in healthy waterways with an additional \$1.5M being allocated including for continued work for Lake Tuggeranong.

A Cat Management Plan will be finished this year.

National Resource Management Plan will be released for consultation and locally will involve the three catchment groups.

Responding to questions:

Trees at the Yarralumla dog park had become unsafe and will be replaced. Grass will be managed with volunteer groups who receive funding. Flying foxes are responsibility of National Capital Authority, ACT Government is aware of the issue.

Weeds and pest animals are being managed in Namadgi. Trapping and fencing are being used.

Ngunnawal knowledge is being used to guide fire as a management tool.

COVID has seen an increase in visitors to parks but have restricted volunteer activity.

Minutes of the December 2020 meeting

Response to question on police participation to be added.

Moved accept as amended.

G Patulny/M Crozier - Carried

Treasurer's Report – No treasurer's report was presented due to the absence of the Treasurer.

The TCC has received ACT Government grant for FY2020-21.

Community, Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee and SouthFest – G Patulny

The feasibility of hosting SouthFest is still be evaluated. It is intended to hold a committee meeting to discuss options in the next few weeks. Some ideas being investigated included smaller COVID safe events including markets.

Youth Sub-Committee – G Patulny

A youth survey is being prepared carrying forward some questions and refining others to better classify issues. There was a discussion on the distribution of surveys through the school networks.

Planning, Transport and Communications - J Bollard

TCC has been approached to obtain support for the development of a new indoor sport stadium in Tuggeranong. Committee has expressed concern about the dormant Mpowerdome in Fadden.

Suburban Land Agency is seeking input on development of boardwalk and bridge across Tuggeranong Pond.

The number of issues coming to the Sub-Committee are increasing so it is planned to reinvigorate the group.

Environment Sub-Committee – D Sommer

Sunday 7 March is Clean-Up Australia Day and TCC will be collaborating on a Lake Clean-up day.

A request was made for ideas on environment initiatives.

General Business

Eva Cawthorne has stepped down as Secretary and will continue as Public Officer and Committee Member.

Nomination of Harvey Bell to join the PT&C Sub-committee.

General comments on light rail highlighted different levels of support.

The President thanked members and guests for attending and those that joined the meeting via Zoom.

Next meeting on 2 March 2021.

Meeting closed at 9:25.