

Tuggeranong Community Council Meeting
ZOOM Meeting
7:30pm, 5 October 2021

Open Meeting/Welcomes

President's Report

- New committee has meet.
- Robyn Rofe, our Secretary/Treasurer has been appointed as Public Officer.
- Acknowledgement of the people who stepped down at last election – Catherine Jones, Michael Crozier and Eva Cawthorne.
- Completed annual return required under the Association Act.
- Completed acquittal for ACT Government funding.
- Proposed that we relook at our Constitution to ensure we are consistent with the model rules and best management practices.
- Activities quiet except for some planning issues to be discussed in Sub Committee reports.

MP/MLA Updates

David Smith, Federal member for Bean

- Thanks to Jeff for helping out with Community Grant outcomes.
- Ran a disabilities sector forum at Communities@work.
- Ran `1st meeting for Babies of Bean at South Point – they are hoping to run similar event next year – to bring together all services providers for young families, ACT and Commonwealth.
- Will run Zoom forum on anti-corruption on the 13th Oct 6.30 to 7.30pm with Mark Dreyfus, Shadow Attorney General.
- We are looking at running an Aged Care Forum however is difficult under the current lock down conditions.
- Tuggeranong is leading the way with vaccines – the current lock down conditions has been challenging for small businesses.
- Office is likely to reopen on 15th October with face-to-face meetings expected from the begin of November. Can be contacted on 6293 1344 or email.
- Parliament is back on 18th October.
- The Community is doing good job in supporting vaccination program.

Mark Parton - MLA

- They are preparing for Budget week in ACT Assembly. For the first time assembly staff are back on deck as there are some things that can't be done virtually. Budget announcement will be 5pm tomorrow
- I have run a sustained campaign over maintenance issues in public housing in ACT – government has responded by adding \$80 million to maintain public housing over next three years.

Nicole Lawder – MLA

- Budget being announced tomorrow and Elizabeth Lee, Liberal leader will give reply speech on Friday 8th October.
- Responding to question of proposed crematorium in Symonston. Noted Southern Memorial Park (SMP) also plans to build a crematorium in Phase 2 - do we need two crematoriums – does a private crematorium mean we will not get a public crematorium as SMP – also what types of crematorium does the Symonston one propose - they might put in a gas one?

Peter Cain – MLA

- Keen to get around the various district councils

COPING with COVID – ACT Select Committee looking at this – want input from the community

Support for the individual - Wellways Australia (a not-for-profit mental health, disability, NDIS, community care, and aged care services provider) - *Jim Jacobs, Arnold Ogbac, Nora Chan*

- There has been a surge of mental health issues arising from Covid 19, especially with the young population. Services have been adjusted to cover this for example with people in home not able to engage with the community.
- There is a new pilot outreach program on 'Brief Intervention', it runs for 4-8 weeks and concentrates on people struggling with mental health - 15 year plus. It is for those not managed by community health teams
 - gives the emotional support and links to other places in the community helping with education and finding jobs.
 - meets face-to-face, where they feel safe – try to meet with them within 24 to 72 hrs, meet 2 to 3 hours 2 to 3 times a week – workers have the lived experience so can support participants – work 8.30 to 8.30 Mon to Fri – can work on weekends – OneLink, self-referrals.
 - will work with them 4 to 8 weeks.
- Also support family and carers - peer group supports, welfare checks, facilitate groups so people can bounce off ideas.
- Link Program – a peer orientated volunteer program – work with volunteers from Volunteering ACT to help with community engagement for those in mental health distress. Volunteers will commit from 3 to 6 months with from 2 to 6 hours per week. Activities include showing people how to use buses, how to use zoom and other community outreach engagement.
- Most of individuals who come to our programs are managed by our community health team.
- Create good news stories – often taken from external sites.
- Art and mindfulness – art materials provided.

Referrals - most referrals are self referrals, they mostly come from community mental health teams who will liaise with Wellways and other teams to get help.

- all workers are vaccinated

When asked how well is ACT coping with mental health issue:

- are resources good enough it was mentioned that hospitals inundated with people needing help
 - Lockdown increases sense of isolation – not enough support to cope with current situation of Covid

- Will probably take at least 12 months to see a significant increase in wellness mental – a lot of individual need 3 – 6 months, 2 to 3 hours per week of therapy before you can say they are recovered.
- Hospitals are having trouble in keeping data up to date.
- Easing of restrictions will help - we need resources and sometimes we are not aware of all that is available.
- It was commended that it is hard to identify what is normal behaviour and what is not – what is normal to one is not normal to another – level of disturbance in everyday life can impact on mental health.

Support for business - Brendan Smyth - Commissioner for International Engagement, Chief Minister, Treasury Economic Development Directorate.

- During Covid period was asked to become the Covid 19 local business commissioner to:
 - Give inform on where businesses can get help.
 - Feed back into community with what is working.
 - Help tenants and landlords to cope – put into place a practice to work out what will work.
- One third of work is related to pastoral care.
- Now after second lockdown people are physically tired and financial stressed.
- Get tenants and landlords together to sort out solutions
 - Lifeline call on services is up 40% this year – government has given increase support to mental health services.

Effect on businesses:

- Had to determine – in normal circumstances many firms don't last first year.
- Last year dealt with 500 to 600 firms – know of 10 that don't survive
- Large turnover in small business.
- Staff for Covid Local Business Commissioner – International engagement has 6 staff so now 3 look after Covid 19 issues – gained an additional staffer with crisis management expertise.
 - Take time to tease our dilemma between tenants and renters – should be within what the tenant can bear – can landlords waive rent? What can renter pay?
 - Each case is quite unique – different set of skill to other job and covid needs.
 - Office is all about relationships
 - Take time to listen to get to nub of problem
- Boost for Business – the ACT Government has funds that business can access - can ask up to \$125,000 some all ACT money, some combined ACT and Commonwealth – eg rebates on rates.
- Some businesses have modified behaviour because of Covid, some change business practises, some made changes to their business.
- Often we have to point out to people, that how you shut down a business, is as important as running the business eg you have a lease – you are responsible for lease till end of the lease.
 - direct people to the appropriate people and places for help.
 - Some businesses in trouble before Covid and Covid made it worse.
- It should be noted that many staff of business are concerned about working where people are coming in without vaccinations – double edged sword hanging over you – society needs to take care of its people.
- What about the large companies eg. big chains like Coles, Bunning, liquor, tech places etc are doing well, they have in house resource to do more online – click and collect.
- Most companies in difficulties are food outlets and those who do the personal services, eg hairdressers – this is where government grants are aim at.

- When asked how people can get help it was commented that they should ring Access Canberra who will help as best they can to put you through to the right service.
- There is Assembly Inquiry into the COVID-19 2021 pandemic response looking at options – a submission could be put in on behalf of TCC and the Tuggeranong community about what Tuggeranong needs – report day should be around December – will ask the Community Health and Wellbeing committee to look at ideas to put into submission.

<https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-committees/committees/select-committee-on-the-covid-19-2021-pandemic-response>

General Business

Apologies: Nil

Minutes from Previous meeting:

Proposed Harvey Bell seconded Didi Sommer.

Correspondence

Nothing of significance coming in.

Treasurer's report

Report presented to the president each month

- Constitution says that must be presented at every general meeting
- Report presented

Moved: Nora Preston, seconded Albert Orszaczky

Any other Business - none

Sub Committee reports

- Planning, Transport and Communications and Environment

DA 202138789 Crematorium & Memorial Park at Symonston (SMP)

1. Endorse submission on the DA.
2. Approve communications plan consistent with submission.
 - Last meeting was a combined Environment and Planning meeting re the Crematorium
 - Will make a submission with similar comments on the SMP – air pollution, further gas fire crematorium would not comply with ACT government policy re gas.
 - Part of Callum Brae Reserve would adjacent to crematoria site, it has three borders with the this reserve which has some of the best grassy woodlands remaining in Australia and some of the best remnant Yellow Box woodlands in Australia. Note in May 2020 the ACT Government changed Yellow Box trees from endangered to critically endangered.
 - DA was submitted under the Merit tract which does not need as much scrutiny as an Impact track
 - Also on broad acre zoning - this application if only 9 hectares whereas SMP is proposed as 40 hectares – this area is site for endangered fauna and flora.
 - Already have 2 Crematoriums in the ACT.

Proposal- that the membership approve the sub committees put in a combined response to the DA.

Proposed Jim Thornton, seconded Harvey Bell. Carried

Chisholm Tavern Closure

Endorse retention of amenities block by Government

- Owners wanting to get them moved out
- Now approval to put a MacDonald on Tavern site – approved by ACT tribunal as long as public toilets incorporated into the new site – following Mike Gentleman’s call in powers to refuse the sale of the toilet block – court case now pending in November – concern about losing a public toilet facility.

It was pointed out by one of our members that there were a lot of signatories against the submission and in support of the tavern. Mark & Nicole will bring up in the Assembly to see what the Government’s position is.

Community, Health and Wellbeing

- Working on mental health with Youth committee and activities with SouthFest committees
- Need to expand group – if anyone interested

SouthFest

- a series of reimagined small events in February.
- Have engaged a consultant to assist us.
- Need to understand the risk profile re insurance policy.

Youth Sub Committee

Last meeting we spoke about:

- Mandated reporting.
- Our ‘One Question Mental Health Survey’.
- Proposed letter to various mental health groups.
- Talked about running another survey on topic from our Youth forum not related to Mental Health.

Other Business:

Police Reports - It would be good to get the police reports back. Jeff will get in contact with Rod Anderson.

Constitution - Propose that we set up subcommittee to review the constitution - anyone who would like to be involved, please let Jeff know.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd November.

Meeting Closed 9.30pm.