



TRRA Inc GENERAL MEETING
Monday 8th September 2014 , Commenced 8.20 pm (after the AGM)
Crows Nest Room, Nelson Bay Bowling Club

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: As per attendance book

WELCOME - President Terry Wall welcomed Cr John Nell as our guest speaker who spoke first prior to general issues.

Cr Nell thanked TRRA for the invitation to speak on his experience as an East Ward Councillor, particularly over the last 2 years. Main points –

- Does not support directly elected Mayor. The position has more power and a diminished role for the Councillors. The power is not now in the casting vote. More delegations are being given to staff and the General Manager.
- The Mayor has control of the business papers and number and frequency of meetings, one having been cancelled last week. Previous Mayors would put more before the Councillors.
- Some Councillors are putting in a lot more effort than others, particularly with the reduction to 9 Councillors and the Mayor. If a Councillor lacks interest it affects the current Councillors.

Major issues:

- Finances are in better shape. However the level of maintenance is not, noting particularly the level of service for sporting fields has not increased for many years.
- The uniformity across the State for the new LEP is supported. Rural 1(a) zonings could present issues as what was OK in the 50s is not now. Tidal land at Taylors Beach/Cromarty Bay is zoned environmental protection.
- Does not support building in flood zones in the western area as approved last meeting. Every flood is different. Maitland has started approving developments in high danger zones – concern about people's lives such as SES volunteers required to rescue people. Insurance companies will have a comeback and Council then becomes the insurer of most risk, without collecting the insurance premiums.
- Supports closed meetings for confidential items but more could have been open to the public.
- Most items for the Holiday Parks Trust meeting could be open to the public
- There is a lack of debate and agreement in the current Council. Democracy, though it might be messy, is better

Big Ticket issues Q & A

- Nelson Bay By-pass is high priority – held up with negotiation with Woromi people – there is a 300 metre missing link (involving about \$300,000) before Council can seek Federal and State funding.
- Explained the rationale for voting for the Marina Resort even though additional storeys are not in line with current Development Control Plan. Nelson Bay needs development.
- Lobbied without success for Woolworths to provide a temporary facility for 18 months during construction period. Not fair and reasonable for everyone to have to go to Salamander Shopping Centre.
- Supported the Samarai low cost camping option and relocation of the office to the resort – to save rental and to make a small return compared to what is there now. It is not really a beach resort as it is too difficult to get to the beach. The compatibility for family camping with the nudist beach nearby and for school group bookings was drawn to Cr Nell's attention.
- re future of Tomaree Lodge, Cr Nell stated that he had tried to get Council to initiate a community consultation on the future of the site after the Lodge closes (provisionally 2017), without success – the majority on Council appear to want to leave all options open. Cr Nell said he favoured a sensitive resort development blending into the Headland rather than high rise buildings, but acknowledged that the issue will be controversial, with strong support for the site to be incorporated in the National Park. The State government, as the landowner, will be a major player, but there is no reason why Council could not take the initiative to find out what the community thinks about various options.

President Terry thanked Cr Nell for speaking to us and a vote of thanks was carried by acclamation. The general meeting then proceeded.

1. APOLOGIES – (as per AGM) Denis Pitorino, Colin Howard, Lyn Rudkin, David & Rhona Birss, Pam Mumford, Fran Corner, Kate Washington, Peter Davis, Simon and Marlene Brooke, Ken Shadler, Glenys & Peter Francis, Jean Armstrong, Bruce Robinson, Murray & Lorraine Nicol, Judy Hearn, Fran & Jon Digges, Carol Series.
2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES –14 July 2014 Minutes were available on the website. Moved Dick Appleby, seconded Geoffrey Washington that the minutes be confirmed. Carried.
3. MATTERS ARISING – Any items not covered in AGM Presentation - Deferred to discussion in current issues
4. TREASURER'S REPORT – Geoffrey Washington reported on behalf of Treasurer Dennis a closing balance as at 31.7.14 of \$1,523.15. Moved Geoffrey Washington, seconded Ian Hearn that the report be accepted. Carried.
5. CORRESPONDENCE – Secretary tabled the correspondence register and highlighted –
 - (a) Letters to Minister – Request for Reopening of our case re conduct of elections
 - (b) Copyright Issues – Follow Up
 - (c) ICAC representations – confidential for now.

- (d) Oasis Close Walkway issues – on watch for final cost; Access agreement; Section 94 deletion (now a GIPA request)
 - (e) Pecuniary interest notification made to Council and DLG on Cr Le Mottee
 - (f) Letters to Examiner refuting claims by Mayor and Cr Tucker
- All correspondence is available on request from the Secretary.

6. CARRYOVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- (a) Yacaaba Centre – Funding and premises OK for now
- (b) Tomaree Lodge land – Nothing further to report. Crown Lands review has been deferred (until after next State election)
- (c) Parking Permits – Follow up needed with Council – sending Manly example
- (d) Graffiti – President provided the numbers to call for graffiti reporting 0412 578 570 and the Police Station direct on 49841769 or the Police 1300 hotline. Police have a special operation underway.
- (e) Council Requests via CRM System – Secretary to provide information on website about using the PSC CRM system for reporting routine things that need doing.

7. REPORTS – CURRENT ISSUES – Most covered in AGM presentation.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

(a) Planning for People Charter

John James told the meeting about the Better Planning Network proposal to have a charter to work towards better outcomes for planning. Community groups, individuals, politicians – all being asked to sign it, preferably before the next NSW State Election. A post will be put on the website when the links are ready next week. Moved John James, seconded Nigel Waters that TRRA Inc support the Charter. Carried.

It was noted that Econetwork are working towards a special meeting on 12 November for this.

- (b) **Enhancement Group** – A suggestion from a Committee member to form a sub-group to improve the appearance of our area was deferred.

(c) Stop the Rot – Newcastle Group – ICAC Outcomes

Dick reported that 300 people attended a recent meeting called by Tony Brown. TRRA will discuss in Committee how we can support this group.

(d) Nelson Bay Bowling Club – Support

Moved Geoffrey Washington, seconded John James that we write a thank you letter to the management of the Nelson Bay Bowling Club thanking the Club for the use of club facilities and meeting rooms during the past 12 months. Nicole Blue the functions co-ordinator to receive a special thank you. Carried.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm