

GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19 April 2006 at Greenwich Memorial Community Centre 46 Greenwich Road

Present: as per Attendance Register

Apologies: Anne and Richard Stein, Denis Smith, Bill Clarke, Merri Southwood

1. Opening

The meeting commenced at 8.05pm. Apologies were received. The Secretary not being present, Alison Bird offered to take the minutes.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The last meeting being the Annual General Meeting, the minutes will be read at the next AGM.

3. Correspondence

included notice that the Propsting Library will be closed for painting from 5 May to 12 May.

4. Treasurer's Report

The latest Financial Report was tabled by the Treasurer (as attached). He noted that expenses for the period were high due to several months' back payments to our Internet Service Provider to host our website. Rob Starling had been paying these costs in the past and thanks were expressed by the President for Rob's substantial donation. However, the Association now needs to take responsibility for these costs.

Income from memberships was substantial but a subscription renewal reminder letter will need to go out later this month.

Printing costs for the newsletter are expected to be higher this year because the print quality was poor when using the (free) community photocopier supplied by Council. Quotes from printing firms were currently being sought. It is expected that the cost will be around \$125 per edition.

5. Public Address System

The President put the motion "that the Association, being in a sound financial position, purchases a public address system for use by the Association at its meetings and for use by other community groups as from time to time approved by the Committee."

There is the possibility that the Association can purchase a second-hand portable, wireless system for about \$300. A quotation obtained from "Merrylands Music" for a new but similar system was \$1800.

Tom Lawson suggested amending the motion so as to limit the cost, at this stage, to \$500.

The amendment was accepted and the amended motion was seconded by Sally Dowling. On being put to the meeting, the motion was passed unanimously.

6. Community Hall

The GMCCA executive has clearly stated that they do not wish to continue with a lease from Council for the Community Hall. It has been suggested that GCA take

over the lease. This is in line with the motion regarding the lease (and subsequent license to KU Children's Services) that was approved by Council in December 2005.

The matter was discussed and the following points were raised:

- hiring of the hall at night can disturb neighbours (Don Patterson)
- a Committee of Council may be a good option for maintaining community input into how the hall is run (John May)
- the lease should stay with a local committee, rather than Council, as this would maintain the balance between the needs of Council, KU and the community (Sally Lancaster)
- while the operation of the preschool had recently changed (from community-based to KU), it was not a good time to also be changing the operation of the hall (Sally Lancaster)
- financial considerations are important – currently both GMCCA and GCA pay public liability insurance of around \$1600 per annum and this “doubling up” would be avoided if the hall management came under the umbrella of GCA (Tom Lawson)
- Michelle Underwood of KU had contacted GCA last week and was anxious to let it be known that KU comes to the negotiating table with no fixed ideas about the way the license will operate and understands that it operates in a community hall (Pam Palmer)
- There is also the quite complex issue that the community needs to consider regarding the fencing of the playground area as part of DOCS requirements (Rod Tudge).

The meeting concluded that

- i) GMCCA proceed with developing a proposal for leasing and management of the hall
- ii) The Management Plan be developed as soon as possible having regard to the business needs of KU and Council
- iii) The Management Plan be put to a General Meeting of the Association for debate.

7. Tesrol/Billy Blue

John Dowey informed the meeting that Council had been waiting for an arborist's report. The External Assessor would then be able to compile its recommendation. This was expected to be ready for consideration by Council's Planning and Building Committee in May.

Recent amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act may impact on Tesrol's plans under the “existing use” provisions. In particular, it seems unlikely that Tesrol will be able to hold on to the benefit of the existing density on the hostel site if the use changed from “hostel” to any other use. However, this will not affect the DA at this stage – it will only affect DAs submitted subsequent to the amendments.

8. Waterbrook

Alan Winney highlighted safety concerns for surrounding residents. Trucks were parking along Pacific Highway all the way to Innes Rd, making egress very difficult and dangerous at times. The matter has been reported to the Local Area police. The Private Certifier (City Plan Services) seems unable or unwilling to tackle the problem but have thankfully improved their level of supervision of the site. Council's rangers have been called on numerous occasions but are unable to do more than fine cars or trucks for illegal parking.

Residents are very frustrated and it is feared that an accident may happen before police, Council and the Certifier are able to impress the builder further with the need to maintain a safer environment.

9. Australand/Duntroon Ave

Submissions about the DA officially closed 18th April. The GCA has not yet made a submission. Pam attended a recent meeting held by Council to look at the DA. It seems that the main concern to Greenwich itself will be the increased traffic on River Rd and the danger this poses to all, including pedestrians. There are no pedestrian plans and this is apparently not a concern for the developer – it is a matter for Council.

As far as the plans go, the current concerns are that the lift overruns pierce the specified height envelope; and that the design of Block B could be improved – it is large and box-like.

10. Committee Reports

Marjorie Propsting Memorial Library Working Party

See reference above to library closing for painting.

Shell Community Consultative Committee

Tanks are being repainted for aesthetic reasons (at considerable cost).

East Ward Traffic Working Party

No major issues. A recent review of the operation of the working parties highlighted some problems but they will continue to meet every 3 months.

Greenwich Memorial Community Centre Association

As above

Lane Cove Tunnel Action Group

Concern about congestion on Epping Rd and Longueville Rd.

11. Councillors' Reports

Clrs Tom Lawson and Rod Tudge reported:

- St Leonards Regional Strategy study, which includes the Royal North Shore Hospital redevelopment, is released for public comment. It is on display at Council and libraries.
- Golf Course Working party has received a grant to look at pondage systems for watering the course.
- Newlands Park Working Party is looking at maintaining and improving the park.
- Lane Cove Alive Leadership Group will be looking at plans for the town centre.

In response to questions:

From Alan Winney re the redevelopment of the ABC's Gore Hill site, Clr Tudge stated that Council had been advised but was not taking an active role. Russ Webber (Bicycles North) added that Willoughby Council has proposed a multi-purpose (pedestrian/bike) path through the ABC site, UTS and thence to RNSH.

12. Close

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm.