

Scotland Island Residents' Association



Minutes of Committee Meeting

Date: October 13, 2013

Venue: Community Hall

Present: Judy Readman, Bill Gye, Alan Gaines, Cass Gye, Sue Dickson, Graeme Crayford, Ruth Gaines, Tim Turpin, June Lahm, Debbie Cordukes

Apologies: Betsi Beem, Carol Floyd, Ian Souter, Jon Maxim, Colin Haskell

Meeting opened at 10 am

Previous Minutes:

Minutes of Committee Meeting on September 2, 2013 and Special Committee Meeting on September 21, 2013 accepted.

These minutes and the summary of the Open Discussion Session on September 2, 2013, the Code of Conduct, the process for Engagement with the Committee and the SIRAC Decision Making Process to be published on the SIRA website.

Action Points Meeting September 2, Carried Forward:

- **Waste Water Run Off:** PWC have inspected the suspect sites and have forwarded SIRA a letter indicating that they will follow up with the relevant property owners regarding any remedial actions required. **Action: W&W to follow-up with PWC**
- **Community Vehicle:**
Driver Police and Health Checks: **Action: CV to adopt; advise drivers and reimburse**
- **Pittwater Offshore Soapbox (POS):** **Action: CommsSC to progress; consider current forum**
- **Community Hall Café:** EOI went in PON with no response. **Action: CF to re advertise** (deferred)
- **SIRAC Fireshed Dinner:** **Action: CommsSC to schedule for next year** (deferred)
- **SIRAC Decision Making Process:** **Action: BG to distribute adjusted document for approval via Email**
- **Website:** Funding requested previously submitted by CB approved.
Action: CommsSC to implement new hosting arrangements ASAP (in progress)
- **Visitor Policy:** Rescinded at Special Meeting **Action: Remove from the SIRA website**
- **Harold Reserve:** PWC not cooperating regarding removal of dead trees. **Action: P&R to follow-up**
- **Dog Leash-Free Period:** Awaiting response from PWC.
Action: RG to arrange on-site community meeting through PON
- **Community Engagement Survey:** To form part of review of Communications & Community Engagement process **Action: JR/BG to contact facilitator** (deferred)
- **Community Hall:** CF previously suggested having mural painted on outside of building.
Action: CF to follow-up with EC and PWC
- **Emergency Water:** Consider need to implement one-way valves to prevent back-flow.
Action: EW to audit the existing standpipes and pilot the use of one-way valves at up to 6 sites

Action Points Meeting September 21, Carried Forward:

- **Process for Community Engagement with SIRAC:** Communique to be published on PON with meeting agenda. **Action:** Draft to be approved via Email and sent to PON

Treasurers Report:

Report noted and accepted.

Motion: The Committee approves a gift to value of \$100 in recognition of Nathalie Muir's service as a water monitor for 14 years.

Hall power consumption has increased, probably due to AC not being switched off.

Action: Hall to follow-up with PWC regarding installation of a more prominent on/off switch for the AC

There are surplus Community Vehicle funds (originally to broker a deal for after-hours water taxi service); suggestion that we could explore using these funds to mitigate the risk of closure of the road to the top of the Island (the hair-pin bend which is becoming increasingly dangerous to navigate).

Action: CV to follow-up with Transport for NSW

CP Working Group Report:

BG reported on the recent meeting where Chris Hunt from PWC presented the Options Council are considering for additional car parking opposite the Commuter Wharf. CPF have submitted another proposal which will need to be reviewed and assessed by Council before it can be considered.

Action: JR/BG to respond to PWC requesting finalisation of assessment asap (with fees and numbers)

CP Community Forum:

PON notice published and posters placed on public wharves announcing the Community Forum Sunday, October 20. PWC have declined to attend as they will be hosting their own Forum on October 29 (TBC). SIRA will not be recommending any specific Option. SIRA's position will be determined by the community response to the CP Survey.

It is proposed to have a speaker for each of the 5 options:

- Option 1 – Original CPPOM Ground Level only
- Option 2 – Deck Option with 60 leased spaces
- Option 3 – Deck Option with no leased spaces
- Option 4 – Church Point Friends parallel parking Option
- Option 5 – Pause to reassess

Action: BG to take the lead in organising and hosting the Forum

CP Survey:

Draft survey discussed and it was agreed to keep it very simple and not include any notes or list of pros and cons (background information to be published via a web link for those interested).

Motion: That the Church Point Parking Survey go ahead. **Agreed unanimously**

Pasadena:

BG represented SIRA case at on-site meeting of the Land & Environment Conciliation Conference on September 30 and spoke at Council's Development Unit Meeting on the following Thursday ahead of the report going to a full Council Meeting; JC also spoke passionately in support of heritage values. Need to continue to push for the CP car park to be for CP parking permit holders only from 5pm to 9am.

Action: BG to speak at the full Council Meeting when advertised

Emergency Water – Associate Membership:

As noted in the report, legal advice has been given that it is problematic as to whether we can have 2 classes of member with different constitutional rights. Agreed that we should explore alternatives that do not require constitutional change. **Action:** JR, GC, CG to continue to pursue alternatives

It was noted that the Model Constitution calls for the Committee to consist of the Office Bearers (the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer and the Secretary) and at least 3 Ordinary Members, the total number of Committee Members is to be 7.

It was agreed that such a smaller Committee would be more workable, but that we should have 5 Ordinary Committee members to give a Committee of 9. With the reduced numbers we may need to rethink how we structure the Sub Committees. **Motion:** That we continue to pursue updating the Constitution to align with the current Act and Regulations. **Agreed unanimously**

Action: JR, GC, CG to prepare briefing paper with recommended changes and supporting documentation

AGM Scheduled Date:

It was unanimously agreed to add this item to the Agenda.

To allow sufficient time to both review the Constitution and to engage the community in this process, it was agreed that we should hold a Community Engagement and Constitution Update Forum on the date originally set aside for the proposed AGM, December 1, and defer the AGM to a date in February.

Motion: Moved BG; Seconded JR **Agreed unanimously**

Action: CG to seek necessary regulatory approval to defer the AGM

Independent CE Review:

The review of CE processes should be considered in conjunction with the planned constitutional review, culminating in the Community Engagement and Constitutional Update Forum on December 1.

Leahvera Reserve:

As per discussion at meeting on June 2, 2013 where JR indicated that due to a conflict of interest (her residence borders the reserve), it was agreed that JR would take no part in decision making related to the Leahvera Reserve. Unfortunately this was not recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

The Cargo Wharf Reserves Community Forum held on September 14 was well attended and achieved a high degree of community consensus to the proposed plan of action.

Action: P&R to work with Comms to produce PON notice (with links to Forum notes and plan) for further community feedback prior to forwarding the plan to PWC

Catherine Park:

Golf buggies in park should be referred to PWC as a compliance issue.

Action: P&R to draft letter to PWC for approval

Waste Management:

As noted in the report, URM, the Waste Contractors, are proposing to replace each of the 3000 litre metal waste skips on public wharves with 3 smaller 1100 litre plastic bins. The design of the new bins aims to make them more user friendly, maximize use of internal space and deter illegal dumping.

It is also proposed to use large metal skips at Cargo Wharf for the removal of waste during the General Clean Up and Vegetation Collection to avoid material hitting the ground and avoid pollution. Road side collection arrangements will remain unchanged.

Website Review:

Funding request previously submitted by CB for new web hosting facility approved.

Action: CommsSC to follow-up and expedite transfer of SIRA website to new host.

Meeting closed at 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: November 17, 2013 in Community Hall

Open Discussion Session

Present: Judy Readman, Bill Gye, Cass Gye, Sue Dickson, Ruth Gaines, Alan Gaines, Graeme Crayford, Tim Turpin
Jenny and Scott Frazer, Jenny Cullen, Hubert van Mierlo, Robyn Iredale, Martin Readman, Phil Pryor, Eamon Hamilton, Karen Kruger

Session commenced approx. 12:00pm

Note: *The following is a summary of the session discussion and not a complete account of all comments made. Errors and omissions accepted.*

SPEAKERS:

Jenny Frazer

Recognised that the past few months have been difficult and suggested that we leave past troubles behind. Wants to see us move to a collaborative model, working together with respect for different ideas.

Jenny Cullen

Asked for an explanation of the structure of the proposed CP Forum.

BG advised that the Forum will follow the Options presented by PWC at the last Working Group Meeting; he outlined the Options and the proposed speakers as noted above. A survey of the whole community will follow with a link to background information.

JC went on to discuss demand management and indicated that she saw this as an integral part of the decision on the Options.

BG advised that SIRAC have written to PWC requesting that sections of the main car park be available to CP sticker holders only 5pm and 10am every day. SIRAC will continue to pursue this.

JC asked about the survey and a draft was circulated.

BG advised that the survey had been finalised and approved by SIRAC.

Hubert van Mierlo

Asked about membership of SIRA being a requirement to access emergency water.

It was noted that, as SIRA owns and manages the water lines, it needs to mitigate its liability resulting from the sale of non-potable emergency water. Legal advice was taken in this regard in 2004.

SIRAC has explored the option of introducing two classes of membership but changing the Constitution to allow for this has proven problematic. SIRAC is continuing to explore alternatives such as taking out additional insurance but this would increase costs that would need to be passed on.

SIRAC is also negotiating with Sydney Water to provide draft plans and costings to supply water to Scotland Island as this is required before sewerage can be provided.

HvM then asked about the changes to the Visitor Policy. The community will now not know what was decided at SIRAC meetings until the minutes are approved and published after the subsequent meeting, which would appear to limit community engagement.

BG advised that SIRAC recognises the need for greater community engagement but the appropriate vehicle for this is through Community Forums not Committee meetings. This was the intent behind the setting up of the Community Engagement Working Group.

BG also noted that SIRAC has adopted a Decision Making Process which was distributed to the community for feedback. This process ensures that the community will be surveyed on all significant decisions before they are ratified by SIRAC (e.g. CP car parking).

SIRAC also supports community engagement via blogs and Facebook (Facebook not ideal as it requires participants to join Facebook to participate). As with the PON, SIRAC does not want to become the editor or moderator of these forums but encourages their use.

Phil Pryor

Sees goodwill but still feels that we are not listening to each other, still us and them with deep suspicion on both sides.

TT noted that much misinformation was being communicated that SIRAC was not in a position to correct because of confidentiality considerations.

JR highlighted that disagreement also needs to be respected; must respect majority decisions. In many cases minority groups that get out-voted by the majority seem unable to respect the majority decision.

JR reflected that as President she set out to make the Committee and its processes as inclusive as possible, but became frustrated that she could not stop the tide of untrue exchanges that has led to the current impasse.

Jenny Cullen

JC asked about the traffic management survey by PWC.

AG advised that SIRAC has consistently put a Traffic Management Plan for the Island as a high priority for the last 3 years. PWC had asked SIRAC for comment on their proposed survey some time ago but was delayed due to internal processes. The next we heard about it was when property owners received the survey in the mail.

Initial indication from PWC is that they received some 60 replies with the majority in favour of developing a plan but with some fervently opposed. If it proceeds it will take some 3 years to complete and there will be extensive community consultation.

AG reflected that SIRAC has spent the majority of its time responding to process and governance issues from the community and that this has crowded out work on important issues related to Island infrastructure.

Conclusion

Session closed at 1:45pm