

SPEARWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION Minutes

Minutes are confidential and should not be circulated beyond the member/contact group.

Meeting date: 6.15 pm-8.05 pm Tuesday, 19 March 2019

Meeting location: Community Room, Spearwood Library

Purpose of meeting: Committee meeting. Strategic Plan and Meeting Behaviours

Present: Antony Svilicich (Chair), Michelle Cohen, Liz Davey, Paula McLay, Karen Vann
Alex Campbell

Apologies: Dollin Knight

1. **Introduction.** Antony Svilicich chairs meeting and welcomes attendees. Attendance is recorded, a quorum is present. The minutes from the Meetings 12 Feb and 26 Feb were accepted and signed.

2. **Actions from previous meeting (12 Feb).**
Synergy performance standards. Antony sent power company standards to Rosemary.

3. **Since last meeting.**
 - Cockburn public meeting 28 Feb Cockburn public meeting on Rockingham Rd upgrade. 13 people including City of Cockburn staff. Option 2 has dual use paths so no bike path. City of Cockburn says idea is to have no passing traffic on road – the area becomes a 'destination', plans would take 2 months to complete, won't cause road congestion even with increasing population, cost \$4-5 million, people putting in submissions will be invited to council meeting 11 April. Asked about wider plans they say Cockburn Admin moving from building about 7 years, library and senior citizens centre will move in while these 2 buildings are demolished and 2 new \$25million buildings built, then the admin building will have something move in (feasibility study into performing arts or art gallery). This will produce a mixed-use community hub and include child and youth health services.
 - Rockingham Rd Upgrade Submissions. Submissions closed 12 March. Some people from SPA have put in individual submissions.
 - 5 Mar Sundowner at Coogee Lifesaving. Attended by Paula, Liz, Rosemary, Ray and Maria. Grants available through Cockburn Community Development, see website. Include Fremantle Port and Alcoa grants. Grant include for cultural purposes, small capital items from groups, sustainability. Most useful for SPA probably small events sponsorship (ie for movie nights, Christmas carols, fetes), limit \$3000. Most grants require groups being incorporated or auspicated by incorporated organisation.
 - 6 Mar Networking at Coogee Lifesaving. Attended by Michelle and Len. Useful networking, people at each table were from different groups, and there was a Councillor at each table.
 - Invitation to Cockburn Community Development Group (CCDG) meeting on Thurs 28 March. Paula will go. Karen may go.

Action: Paula and Karen to RSVP and attend CCDG meeting on 28 Mar.

4. Main Business 1 – Strategic Plan.

Alex Campbell resigning. Polite, and gives his reasons. Alex says:

- Everyone should be here for meeting. John and Len should be here.
- The association is being run wrong.
- People should not have to sign a meeting behaviours form – it is just common sense.
- People have to have their say.
- A group can't be quiet, got to fight all the time.
- I ran a community group successfully for 10 years, so I know about this.
- Library venue isn't right, shouldn't have to end the meeting at 8, topics might run longer and want a cup of tea at end.
- Meeting starting time too early for working people.
- Wish the group all the best.
- Resigns from committee and from Spearwood Progress Association, doesn't wish to stay on the contact list.

Alex leaves. A quorum still remains, so meeting continues.

Action: Paula to remove Alex from membership list.

Need more people in the group, especially as losing members.

- Need to get the group name out there in front of people.
- Could get information in local paper.
- Catch 22 - Need more people before getting subgroups, but many have trouble attracting people until have functioning subgroups.
- Need to keep functioning as a committee, do fundraising, and need to be seen to be doing something.
- Need to have small projects running.

Karen suggests SPA should start a tai-chi group in parks.

- It is a community activity and lets the group be seen in the community.
- Could hold a class in the morning, perhaps Saturday, perhaps other day.
- Could do it one day in one park, another day in another park – perhaps 3 parks. Manning park might be popular.
- Could have a senior's group or other special group.
- Talk to the City of Cockburn about funding an instructor.
- When have banner can display it at the session to get our name known.

Action: Karen to talk to City of Cockburn about tai-chi in park.

- Paula says the issues that people have come to SPA about have been about physical assets (rubbish, loss of facilities, etc). There is a 3 page list of issues. Very few of these issues have been about community events like tai-chi.
- Antony says the most successful community groups are those that hold a lot of community events.
- Can use grants to get money to run events. Need to apply, and need to win grants. Typically need to be incorporated, which SPA isn't and can't do easily. Might be able to have City of Cockburn auspicate Spearwood Progress Association so have access to grants. Can't expect City of Cockburn to fund things, just because SPA is a new group.
- Antony says there are keyboard warriors in the public. They complain on social media but won't join a group or do anything to change perceived problems.

Venue:

- The Library can seem sterile, have to leave when it closes at 8.10pm, and only seats about 12-15 people. On the other hand, it is comfortable, air conditioned, with wi-fi, big screens and with plenty of parking. Might be able to bring in urn & coffee.
- Some people want a more "creative" space.
- Want to be able to have the meeting run longer, and be able to have tea/coffee after if want to stay.
- Want space to be in Spearwood, not Hamilton Hill or elsewhere.
- Cafes (like Dome) expect you to buy food/drink if you use their space, and they can be noisy with lots of echo from hard surfaces.
- Chicken Treat on Rockingham Rd
 - Should contact the owner/developer about tidying up building.
 - Or they should let SPA paint murals over the outside to make the building prettier.
 - If so, SPA could set trestle tables up there, and use the painted building to promote ourselves, handing out brochures, sitting in the carpark knitting and wearing fancy dress.
 - SPA could use the building for a meeting place. Has good parking.
 - City of Cockburn should buy the building and clean it up and make it available for use. This use of funds may not be worthwhile/appropriate.
 - However, the building is privately owned, semi-derelict, fitted out inside as a restaurant (if not trashed), and unsuitable for holding meetings. Issues like electricity, building access and insurance are difficult.
- Old St Jerome's Church on the corner of Rockingham and Edeline Rd (near railway crossing) is suggested as a meeting venue.
 - The building was restored about 8 years ago, but does not seem to have been used since.
 - Think the building was restored by City of Cockburn.
 - Who owns it, City of Cockburn or Church?
 - Is it still a church or has it been decommissioned?
 - Not clear if suitable for meetings. Interior layout is unknown and there is no parking (might be some at back, shared with neighbouring "lodge"). Also the building is not a "neutral" space – it is/was a Christian church and some people may not wish to be in such a building.

Action: Michelle says she will look into the ownership of the Chicken Treat and Church buildings.

Need a marketing plan.

- Need to attract people to SPA
- Should cover how we advertise our self and what the group does.
- City of Cockburn has training in volunteer group marketing – it is either about to start or one of two sessions has already been held.
- Question asked on how long SPA can continue as it is, we are struggling.
- Should get Simone from City of Cockburn along to help us.
- A suggestion that everyone should do something they like to be seen to be doing something.

Draft Strategic Plan objectives were read.

- Antony says we need to find something as a hook, some essence of Spearwood.
- Karen suggests olives.
- Says we should get an olive press (approx. \$10 000), which we could let locals use to press locally-grown olives (for a fee).

- Jane Howden said (many meetings ago) there was the remnants of the last Spearwood olive groves down the end of her street, owned by an elderly Italian couple.
- Antony says an olive press could be housed in Manning Park.

Railway is a mess, but run by Brockfield and its Australian arm.

- Needs to be cleaned up but can't go on the land.
 - Liz says there are many broken safes in one area (the railway land is used to commit crime). Discussions on taking photos of the safe for publicity.
 - People power, media to improve issue.
- Watsonia land – Karen says closed down because poisons.

5. Main Business 2 – SPA Meeting Behaviours.

- Some people don't see the point in signing meeting behaviour guidelines, but they are common for many meetings now.
- Need to be tolerant of all people's opinions
- Can be forceful and insist on people toeing the line.
- Can regain verbal control, say we will get to that point/you later.
- Could have more flexible meetings, where people just discuss whatever they like.
- Some people don't see the point in having an agenda.
- Could have committee meeting with structure to cover some tasks, and other public/member meeting with little or no structure where people just talk. Or could move from organised point to point, but free discussions on each point for as long as anyone likes.
- Some people may not like having two sorts of meeting – everything should be transparent and people should be able to express their opinion all the time.
- Could have a whiteboard at meeting, people can write up and discuss 3 points.
- Having a closing time for a meeting isn't a bad thing, some people will need to get away.
- Could have an end time for a meeting, but then those who want to could stay on for coffee.
- Spearwood Primary School is an option, can do tea/coffee and costs about \$10/month. Not sure if venue still accessible if the fence has been built around the school, this was supposed to have been completed before start of the school year, but don't think it has been.

Action: Antony to investigate Spearwood Primary School as a meeting venue.

6. Next meeting. Next meeting to be Tuesday 2nd April. It will be a general meeting (all members and anyone who wants to attend). To be held at 6.30pm at the Spearwood Primary School. [Post meeting another venue was considered.]

Action: All to schedule in next meeting for 6.30pm on Tues 2nd April.

Action: Antony to put notices of the meeting up in Phoenix Shopping Centre and deli and invite Simone to meeting.

PMc 25-3-2019

Minutes Approved

Anthony Smeaton

Name

A. Smeaton

Signature

9/4/19

Date