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Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

Minutes of General Meeting – 20 April 2017

Held at North Shore Community Centre, 701 David Low Way, Mudjimba

1. Meeting opening, welcome and introductions

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with President, Greg Smith in the chair. Greg welcomed the attendees and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land. He invited the new attendees to briefly introduce themselves and the association they represent, which they did.

2. Attendance

2.1. Present

Bob Joubert (PSRA)
Greg Smith, OSCAR President
Barry McDowall, Gerry Gibson (Marcoola Community Group)
Rob Hanson, Mark Bizzell, Peter Brown (Coolum RA)
Warren Fraser, Kathryn Hyman (Stop TWW)
Tony Gibson (Coolum & NSCC)
Paul Huntress, Chris Kelly, Daryl Maudsley (Friends of Yaroomba)
Mike and Linda Perritt, Resi and Mike Fuessel (Eudlo Creek Neighbours)
David Blackmore (Friends of Lake Weyba)
Gillian Hall (Dulong Futures)
Claudia Baldwin (Individual member)
Lucia Hoermann, Peter Baulch (YACDA)
Lynette Saxton (DW)
Greg Chambers (Kawana Forest Residents Association)
Mike Gibson (EDV)
Charles Toms, OSCAR Treasurer
Martin Peelgrane, Adriana Adamska-Bland (Mudjimba RA)
Pam Rogowski (Palmwoods Living History Society)
Anna and Martin Neep – via Skype (Mooloolaba SPA)

2.2. Apologies

Melva Hobson, OSCAR Secretary
Samantha & Alex Watson (YCPA)
Christine & Bill Tainsh (Friends of Lake Weyba)
Marie Reeve (YADCA)
Susie Chapman (Marcoola Community Group)
Bernard Keays (Glass House Mountains Action Network)
Johanne Wright (EDV)
Tony Barry and Peter Bryant (Caloundra Residents Association)
Brian Raison (Development Watch)
Angela Wilson (Australian Marine Conservation Society)
Keith Sweatman (Yandina & District Community Association)
Gerry Gordon (Coolum and North Shore Coast Care)

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The attendees accepted the minutes of the general meeting held on 16 March 2017, after discussing and deciding that a formal motion and vote were unnecessary.

4. Correspondence

4.1. Outwards

- 4.1.1. Greg reported on his emails with offices of the SCRC Mayor Mark Jamieson and CEO Michael Whittaker (attached to the Agenda), seeking a meeting by the new OSCAR executive team on 11 April. Subsequently they agreed to a meeting on 18 April, but that meeting didn't happen as Greg reported on under General Business later. Greg also read to the meeting his email to Craig Matheson, Mayor Jamieson's chief of staff.
- 4.1.2. Greg reported on emails that he sent protesting about the Special Meeting (Planning Matters) that Council called for 13 April, which he had sent to councillors and State Government MPs. He has had replies from some councillors.
- 4.1.3. Greg has also written to the Sunshine Coast Business Council seeking a meeting and he will meet with them soon.

4.2. Inwards

- 4.2.1. Letter received from Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC), which includes a request for an annual membership fee of \$35.

There were no comments or objections from the members regarding correspondence.

5. Financial report

5.1. OSCAR funds

Treasurer Charles Toms tabled the Financial Report and advised that the bank balance is \$898.82.

Opening balance	\$190.92
Income	
Donations to date	\$840.00*
Membership fee	\$10.00
Expenses	
Office of Fair Trading annual fee	\$51.70
Copying of old website files	\$44.00
SCRC Right To Information app	\$46.40
Accounts to pay	
PO Box	\$154.00
Poster printing	\$32.00
SCEC membership fee	\$35.00
Donations received	
Marcoola Community Group	\$200.00
E P Hammet	\$20.00
Palmwoods LHS	\$20.00
PSRA	\$120.00
Development Watch	\$200.00
YACDA	\$20.00
C&NSCC	\$20.00
Coolum RA	\$50.00
EDV	\$200.00
Friends of Lake Weyba	\$150.00
Closing balance	\$827.82

There were two outstanding accounts for payment, being claims by Greg Smith for Post Office box setup and annual rental (\$154) and for printing of two banners used at the protests by members at Nambour Council chambers on 13 April (\$32). Consensus: Greg should be reimbursed by OSCAR.

There were no objections from members regarding the financial report.

5.2. Sunshine Coast Environment Council membership

After discussion on the SCEC request for a membership fee (see Inwards Correspondence), the following motion was proposed:

Motion: That OSCAR should join SCEC and pay the requested annual membership fee of \$35

Moved: Peter Baulch

Seconded: Mark Bizzell

Carried unanimously

5.3. OSCAR membership fees

Charles reported that some of the member associations present at the previous meeting have not yet paid the \$20 donation as agreed. Charles will send a reminder email to all associations that were present on either 16 March or 20 April.

6. Membership report

6.1. Update

Greg reported that several more associations have shown interest in becoming members, but the final number is still uncertain, since many on the mailing list haven't replied. Greg will continue to retain some names of individuals on the mailing list. He will also continue to canvass the interest of Noosa associations in membership of OSCAR.

6.2. Member delegates

Greg referred to the appendix in OSCAR's rules (attached to the Agenda) regarding the need for each member association to appoint two delegates to represent them at OSCAR, as well as two alternate delegates. Regarding the formalities of representation, the meeting agreed to leave it to Greg to accept any delegates as advised to him.

6.3. Representative member associations

The meeting discussed issues that may give rise to unrepresentative behaviour and mischief:

- 6.3.1. Questions arose for "subsidiary" association (such as Res Dev under Mudjimba Residents Association) – can both associations be voting members of OSCAR; should both pay a membership fee; could a situation arise whereby agitators sought to stack voting by fielding many "subsidiary" associations, each with voting rights? The meeting agreed that multiple associations could exist and be paid-up members of OSCAR.
- 6.3.2. Member associations must be democratically structured and representative of residents and their interests. It will be very unfavourable to have any members that can be referred to as "illegitimate or unrepresentative".

Greg asked for volunteers to address OSCAR's rules and to make these and any other necessary changes, but no one volunteered to do so at the meeting.

7. General business

7.1. Report on meeting with Mayor Jamieson on 18 April 2017

Greg reported that during Easter Monday, 17 April, Mayor Jamieson's chief of staff, Craig Matheson, contacted him to say that CEO Whittaker had gone to New Zealand to attend a family funeral, but also that the Mayor had declared that the meeting could not proceed if Charles Toms attended. Greg conferred with OSCAR's leadership team and they decided that the Mayor cannot dictate OSCAR's representation at meetings and therefore the original meeting could not proceed but that Greg should meet with the Mayor to discuss and resolve the situation.

Greg wrote to Mr Matheson protesting the Mayor's decision strongly, but suggesting to meet for a preliminary chat to agree the rules of engagement between OSCAR and the Mayor (Greg read this email aloud to the meeting). The Mayor's office agreed to meet and Greg asked Bob Joubert to accompany him to take notes.

Greg then asked Bob to give a summary of the meeting, which he did as follows: Greg introduced us and explained that OSCAR has been revitalised, with a new leadership team with a positive approach to engagement between the community associations and council. The Mayor had a mildly negative view about the "old OSCAR", but is happy to engage with the "new OSCAR" with an open mind. On the question of Charles Toms (whom he has not met), the Mayor backed away from his insistence that Charles could not be part of an OSCAR delegation now or in the future. The Mayor also indicated he is willing to accept a request for a meeting with Charles to "clear the air" and resolve any residual

differences over Charles' actions relating to the airport expansion project. The tone of the meeting was cordial throughout.

Greg said that the postponed meeting would go ahead in due course, including the SCRC CEO and Melva Hobson when she returns from holiday. Charles had offered to resign as Treasurer and thereby remove the obstacle to meeting, but all agreed that would be inappropriate and would mean that the Mayor could dictate OSCAR's executive. It is now up to Charles to arrange to meet Mayor Jamieson to discover the details of his discomfort and hopefully resolve it.

7.2. Report on Council Special Meeting (Planning Matters) on 13 April

Greg tabled the report on the Special Meeting written by Lyn Saxton and opened the discussion.

- 7.2.1. Mike Perritt commented that we had received positive recognition by the press and TV stations, even though the council voted against our wishes.
- 7.2.2. Lyn added that the meeting showed that all communities are at risk from developers, regardless of the amount of community consultation or protest.
- 7.2.3. Several attendees noted that the attitude of some councillors, in comments denigrating the pro forma submissions, is a worrying trend. Greg said that council started using the phrase "pro forma submissions" from December 2016. We need to educate the media and residents, while also protesting to council themselves about this unsubtle denigration. Maybe we should insist on the council officer's report specifying how many pro forma submissions contained extra personal comments and also to report on how much time officers saved in not having to read every word of every pro forma submission. Greg added that councils want it both ways – denigrate pro forma submissions except when it suits them to applaud public feedback.
- 7.2.4. Mike Perritt said that Council told the media that they "must" go into a confidential session, but that's not true – section 275 of Qld Local Government Regulations specifies "may" – and so we need to educate media and the public accordingly.
- 7.2.5. Anna Neep (via Skype) asked what about support for the Twin Waters West and Mooloolaba height change issues, if OSCAR's main role is just on process? Greg responded that our focus is on the Planning Scheme and SCRC's latest assault on it, but we can't handle the volume of issues or campaigns on every individual development application. Claudia Baldwyn commented that for particular issues, the local association can ask for supporting correspondence to be sent by OSCAR to council or government.
- 7.2.6. Lyn Saxton added that the council has flagged forthcoming Planning Scheme changes in "stages 4, 5 and 6" – but we have no knowledge of what they contain.

7.3. Report on Council Meeting on 20 April

Greg had attended that meeting and gave a summary of matters that could affect us. He said it was notable how differently the councillors had spoken about public consultation, compared with the dismissive and denigrating comments from some of them on 13 April. We must seize the opportunity to gather views when council provides a process of consultation – e.g. on the *Draft Environment and Liveability Strategy* that was in the agenda on 20 April.

He said that Deputy Mayor Tim Dwyer had said "it's not just about affordability, but also liveability – the State Government needs to fund better infrastructure here." However, Cr Dwyer went on to say that "the opinions of mums and dads are needed, not just associations, such as SCEC". OSCAR needs to address this somehow as a focus for effort by us in educating residents and media.

Greg commented that OSCAR can't always be protesting about issues, but must compliment councils or government when appropriate, which the meeting agreed with.

7.4. Aims, vision & objectives document

Greg asked the meeting for responses on the latest circulated version that was prepared by Peter Baulch. Some replies were:

- Should we refer to "Sunshine Coast Regional Council" (the proper name) or "Sunshine Coast Council" (council's preferred branding version)? Consensus – use "SCRC".

- Should we refer to “Gold Coast” in a potentially derogatory comparison? Consensus – yes, use it for convenient shorthand that everyone understands
- Be careful about version control – add a review date, e.g. in the footer
- Possibly insert a reference to the traditional owners of the land
- Possibly insert a statement of purpose that OSCAR has a role in helping associations to grow their memberships
- Possibly insert wording to include the “quadruple bottom line”: environment, society, culture, economy.

7.5. Proposed meeting with Brisbane Residents United

Greg said he has contacted this peak body and hoped to meet them in due course.

7.6. Meetings with State Government MPs

Greg said he and Tony Barry (Caloundra Residents Association) met today with Mark McArdle (LNP Caloundra). Next week Greg will meet with Andrew Powell (LNP Glass House) who is the LNP’s Shadow Minister for Local Government. These meetings arose from Greg’s emails to all state MPs and any likely influential parties that might help or hinder OSCAR, while protesting council’s actions in calling the Special Meeting on 13 April.

7.7. Specks of Sand Forum

Greg urged everyone to send delegates to the Specks of Sand forum on 13 May at the USC to address the Maroochy River mouth issues. It seems like SCRC will send at least one representative, but they will not address possible flooding issues at Twin Waters West.

7.8. Individual presentations to future OSCAR general meetings

Chris Kelly asked if these general meetings could be the venue for local associations to address the OSCAR group on any particular issues or campaigns. The meeting agreed that it would be good to allow a 15-minute timeslot for a presentation or discussion by an association on a campaign. This will help ensure that we identify issues that affect us all early on.

7.9. Logos, website, domain name and email address/es

Charles Toms reported that there may be enough funds on hand to resurrect the website and he will investigate doing so. Greg asked for a volunteer to administer the Facebook page, which he is doing currently. Gillian Hall indicated she might be able to help with this.

7.10. Other business

7.10.1. Charles Toms raised some local government regulation issues, saying that the Minister has low power to control council activities, for example that complaints about councillors go to the CEO for attention, even if the complaints are about his nominal boss, the Mayor; secondly that donations and contributions by developers etc. are publicised well after the election.

7.10.2. Tony Gibson said that it’s a concern that the auditors have given SCRC a clean report, but there are business entities like Sun Central (the CBD developer) and the Sunshine Coast Airport that don’t show their balance sheets broken out separately from council’s. So council is not compliant with its own value of transparency. What cross-subsidies might the ratepayers be unknowingly making to “developers” like the airport and Sun Central?

7.10.3. Mark Bizzell reported that the airport has requested that Coolum Residents Association should not send certain people to attend forums. This seems wrong, since the chairman of the forum is supposed to be impartial, but since the chairman is the airport CEO there is a clear conflict of interest.

Meeting dates for future General Meetings

The next general meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday, 25 May 2017 at the North Shore Community Centre, 701 David Low Way, Mudjimba.

Meeting close

The meeting closed at 9:40pm