

COOLUM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

5 December 2024 at the Coolum Beach Surf Club

Attendance: Gary Lee, Richard Koerner, Ray Barber, Tony Philbrick, Richard Newport, Brian Raison, John Fuller, Fiona Hughes, Bronwyn Jackson, John White, Bernie Caffery, Mark Bizzell, Bill Evans, Joan Brown, Peter Brown, Raeleen Draper, Angela Hatfield, Amy-Rose West, Taylor Bunnag, Graham Simpson, Lincoln Twine, John Tall, Wayne Barbe, Maria Suarez.

A quorum being present, President Ray Barber declared the meeting open at 5.00pm. Meeting agenda and minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed with the November newsletter.

Ray welcomed our two local councillors Maria Suarez (Division 9) and Taylor Bunnag (Division 8), and Raeleene Draper (Senior Environmental Project officer, SCC) and proposed that we defer the formal agenda items to allow the councillors to address the meeting and Raeleene to provide a presentation on the Blue Heart so that they could leave as necessary to attend other engagements.

Maria Suarez (Division 9)

Maria said she was pleased to attend, and that she and Council appreciated CRA's input on local issues. Maria provided the following updates on specific projects:

- Coolum Terrace pedestrian access on western side: Maria and SCC officers will visit the site to investigate. Also noted that there is a high priority for a footpath along part of Springfield Avenue (not CRA project).
- Grandview Lane waste collection: change in traffic direction not supported by residents and fence can not be relocated so only possibility is for waste collection contractor to upgrade trucks. Not sure when that opportunity may arise under the current contract.
- Fence along Grandview Lane: Council has been negotiating with developer – no final outcome. Fauna friendly fence only to one lot as per Court approval. Options for balance of fence still under discussion.
- Grandview Lane: some new traffic control signage to be installed.
- Coolum Art Trail: \$500 grant funding will be approved, slight delay due to need to declare potential minor conflict of interest (Ray Barber had been one of Maria's nominees for election).
- Norrie Job/Lions Park: Stage 1 scheduled to open on 13 December. A pump track will be delivered with State government funding support. Council is currently consulting with likely users.
- Lows Lookout: Stage 1 complete. No funding allocated for stages 2 and 3 but Maria is supporting next stages.
- Coolum AFL club: SCC is working on an MoU with the Education Department too use the high school ovals for AFL and netball. Dan Purdie has provided \$5m for initial facilities, whole project could be in the order of \$22m.

Taylor Bunnag (Division 8)

Taylor reiterated Maria's opening remarks, and provided updates on the following projects within the CRA area of interest.

- Magenta Drive Park (next to Woolworths): new shade structure installed.
- South Coolum Road footpath: new footpath to be installed along dangerous section extending from Warrack Street. Project will require some minor relocation of South Coolum Road to address topography and vegetation issues, with construction to start this financial year.
- Mt Coolum NP toilets: Not able to make public announcement at the moment, but there has been substantial progress and “watch this space”.
- West Coolum Road on/off ramps: State government has committed to this \$40m project to be under construction by 2028. Council is currently updating plans for the associated local feeder road upgrades and is working to deliver these in a similar timeframe. Land is already acquired which is a major part of the total cost.

Blue Heart Presentation (Raeleen Draper)

This was a very informative presentation outlining the background and rationale for the incorporation of extensive areas of flood prone land into the Blue Heart to maintain flood storage and derive a range of benefits including retention of flood storage, blue carbon credits and recreation and environmental services. The project is being developed in cooperation with the Kabi Kabi traditional owners and is a world leading exercise.

Raeleen said that the first stage of the N2C trail to be built would extend from Coolum Beach to a proposed new recreation hub on the Maroochy River. The corridor for this section of the trail is in public ownership and planning is underway. Further information on the Blue Heart project can be found on the SCC Blue Heart web page. Raeleen suggested a site visit for interested CRA members next year when weather improves – John Fuller to follow up.

Ray thanked the 3 presenters, wished them season’s greetings, and directed the meeting back to the agenda.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Margaret Lee, Pam Vagg, Jackie Seljak, Jim Moore, Nicole White.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Mark Bizzell moved that the minutes be accepted, John Fuller seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

3. Project Updates

Ray Barber said the November newsletter provided comprehensive project updates, and asked sub-committee chairs to provide short updates of any more recent developments only.

a. Active Transport (N2C) – Tony Philbrick

Tony said the working group is currently working with Council with a view to seeking Commonwealth government funding to progress the Nambour end of the N2C.

b. Community Art and Recreation – John Fuller

John gave a brief Powerpoint presentation outlining the current project concept for a temporary art exhibition trail with the current focus being on unCHANGED - a “Then and Now” photo exhibition in the arcade between Yum Gelato and Heirloom coffee shop. The body corporate of the retail complex had been very helpful. The presentation included a number of examples of other potential locations that could accommodate art installation infrastructure. John noted that the CRA management committee had allocated a maximum of \$250 CRA funds to the project.

c. Pedestrian Amenity and Safety - Bernie Caffery

Bernie said that the sub-committee members had undertaken site inspections and discussions leading to the following short-term priorities for further consideration:

1. Walkable verge on the west side of Coolum Terrace
2. Better pedestrian access across David Low Way to Lions Park and the beach paths
3. Improved pedestrian access across David Low Way to beach paths, between Scrub Road and Mona Vista Court
4. Better control and policing of Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs)
5. Pedestrian safety improvements at Point Perry (in relation to this a 2007 concept plan was shown as an example of reduced vehicle parking and access).

There was considerable discussion on some of these priorities including a suggestion that 2 and 3 could be addressed as part of a comprehensive study of pedestrian/vehicle issues along the David Low Way between Mona Vista and the northern access to Coolum including associated issues such as the extension of the DLW median landscaping further north to Birtwill Street (or beyond). Due to time constraints these issues will require further consideration and discussion.

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on 5pm Thursday 6 March 2025 at the Coolum Beach Surf Club. There being no other business, Ray Barber declared the meeting closed at 6.10pm.