

COOLUM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

29 August 2024 at the Coolum Croquet Club, Seacove Lane, Coolum Beach

Attendance: Gary Lee, Richard Koerner, Ray Barber, Tony Philbrick, Richard Newport, Brian Raison, Pam Vagg, John Fuller, Fiona Hughes, Bronwyn Jackson, Margaret Lee, Jackie Seljak, Nicole White, John White, Jo Justo, Bernie Caffery, Mark Bizzell, Bill Evans.

A quorum being present, President Ray Barber declared the meeting open at 5.00pm. Copies of the meeting agenda and associated discussion notes were distributed. Minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed with the August newsletter.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Robyn Bishop, Angela Hatfield, Gary Byrne, Pat Byrne, Jim Moore.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Mark Bizzell moved that the minutes be accepted, Margaret Lee seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

3. Project Updates

Gary Lee said the August newsletter provided project updates, and asked if there were any further updates since the newsletter. There were none. The meeting noted the project updates in the newsletter.

4. Organisational Changes for discussion

Ray asked Gary to outline the changes proposed by the management committee. Gary quickly outlined the proposed changes and rationales as described in the discussion notes distributed at the meeting (in italics):

a. Discontinue the Advisory Group

The Advisory Group was formed at a time that CRA did not have a clear view of its role and priorities. It was especially useful in determining the priority projects which have been our focus for the last couple of years. Since that initial burst of activity the group has been little used, one of the group members is no longer a member of CRA, the management committee can seek advice from members on an ad hoc basis (perhaps the first port of call would be the chairs of the proposed sub-committees), and members of the Advisory Group can participate in specific projects in which they have an interest through participating in one of the proposed sub-committees (see below).

b. Formalise the Sub-committee arrangements

The management committee thinks it would be useful to have a small number of formal sub-committees with responsibility for progressing specific projects. Each of the sub-committees would have a Chair with an additional 2 or 3 members. It is really just formalising the arrangements currently in place, but the committee thinks it might allow for broader participation of members, better continuity in following up on projects, and enable people to focus on the matters of greatest interest to them. Our suggested sub-committees, associated projects and chairs/members (at the general meeting we will seek interest from members in participating in these s/c's).

- *Active Transport - Chair Tony/Fiona? - N2C active transport trail, following up previous active transport proposals with SCC.*

- *Community Art and Recreation - Chair John Fuller? - community art projects like 'The Gully', local parks and recreation proposals/issues.*
- *Pedestrian Safety and Amenity - Chair Bernie Caffery? - footpath and pedestrian crossing issues.*

The meeting discussed these at some length. Pam Vagg moved a motion that the Advisory Group be discontinued and that the proposed formalization of sub-committees with responsibilities generally as outlined above be approved. Bronwyn Jackson seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Further discussion ensued about the make-up of the sub-committees with the outcome as follows:

- Active Transport sub-committee – Co-chairs: Tony Philbrick/Fiona Hughes – Members: Richard Newport, John Fuller.
- Community Art and Recreation sub-committee - Chair John Fuller – Members: Angela Hatfield (nominated in her absence), Richard Newport, Nicole White, Jackie Seljak.
- Pedestrian Safety and Amenity sub-committee - Chair Bernie Caffery – Members: Bronwyn Jackson, Bill Evans, Stephen Mawn, Michael Caffrey.

Gary asked if members would object to him providing their contact details to the sub-committee chairs. Members agreed to this.

c. Protocol for high-level correspondence

The management committee was concerned that it may not be aware of some high level correspondence being sent under the CRA banner. This could cause difficulties in knowing how to respond to incoming correspondence, and just generally in having an overview of CRA activities. Obviously we don't want to interfere or hamper day-to-day activities so we suggest the following types of correspondence should be sent by either the secretary or president from the CRA email address (but drafted by the initiating member):

- *Correspondence initiating a project (in which we would specify the appropriate CRA contact for further communication).*
- *Correspondence to a Minister, Mayor or CEO of Council or a government department (for example raising concerns about a lack of responsiveness at lower levels of an organisation).*

Following some discussion, the meeting resolved to adopt the recommended correspondence protocol.

5. Other Business

a. Membership and finance update

Pam Vagg advised that CRA currently has 36 members including 1 life member and has recently welcomed 4 new members. There is currently \$4250.75 in the CRA bank account.

b. Meetings Venue

In response to a request for sponsorship, Coolum Beach SLSC has offered to host our 4 meetings each year in its small meeting room at no charge. The croquet club is a good venue, but there are a number of matters to consider including the following:

1. Would save \$120pa venue costs, and CRA costs of refreshments after meetings (approx. \$150pa) (although members would have to buy own drinks at the surf club). Would also save time and effort of

purchasing and providing refreshments. These total savings of \$270 are a significant portion of members annual fees of \$350.

2. The surf club is centrally located, but maybe not as easy to park nearby.
3. The meeting room at the surf club is substantially larger and air-conditioned.
4. Reduction in support to local croquet club.

The meeting resolved to hold future meetings at the surf club, and to thank the Coolum Croquet and Gary and Pam Byrne in particular for the use and hospitality of the croquet club.

c. Connecting Coolum

Mark Bizzell said that he, John Fuller and former CRA member Draghi Mastorevic are representing CRA at a community consultation workshop being conducted in early September by SCC's placemaking team to inform the planning and design of an upgrade to Jack Morgan Park. Council has approximately \$350k available, a key part of the existing masterplan is an arbour structure along the pedestrian path. Mark is proposing that the arbour be provided in sections interspersed with natural tree planting along the path. Mark asked for further suggestions from the meeting which were: provision of sculpture artworks, soft fall play area for younger kids, water play area (fountains etc not a pool), water bottle refill station, more natural shaded seating areas, a recognizable planting theme similar to the paperbarks along the timber walkway.

d. Jo Justo

Ray thanked Jo Justo for attending the meeting and asked if she would like to address the meeting. Jo said she is the Labor party candidate for the State seat of Ninderry. She is a long-term local now living in Maroochy River but previously in Coolum. She had previously met with Tony, John and Fiona and supports the N2C project, among many other things she can see the region needs. Her background includes 30 years as a union official/advocate primarily with the Federated Clerks Union. Jo expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak to the meeting.

6. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Thursday 28 November 2024 at 5pm at the Coolum Beach surf club. Gary will confirm the venue and include in local newspaper notice and CRA newsletter.

There being no other business, Ray Barber declared the meeting closed at 5.45pm.