

Strathewen Community Renewal Association Inc.

Committee Meeting No. 20

Tuesday 15 December 2009

Community Centre, Bowden Spur Road Strathewen

MINUTES

ITEM 1 ATTENDANCE – 7:50 pm

Present:

Committee Members: Karl Apted, Mary Avola, David Brown, Malcolm Hackett (Chair), Peter McLennan, Steve Pascoe, Bronwyn South, Georgina Robertson Stecher

Ex-officio Members: Maria Romanin (VBRRA), Gail Cummings (Executive Officer)

Apologies: Darren Bradshaw, Peter Jenkinson, Matthew Gravette, Denis Spooner, Kirsten Jenkins (Nillumbik Shire Council)

Visitors: None

ITEM 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November be approved as a correct record of the meeting with the reference to 'Telling Our Stories' removed.

Moved: David Brown Seconded: Mary Avola

Refer to the ACTIONS LIST for a review of progress on outstanding actions.

ITEM 3 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence In:

- Postal Ballot responses from our membership.
- United Metal Recycling - Cheque for wire \$1,301.52
- Maria Romanin VBRRA – Scoping documents for Arthurs Creek Mechanics Institute project to be included in our recovery plan.

Correspondence Out:

Letters of thanks.

ITEM 5 OFFERS OF SUPPORT AND LEADS

5.1 Definite offers

- Whittlesea Lions Club – purchase and install the playground. This offer will be gratefully accepted.
- Diamond Valley Baptist Church – offer of youth work crews over the school holidays. Gail Cumming will liaise with the Environment Sub-committee to work out what would be most appropriate.
- Christmas Hampers are prepared by a number of charities under emergency relief.

5.2 New offers

- Rob Lloyd Diamond Creek Rotary – offer of Christmas toys. The offer was appreciated but we already have enough toys for the ages offered.

- Global Dialogue Foundation – this group is aiming to establish a recycled goods clearing site. Malcolm will keep in touch with them.

5.3 Request for support

- We have funds to use for appropriate gestures of support for members of our community.

ITEM 6 GOVERNANCE

Conflict of interest and confidentiality declarations

There are no conflict of interest or confidentiality declarations required by the meeting's business.

ITEM 7 CALENDAR

December	Tuesday 8	Committee Meeting
	Saturday 12	Surf trip
	Sunday 13	Community Memorials Discussion meeting Arthurs Creek Hall 3PM
	Tuesday 15	Chook presentation
		Committee Meeting
	Thursday 17	Christmas BBQ
	Saturday 19	Santa at Whittlesea 4 – 7:30PM
	Saturday 20	Carols by Candlelight Arthurs Creek
	Tuesday 22	Strathewen Womens support group Hurstbridge Hub 7PM
January	Thursday 7	BBQ
	Tuesday 12	Committee Meeting
	Friday 15	Mens night

It was noted that we need to publish the calendar on the website before the minutes are accepted.

ITEM 8 VBARRA

- Media releases
 - Bushfire-affected communities will receive funding from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund for community events over the Christmas and New Year period and for memorial events for those communities who choose to, for the anniversary of Black Saturday. We will receive \$12,500 for Summer Events and up to \$30,000 for the anniversary event.
 - Project funding has been approved and we should be notified shortly.
- \$1.4 million for the reconstruction of the Strathewen Public Hall should be paid directly to the Hall Committee.
- The Arthurs Creek Mechanics Institute project is now included in our recovery plan.

ITEM 9 FINANCIAL REPORT

We are still waiting on a payment of \$3,861 from Nillumbik Shire Council for SMSs sent.

Profit & Loss Statement

1/07/2009 through 15/12/2009

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Income	
Grants	
Grants Nillumbik Shire	\$20,000.00
Grants - Dept Human Services	\$28,673.00
Donations	\$31,503.69
Community Centre Hire	\$150.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$5,024.20
Total Income	<u>\$85,350.89</u>
Cost of Sales	
Gross Profit	<u>\$85,350.89</u>
Expenses	
Bank charges	\$2.45
Advertising	\$49.00
Community Centre Supplies	\$222.13
Community equipment	\$15,394.35
Event catering	\$8,813.64
Equipment Hire	\$3,085.45
Venue Hire	\$109.09
Dues & Subscriptions	\$68.18
Insurance	\$449.32
Legal Fees	\$116.90
Postage & Freight	\$559.41
Stationery	\$310.03
SMS service	\$2,626.63
Telephone	\$27.27
Total Expenses	<u>\$31,833.85</u>
Operating Profit	<u>\$53,517.04</u>
Other Expenses	
Net Profit / (Loss)	<u>\$53,517.04</u>

Balance Sheet

As of 15/12/2009

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Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash On Hand	
Cheque Account	\$51,266.75
Cash Drawer	\$360.15
Total Cash On Hand	<u>\$51,626.90</u>
Trade Debtors	\$3,861.00
Total Current Assets	<u>\$55,487.90</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$55,487.90</u>
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Trade Creditors	\$171.77
GST Liabilities	
GST Collected	\$2,650.15
GST Paid	-\$851.06
Total GST Liabilities	<u>\$1,799.09</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$1,970.86</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$1,970.86</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$53,517.04</u>
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	<u>\$53,517.04</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$53,517.04</u>

ITEM 12 SUB-COMMITTEES

12.1 RESIDENTS SUPPORT

- Anniversary event
 - Planning for the event would be much easier if we knew what our budget is.
 - Presentation on the draft program for our anniversary event was made at the Memorials discussion on December 13th and the response was very positive.
 - All speakers will be required to submit a script for approval.
 - Georgina will approach Gunn Communications to see if they can manage the media on the day.
 - We will approach Diamond Creek Police for support on the day.
- Australian Rotary Health – Peter M and Malcolm attended a meeting. The support provided is positive and we will work further with them.
- Mary (Strathewen's very own Mother Christmas) has had wonderful support from the community and is all ready for the Christmas BBQ.
- The Sub-committee will meet on the 16th December and then convene again in the second week of January.

12.2 COMMUNICATIONS

- SMS – Nyree is having problems with her Internet. Contact Bronwyn.
- It was noted that we need to have a Communications Sub-committee meeting in the new year.
- David will prepare a Christmas edition of the newsletter.
- Georgina will post on the website general information about coping with Christmas that has been sent to us by the Australian Centre for Grief & Bereavement.
- We support the ongoing publication of the Nillumbik Bushfire Recovery Bulletin. Malcolm will write a letter to Janine.

12.3 FUND RAISING AND GRANTS

- Darley are talking to VBRRRA Donations in relation to funding pasture improvement.
- The support for temporary housing remains positive but it still requires approval from the Tax Office. Rotary are considering \$10,000-\$15,000 type dwellings and VBRRRA has made contact with temporary housing providers. Gail will follow up other potential providers such as mining companies.

12.4 OPERATIONS

Malcolm has volunteered to erect a temporary fence at the Centre before the Christmas BBQ.

12.5 BUILDING

- Building seminars to start again in mid-February.
- We need to contact residents re the requirement for temporary housing. The questions being asked of residents need to be controlled by a script. Malcolm and Karl will prepare a list of all residents who may be interested.

12.6 ENVIRONMENT

- Kahn & Julie Franke and Candlebark Nursery are collecting seed from below the burnt area to grow for Nillumbik and Melbourne Water recovery projects in Strathewen and St Andrews.

- It was noted that environment workers have to be respectful of people's house sites and tidy up accordingly.

12.7 MEMORIALS

The presentation to the community on Sunday 13th emphasised opening up opportunities for discussion to keep the ideas coming. This is a long term activity and discussions may take 6 to 12 months. We are very privileged to have Andrew Coughlan , John Richardson and Rob Gordon supporting us.

Andrew and John discussed the purpose of memorials and some of the lessons learnt from memorial projects around the world.

Rob Gordon presented the psycho-social concept of memorials. He introduced concepts like dreaming, essence and symbols which allow people to move beyond preconceived ideas of a memorial.

Steve presented the proposal for a Memorials Working Group. Expressions of Interests for membership will be emailed to the community and placed on the website. We will use the newsletter to keep the community informed.

ITEM 13 GENERAL BUSINESS

13.1 Scoping meeting

It was a positive meeting despite the community members being outnumbered by agency staff. There was very strong support for us to retain ownership of our projects.

Communications, community building, safety – Malcolm reported that the projects were well understood by the people involved in assessing them.

Social health – Steve reported that the mood of the supporting agencies was very positive. Again, there were no issues with community ownership.

Building – Karl reported that most of our building plans are likely to be approved. Nillumbik Shire Council is querying the need for the path to hall. No funding will be available from VBAF for land purchases. We will probably have further meetings with VBRRA.

Environment – Bronwyn reported that the complexity of delivering natural resource management programs meant that we would need funding to prepare a scoping document such as a land management plan. VBRRA expressed interest in this concept. Bronwyn has had follow-up talks with the head of the VBRRA Environment Team and she is waiting to hear whether they will entertain releasing any funds for work on private land. The VBRRA Donations team is looking at the Nursery Project and are currently in talks with Strathewen, St Andrews and Nillumbik.

13.2 Documenting the recovery process

We have been approached by the Office of Emergency Management through Steve. They have an interest in community recovery and community resilience and would like to document our recovery process.

The proposed project would be low-key and would probably not require special funding.

It was decided that the project has merit but we need to know what the writing style is, who would own the document and what will be done with it before we make a decision.

Next meeting Tuesday 12th January

Meeting closed at 10:15 PM

ACTIONS LIST

No.	DATE	ACTION	REFER	PROGRESS
6	15/9/09	Write letter to residents who are not members of SCRA	Malcolm / Bronwyn	24/11 Ongoing by personal contact
10	22/9/09	Invite suggestions for equipment for tool library	All residents (to Malcolm)	4/11 Push slasher – suggested 24/11 Chainsaw sharpening service – Suggested 15/12 Whipper snipper ordered 15/12 A log splitter is being shared between communities and will be in Strathewen in January
22	29/9/09	Provide feedback to consultants on oval master plan.	Malcolm	8/12 A response has been received
23	6/10/09	Application for charitable status with the Tax Office	David	8/12 Ballot papers have been circulated.
29	20/10/09	Request VBRRRA to give priority to a playground for the Centre	Steve Maria	4/11 The playground will be included in the next round of funding. Advice is to keep funding in the current round of scoping documents. 8/12 Rotary is keen to fund the project 15/12 Lions Club would like to help us by purchasing the playground and installing it.
32	4/11/09	Contact Ramsay Health to formalise a donor relationship	David	8/12 David has made contact and will follow through 15/12 After Christmas
34	10/11/09	Enter into Service Agreement for upkeep of Centre	Nillumbik	Ongoing
37	24/11/09	Board to be placed outside hall for notices	Karl	Done
41	24/11/09	Get quote to install a gas-fired hot water service	Denis	A second hand heater is available. 15/12 Will be installed after Christmas.
42	24/11/09	Construct a child-proof fence at front of Centre.	Malcolm	15/12 Malcolm will construct a temporary fence
43	8/12/09	Global Dialog meeting	Malcolm	Malcolm attended meeting at the Hurstbridge Bushfire Relief Centre. The group's aim is to establish a piece of land to act as a clearing house for the goods.
44	8/12/09	Letter of thanks	Mary	All written waiting to be printed
45	8/12/09	Lock on storeroom door	Malcolm	Done
46	8/12/09	Write our tribute for VBRRRA quarterly report	Malcolm	Not done as yet
47	8/12/09	Get Rudi to look at internet service at the Centre	Bronwyn	Not done as yet
48	8/12/09	Write to Nillumbik and Police re excessive speed	Malcolm	Not done as yet