

**BEECHMONT AREA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.  
DRAFT MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**

**Held:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 – 7.00 pm

**At:** BEECHMONT COMMUNITY CENTRE  
Activity Room (demountable), 1835 Beechmont Road, Beechmont, Qld 4211

**ATTENDEES** Penny Bydlinski (Secretary), Geoff Bruce, Diane Edwards, Glyn Edwards (Vice-President), Jonathan Fisher, Fran Gilbert (Treasurer) Paul Graham (President), Monica Graham, Afra Hall-Beers, Maurice Hansell, Amanda Harrison, Alison Johnson, Diane Kuhl, Janet Moore, Wendi Trulson, Ger Vloothius, Cllr, Virginia West, Boris Zoubakin

**APOLOGIES:** Margaret Axford, Angela Brooks, Ian Gilbert, Lisa Groom, Fay Hansell, Doreen Sproul, Andrew Sproul, Paula Sproul, Wendi Trulson, Cllr. Tozer,

**MEETING OPENED AT 7.10 pm**

Paul opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies were received as listed above.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

**NEW MEMBERS**

There were no new members,

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

These had been circulated to the members.

**Motion 1**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018 are true and accurate.

Moved by: Penny Bydlinski

Seconded by: Boris Zourakin

All in agreement.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

There were no matters arising.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Paul giving his report explained that it would be very brief as he thought it was fair to say that the previous couple of months had been very slow.

He thanked Glyn, Di, Doreen, Di Kuhl, Geoff, Maurie, Boris, Janis, Rachael, Wendi and Janet Moore and her team who had kept volunteering their time to keep everything moving along. He referred to the café where work was progressing; the sheeting had been put up and Maurie was painting. He noted that Penny and Fran had also been working away in the background.

He had run into Graham Andrews some days ago, Graham is from Council and is overseeing the work on the café. He had informed Paul that the café works would not be completed until the following year, hopefully early in the year. One of his frustrations was that he could not get tradespeople to quote – Paul commented that he was told patience was a virtue!! He went on to say that there would be the most magnificent toilets in the café but, unfortunately, they can't be used.

Nothing material had happened with the new lease. He had received a copy of the old agreement, on which BAPA was invited to comment. However, the maintenance matrix was not attached and was being reviewed by someone in Council. He had asked the previous day if there was any progress on that and had been given the old Maintenance Matrix and told that a review was still being carried out. However, at least there was something to talk about and make changes or whatever else was required and send it back to Council. Paul added that whilst what he had said might sound like a bit of Council bashing, which was not his intention. He knew that Council also had their troubles.

Paul then told the meeting about the change in his working life. He was now working full time on the Coast and consequently would not be able to give BAPA the time and effort that he would like. He would therefore not be standing for re-election at the next AGM but felt it better to let it be known at the current meeting to give people time to find somebody willing to put a hand up so that BAPA could continue to move to bigger and better things.

Jonathan said that he understood why Paul was standing down but wanted to thank him for doing a very good job. Paul laughing said there was still another four months to go.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Fran reported that on the year to date there was an Underspend of \$394.09 and quoted some of the amounts contained in the Financial Statement which is attached to these Minutes. She then explained that the café account had not been closed and had been used in respect of expenses incurred in the renovations. \$1000,00 had been transferred from the main account to the café account but this would all be picked up at the end of the year.

Clarifying Glyn said that the café had covered its running expenses when it had been open but the account had been used for purchasing paint etc.

#### **Motion 2**

That the Treasurer's report presented at the meeting be accepted as true and accurate

Moved by: Di Edwards

Seconded by: Janet Moore

All in agreement.

#### **MARKET REPORT**

Di Edwards reported that she had new fliers that were to be distributed locally, she would be happy to make it available to anybody who wanted to print them off and distribute them on their own street. They were also on the Facebook page. They had paid \$150.00 for 6 signs, which were to be put up in strategic places. There was discussion as to the locations of signs, including Sharp Park camping site as well as Lower Beechmont. On Sunday the café would be open and a Barbecue would also be set up. There had been only a small amount of interest in doing the Barbecue and that was more for the next year. Any volunteers for anything would be appreciated. Jonathan would do the Barbecue for National Trust with Lisa Groom. There were four new stalls coming and there would also be music.

## **ZEST FEST**

Paul had received a letter from Wendi that she had asked him to read to the meeting as she was away in Melbourne. Wendi had written as follows:

To BAPA inc and Members,  
Re: Beechmont Zest Fest

05/12/18

I would like to as the last original member of Beechmont Zest Fest like to thank all those past and present volunteers. Without a great crew these functions would have never even surfaced. The first Zest Fest was in 2009 and was a fundraiser for then BBEN inc Beechmont Business Enterprise Network.

The festival grew steadily each year with help from SRRC and GCCC and I would like to acknowledge this and some of the past committee members Sally Mackinnon, Lisa Groom, Mark Pickard, Robyn Robbins and Glyn and Di Edwards to name a few.

With the steady growth of the festival some monies were accrued over the years and I would personally like to see some of those funds got to purchasing a picnic table or something similar for the "The Old School" grounds and a tribute to those whom worked on this project.

It is with regret that I will stand down from the committee and I am happy to pass on all the papers etc that have accumulated over nearly 10 years. I had over the time leading up to Art Zest had conversations with the Market Committee re: passing some funds over to their cause (Quarterly Markets) and I will leave BAPA to do as they see fit. Di Edwards, Fran Gilbert and myself are signatories for the Bank Account held with Heritage Bank.

The Art Zest that was not! I am very regretful that it did not eventuate, but I was not able to let the function go forward with less than a week out, with only a handful of stalls and only one workshop booked. The Café would not have been functional which left a huge hole.

Kind Regards, Wendi Trulson

Paul went on to say that prior to the receipt of that mail, there had been a Management Committee meeting at which the Zest Fest funds were discussed. It was agreed at that meeting that the bank account with the Heritage would be closed and the funds transferred to the BAPA account with Bendigo and then, here he addressed Amanda and Afra saying the MC would like to talk to them and he asked if they were thinking of doing something. Amanda acknowledged that they did have ideas but was not willing to talk about them at that time.

## **OP SHOP**

Paul reported that Doreen was in hospital. Lyn and Di Kuhl were covering the Op Shop on the coming Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday and it would be closed following the market until the 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Fran had spoken to Doreen's family and said that Doreen was unable to speak but her temperature was down a little and the hospital were putting fluids into her and were running tests as she had an infection. That had been the report the previous day and she hadn't heard anything more at that point.

Di Kuhl said that Doreen had told her that since the Headmaster's café had been closed she had had fewer people in the shop and she thought that people saw that the café was closed for renovations and assumed the Op Shop was also closed. Glyn said that Doreen had asked him to get prices on some form of notice, e.g. tear drops stating that the Op Shop was open. He said that those signs were around \$150 to \$200 but he would like a budget for more signage to be discussed, as it was necessary. Jonathan suggested that the Trust might be able to sponsor that and Paul thanked him.

## **BEECHMONT GARDEN GROUP**

Janet wanted first to refer to the April report which stated that the previous six months had been wasted on clearing out rubbish, then the next six months the members had been busily reorganizing the "Court Garden", dedicating their time on both Saturdays and Tuesdays, working together to get it the standard they were all happy with.

Unfortunately, the weather had been all over the place, they had not had the winter they expected, and this had played havoc with the brassicas (winter veg.), therefore produce was practically nil. Hopefully the summer planting would be more favourable.

The new look approach to the "Court Garden" was hopefully easy on the eye and should encourage the community, especially on market days, to wander in there or sit bringing their 'snacks' to enjoy the tranquility of the surroundings.

Finally, the Garden Group wished BAPA committee and all its members a safe and joyous Christmas.

Paul thanked Janet.

Penny asked Janet what the membership fee was and Janet replied it was \$5.00. It was still possible for anybody to pay \$25.00 for an exclusive bed but otherwise the general members were looking after the whole garden as necessary. The Group had also ceased to have a stall by the Tuck Shop on market days, the garden was open and people were encouraged to walk round and if they wanted to buy anything, it would be cut freshly for them. This avoided things going to waste. They had got a sign on the gate and Glyn commented that the signs such as he had for the market were only around \$20.00 and if Janet would let him know what they wanted, e.g. fresh produce cut as required, table and chairs to sit and enjoy etc., he would arrange something for them.

Before going on to General Matters, Paul asked Cllr. Virginia if she would like to say something about Council. Cllr. Virginia said that she wanted to let the meeting know that a new system had come with the new CEO for contacting individual officers. It was anticipated that better communication would result.

With reference to the Garden Group she said there was a new accreditation process that had just started and it may be something to look at bearing in mind they were growing and selling local produce. She gave Janet a flier about it and said there was also a web site.

She also had an innovation programme for women in business. Business Excellence Awards, they had not had them for the last two years but they had been re-invented and would come in March next year, nomination period is already open. There were several categories. Last time it had been about business excellence but she said it was not quite to that extent this time. It's more about what was being built up.

Another point Cllr. Virginia made was that during the recent power cut it had been found that a lot of people didn't know what was happening. She wanted to emphasize that there was a web site called [disasterdashboard.scenicrim.qld.gov.au](http://disasterdashboard.scenicrim.qld.gov.au). It was not an app but it had a link to the fire department, energy etc., and would be useful.

Glyn asked for information about the four pillars and Cllr. Virginia replied that there would be people in strategy, custom and regional prosperity, there was a new manager looking after tourism. Chris Gray is the only General Manager, he had been web manager previously, and he was under Assets and Environmental Viability. Glyn explained that BAPA's problem had been working between different departments and Cllr. Virginia said that was the aim of the new system, which should give a better outcome.

She wished everybody a happy Christmas saying she would see them in February and would also come up to the market.

## **General Matters**

Headmaster's Café and vision for the Old School Site. Paul pointed out that this had been brought up previously and it had been discussed at the last committee meeting. It would probably be another couple of months before the agreements etc. were sorted out and this was now the time to get it done. He asked what was going to be done. Glyn said that there was a bit of time and it was necessary for everybody to put their heads together and decide what they would like to see happen on the site. Or, otherwise, keep going in the same way. It didn't have to be that evening but he felt that ideas should be put forward so that they could be discussed. Maurie said that somebody to take charge of the café was definitely needed. Glyn agreed but thought it also had to be made clear as to what we expected to be done with the café. It could also be used as an information centre, weddings could be held there etc. all possibilities should be discussed.

Di Kuhl enquired about the present management agreement and it was explained that it had expired in June but BAPA was able to carry on under the same conditions until a new agreement was signed. Glyn pointed out that one of the problems with the café was that under the current agreement it was hard to offer it out.

Jonathan then suggested that rather than discussing it as an insular group, other groups be invited to discuss the question and a sort of workshop together with the new head of custom and regional prosperity to make sure they are in tune with the possibilities of that area. He thought this should be arranged early on, in say February, and get people together to come up with something that would be complementary. Consistency during the week was also necessary, not just at weekends. He thought promoting art was really important for example.

Glyn agreed, saying that it was a world-class site that could be used for a variety of things but money would be necessary. Paul said that it was possible to get money and Glyn felt that it was no good sourcing money without having a long-term plan. Fran pointed out that it was not just one building with one use and that had been one of the problems with the café, because it could not be for the exclusive use of those premises because various groups also used it. She thought it was necessary to decide whether it should be for exclusive use. It was difficult for anybody to take it on at present.

Jonathan said that the Trust was still interested if there was some sort of agreement, it had been difficult without knowing who was responsible for what. They could act as facilitators to try and promote sustainable use of the whole site in a way that respected what was going on at Graceleigh Park and Binna Burra and anything else and they would love a chance to take that role. Cllr, Virginia said she would be happy to organize something. She added that there was no need to worry if BAPA wanted to apply for a grant, the Council would be happy to give them a covering letter. Jonathan said that if Council would facilitate the proposed workshop, this would be very helpful.

Alison suggested that as the next General Meeting was on the 11<sup>th</sup> February would it be possible to set up this workshop prior to that date, There was discussion about other groups that would wish to be involved and Amanda suggested involving the people who had submitted EOIs on the

café. Paul pointed out that it had not been possible to pursue anything with them as it had been found out that it would not be possible for anyone to make any money in the café. Jonathan thought it was important to look forward and utilize the experience of the Council staff and look into the possibilities of businesses that were struggling to go ahead.

It was decided that early in February was the optimal time for the workshop to be held and it was left to Cllr. Virginia to see when the relevant Council officers could be available. A tentative date of the 11<sup>th</sup> February was agreed. Groups would be invited by mail etc. it could also go on Facebook and this would focus on the future for the whole site, not just the café. Cllr. Virginia would take it back and see what could be arranged and the rest would follow once Council agreed.

### **Any Other Business**

It was noted that the next AGM would be on the 8<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Date of next General Meeting would be Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2019**

Paul wished everybody a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Monica had made rum balls and a date and walnut cake, which were available with tea and coffee at the back of the hall. He then closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.