

Minutes 17 May 2016

Attendance: Steve Gates, Tony Fowler, Margaret Fowler, Jane Wallis, Katharine Outten, Mary Syme

Apologies: Julie Hickling, Kevin Goss

Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting 19 April 2016

Correction to Cons Council shortfall - Operating shortfall

Moved Mary Syme, seconded Margaret Fowler

Business Arising:

- Draft Letter to FESA ref. fire access tracks, Tony to comment back to Steve to send out
- NRPG logo and new brochures (General Business)
- Airport spoil proposed dumping.(Pres. Report)
- Green Growth Plan (Gen. Business.)
- KEAC (Reports)

Correspondence Out:

- ACNC form with request for revocation.
- Various emails chasing up availability of hard copy Green Growth Plan.
- ACNC hard copy return.
- Email to Dept. of Environment requesting response to February email questions.

Correspondence In:

- ACNC acceptance of revocation.
- Email response from DoE ref Wilkins Rd. (may have been covered on 19/4/ meeting.)

Reports:

President: Address to Council meeting (26 April) - sent to committee members. Council moved to delay endorsing the Green Growth Plan until KEAC had prepared report.

Green Growth Plan - briefing by Simon Taylor, Dept. of Premier and Cabinet @ Mundaring (28 April). Mr Taylor advised that even after the closing date it would be beneficial for people to send queries/information to the Dept of Premier and Cab. Well attended. He will also attend Parks of the Darling Range meeting. Tony will be away for this meeting.

ACES, previously Perth Airport Environmental Consultative Group. (17 May). Perth Airport has not put in a submission to the Green Growth Plan. Were unaware of it. Tony has forwarded Simon Taylor's contact details to them. Doing more aboriginal heritage work. Spoil dumping - one option is to dump on airfield between airport and RAC site. Contractors

have not yet put forward proposal. State gov withdrawn funding to control Rainbow Lorikeets and White Corellas. Belmont City Council only council with a strategy to control. 19 schools will do planting sessions at Perth Airport this winter.

Treasurer:

Acct no 1: \$1415.77

Acct no 2 \$263.35

No of members 72

CSAC/KEAC: Kevin Goss – feedback and early thoughts, see below. Sounds encouraging though Steve raised questions regarding prior CSAC work which was in progress at the end of the last CSAC term:

- Updates on the District Conservation Strategy which the Shire agreed to work on in past CESAC?
- Is the previous CSAC submission on the FF North development being considered in the planning process advice by KEAC?
- Is the Significant Tree register still in place/in progress?
- Is there any action on the recycling in public places trial?
- Is there any commitment/interest to work on the Sustainability Checklist for Shire staff making recommendations to Council?

Cons. Council: Focus on making up shortfall on funding resulting from complete cuts by WA and Fed govts. Campaign against fracking: 2 new anti fracking campaigners funded by donor. Talk held about shale gas fracking issues in the US. Concerns raised by EDO re biodiversity plan. Green Growth Plan, Fed Minister must also sign off on it. Cons Council also put in a submission. Independent review in progress of the EPA past decisions made contravening EPA regulations. Submissions made for 4 uranium mines. Shadow Environment Minister Chris Tallentire gave rundown of differences between Lib & Lab environmental policies. Liberal representative invited but not present. Steve will provide summary of meeting. Steve to email Cons council to initiate a report card for each party re environmental policies.

Volunteer hours

Toornaart Creek 5	Crumpet Creek 0	Poison Gully 60.5	Ray Owen
		Old Yorna Rd	other

General Business

- Green Growth Plan submission due May 13, submitted
- NRPG new logo and brochures.
- NRPG website (Mary) - KH to email Aileen to get admin access for Facebook

- Congratulations to Steve for his Volunteer WA Volunteer of the Year Award. Very well deserved. KH to scan and send to members.
- Comments on Perth Hills draft trail loop due by 13 June. Master plan available at Shire Office and Libraries. Concerns about damage from push bikes as well as trail bikes. Steve to investigate.
- Lack of responsible cat ownership brochure at Shire. Suggested contact to CEO copy to Tamara. Elaine to find copy and forward to Steve.
- Greens launched environmental policy 16/5/16.
- Biodiversity Strategy referenced voluntary levy.

Next meeting: July

Tony and Margaret returning 26 June

Meeting closed 9.00pm

After its initial meeting the Kalamunda Environment Advisory Committee (KEAC) has held two special meetings:

1. 4 May 2016 - To prepare and recommend comments on the 'unique biodiversity of the Kalamunda Shire' for inclusion in the Shire's Green Growth Plan (GGP) submission; and
2. 12 May 2016 - To plan and recommend its high priority tasks for Council approval, in a work program across six meetings to October 2017.

KEAC has had good participation and support from the Shire with the President attending the first of these meetings and the CEO attending both. They have expressed their confidence in KEAC members' skills and in the way we are going about our business.

The recommended additional comments to the GGP submission were largely accepted. Important inclusions were:

- A new opening paragraph seeking greater recognition of biodiversity values in the Shire, accessible and enjoyed from Perth.
- Specific points -
 - Before the conservation program is finalised natural areas in the Shire should be assessed and prioritised for retention based on scientific principles and local knowledge.
 - Local government should be given time to analyse and identify gaps in the conservation reserve program, with ongoing flexibility as new evidence becomes available and best practice rehabilitation and management should be developed.
 - There should be clarity on future management arrangements with consideration of existing local arrangements (e.g. Friends Groups).

I'm awaiting the minutes of the second special meeting, so I can't be definitive about the agreed priority tasks. From memory they are:

- Local Environmental Strategy - KEAC to consider its support for this initiative (a new over-arching strategy), then advise on drafts at a later date (in 2017)
- Tree and bush conservation - Advise on a strategic approach to protecting, conserving and enhancing trees and vegetative cover. This will include examination of existing policies and strategies (LPS3, ENV9, Local Biodiversity Strategy, Tree Register, etc) for their consistent application to the bush conservation goal. Importantly, the Shire has indicated it is receptive to looking at positive incentives for developers, and at the question of 'due regard' when planning decisions are made. No doubt pragmatism will prevail but there is a will to do better than current and the recent past.
- Biodiversity - With the Local Biodiversity Strategy likely to be subsumed in the Local Environmental Strategy, this will likely involve updating key elements of that strategy, including prioritisation of the reserves list in the appendix. Pests, weeds and fire are to be considered.
- Forrestfield North urban development - advising the structure planning process to achieve model sustainable development, including specific guidance on community engagement. This is an opportunity to draw many environmental considerations, including greenhouse emissions reduction/mitigation, into clever design and application.
- Local Water Strategy - Advice on the planned updating of this strategy, which will include water sensitive urban design but largely applying to new developments.
- Water sensitive urban design - Advice on its retrofitting in existing urban areas.
- Bike plan - Advice on a new of updated bike plan
- Best practice in environmental management - This needs further clarity but comes with an aspiration that the Shire wants to do better and become a leader.

While community engagement isn't a task in its own right, it will be an important consideration in the context of other tasks. I'm asking that it be put on the agenda for our next meeting, with two purposes:

1. We agree on the guidance that we would recommend to the Shire when developing its policies, strategies, etc; and
2. We agree and adopt guidance for KEAC's participation in community engagement, where appropriate.

KEAC next meets 2 June 2016.