

Majors Creek Progress Association Inc

C/O Post Office Majors Creek 2622

General Meeting 1 September 2015

Minutes

Meeting opened at: 7:40pm

Attendance: Chris James, Lynda Vezgoff, Brian McDonald, Sandra McCarron, John Spring, Kate Spring, Jane Ahlquist, Donna Blowes, Sarah Waters.

Apologies: Annie Clarke, Steve Waters, Rebecca Bigg, Marjorie Lemin, Randall Lemin.

Presentation & Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion that the minutes be accepted as true and correct record of the 1st July 2015 meeting.

Moved: Brian McDonald

Seconded: Lynda Vezgoff

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Tabled.

Motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Donna Blowes

Seconded: Chris James

Motion: carried.

Secretary's Report:

Correspondence Inward:

1. Email to Annie Clark from Palerang Council regarding road marking at bridge.
2. Received a donation from Barbara Brotherhood to MCPA.
3. Received a thank you card from Maureen Gillespie in response to MCPA gesture following the passing of Peter Gillespie.

Correspondence Outward:

1. Annie Clarke sent an email to Palerang GM and all the Councillors regarding the give way road marking and the Majors Creek bent sign. She cc the email to Rebecca Bigg.

Business Arising:

1. Letter of support for the local Postal Agency, has not been sent yet as we are still waiting for Kate Mitchell to give us a contact and an address.
2. Progress from Randall Lemin regarding repair of picnic table and benches by the bridge. Randall Lemin requests \$189.00 to pay for project materials.

Motion: to pay Randall Lemin \$189.00 for the cost of materials to repair the picnic table and benches by the bridge.

Moved: Brian McDonald

Second: John Spring

Motion carried.

3. Correspondence to Palerang Council regarding the damaged sign on the Monga lane corner and the give way sign at the bridge. An email received by Annie Clarke from GM Peter Bascomb saying he has passed this on to Gordon Cunningham.
 - Residents will note that the road marking has since been completed.
4. Report from person responsible for contacting the Braidwood Lions Club regarding the maintenance and signage of the Clarkes Lookout. The offer was made for financial assistance if required.
 - Chris James spoke to Braidwood Lions Club regarding passing on the initiative to make improvements to Clarkes Lookout to MCPA. It was originally a Lions project. Lions will decide at their next meeting.
 - Donna Blowes would find out if Tom Clarke is interested in making the repairs. It was also suggested that the sign could read, "Erected by a descendent of the Clarke family".
5. An update on New Years Eve Ball plans from Donna Blowes. A suitable band has not yet been found, and music alternatives will be explored.
6. Bush dance.
7. Hall Trust has not received the promised \$2500 towards the improvements to the amenities block at the Recreation Ground. Donna Blowes wrote a cheque for \$2500 at

this meeting and handed it directly to Brian McDonald for forwarding to the Hall Trust.

General Business:

1. Proposal to appoint Sarah Waters as Secretary

Moved: Brian McDonald

Second: Sandra McCarron

Motion carried.

2. Annie Clarke requested that her and Glen's names be removed from the Music at the Creek BBQ volunteer list.
 - Lynda has removed them.
3. Chris James reported on the dinner with Unity Mining on Tuesday 4th August 2015. Unity approached Chris and invited approximately 6 people from MCPA to attend a dinner at the pub for the purpose of answering questions regarding the progress of Unity's Modification 3. Chris noted that there was some backlash from some members of the community regarding the invitation by Unity and the MCPA's acceptance, specifically that the MCPA executives attended and other members that would have liked to attend were not made aware of the event. Chris noted that the lead time between the invitation and the event was only a matter of days, and, based on the lack of time, she decided to only contact the MCPA executives. Unity has promised to give more notice in future, allowing MCPC to distribute more information.

Sarah Waters noted that the MCPA executives did not offer any views in representation of the MCPA at the dinner, and that it was stated at the dinner that the MCPA does not have on its agenda to advocate for, or against, Unity activities given the diversity of views of its members.

4. Proposal to make the MCPA Agenda/Minutes available on the Majors Creek Community Website, and the Majors Creek Progress Association Facebook page. It may be of some advantage to have the Agenda of an upcoming meeting available to members and the broader community. We could invite comment/feedback, and members could ask to have items included on the agenda, giving the committee an opportunity to do some research prior to the meeting. Also supports Fair Trading requirement to make available meeting Minutes to members.

Motion: To create and maintain a link to the MCPA Agenda and/or Minutes on the Majors Creek Community Website, and the MCPA Facebook page.

Moved: Sarah Waters

Seconded: Jane Ahlquist

Motion carried.

5. Start thinking about the tasks required on the lead up to the Musical Festival BBQ on the weekend starting Friday 20th November.
 - Lynda Vezgoff to put up roster at pub inviting people to volunteer in a particular time slot over the Festival weekend.
 - People will be required to clean up the BBQ area.
 - Donna Blowes and Lynda Vezgoff to order food. Soft drink.
 - Lynda and Donna will not be available on the Music Festival weekend. Chris will be back for the Festival weekend, and will get together to organise things before she goes away. We need a coordinator in the days leading up to the Festival.
6. Sandra McCarron proposed that a seat be installed at two locations in the village as a courtesy to walkers, pram brigade, etc. The first at the highest point on Hill Street overlooking the creek near the MCPA chalk board; the second somewhere on George Street.
 - Sandra McCarron and Jane Ahlquist will explore the area together and report back as to the best locations.
 - Brian McDonald has done some preliminary research and reports that a 2 foot aluminium seat can be purchased for \$200-\$300. Brian remarked that a timber chair will not be as durable over the longer term, and that most public outdoor seating is aluminium.
 - Brian McDonald will do further research.
 - Jane Ahlquist expressed concern that the aesthetic of the seating within its context should be considered, and that the cheapest choice may not be the best choice.
 - Sarah Waters suggested that the seating style chosen should be based on aesthetic balanced with budget, and that a budget would have to be decided.
 - Sarah Waters will also do some research with consideration of Jane's concern.
 - Brian McDonald will send Sarah Waters the particulars of his research to date.
 - Sarah Waters suggested that Council permission might have to be obtained.

- Brian McDonald suggested that we consider the little triangle of land opposite the end of George Street owned by Rudi Stachow. Brian notes that the land is not fenced in with the rest of the private land, and would make a lovely park.
7. Proposal to make repairs to the Majors Creek Falls Lookout, which was originally a project by Braidwood Lions Club.
 - Matthew Dickinson suggested via the MCPA Facebook page that a walking track from the falls to the bridge be considered.
 - Annie Clark forwarded a suggestion that the Green Army could be asked to help with the project.
 - Chris James did some research, and confirmed that the Lookout is on land now part of the Majors Creek Conservation Area (National Parks), making it impossible for any MCPA involvement, partly due to indemnity issues.

The proposal was dismissed.

- Sarah Waters to email Libby Linsay at National Parks Braidwood, and say that the Majors Creek Falls Lookout was originally a Braidwood Lions Club initiative, and that the Lookout is in a state of disrepair and unsafe.
 - Also, Sarah Waters to email Visitors Information Centre regarding lookout.
8. Annie Clarke forwarded a suggestion that MCPA considers NSW Environmental Trust Grants, as advertised in the Braidwood Times, as a way of accessing monies to assist with projects such as improvements to the Waterfall Lookout and Long Flat Reserve. Annie notes that Palerang Council have staff to assist groups in applying for grants. Annie also notes that Round 4 applications close 16th September 2015.
 - As discussed, the Waterfall Lookout is out of the question.
 - Brian McDonald, with much support from other members, noted that compiling an application is complicated and laborious, and there is not enough time to compile an application before the close date in two weeks.
 - It was generally agreed that if a motion for a specific project was carried in the future, MCPA would revisit this suggestion and consider NSW Environmental Trust Grants.
 - Donna Blowes reminded us that Paul Story has previously offered his time and expertise in grant applications.
 9. Annie Clarke would like to know if MCPA is interested in participation in Braidwood and Villages Tourism?

- Chris James noted that the only one to benefit financially from Tourism at Majors Creek is the pub.
- Donna Blowes suggested that that topic could be a meeting of its own.

MCPA will leave the matter in abeyance until the free membership expires.

10. Proposal: Membership via application/subscription to the MCPA.

Motion: that membership to MCPA be via application with annual renewal, that an appropriate membership fee be considered, or a free membership considered.

Annie Clarke speaking for the motion: “The MCPA could benefit in having the annual figures of the number of residents it represents. I understand that currently membership is assumed if you live in Majors Creek. The MCPA could also benefit in growing the association via a membership drive. I vote for the motion”.

- Brian McDonald suggests that this is in fact a rule we should be following.
- Chris James recalls that long ago it was in our Constitution that a gold coin was required for membership to the MCPA. It was abandoned because of concerns regarding insurance. The concern was that 'members' would not be covered by insurance in the event of an accident. Without formal membership, volunteers would be covered by insurance.
- Chris James also recalls that the insurance policy has since changed, and it is possible that the insurance coverage may no longer be a concern.
- Chris James suggested that the MCPA Constitution is long overdue for an overhaul.
- Donna Blowes and Chris James will look into the insurance and report back.
- The motion will be revisited after Donna and Chris' report.

11. Braidwood Soccer approached MCPA about running the soccer canteen/BBQ at the Majors Creek Recreation Ground, as it has been done on previous occasions. MCPA was unable to help due to the lack of notice – only 20 hours notice.

- Sarah Waters to send an email to Braidwood Soccer expressing our willingness to help, only that we need at least one weeks notice.

12. Donna Blowes expressed her disapproval that the community was not consulted by the Hall Trust in its decision to disallow animals, in particular, dogs, at the Recreation Reserve.

- Donna said that she respected the Hall Trust's right to make such a decision, but did not approve the way it came to be determined, and she will be writing to the Hall Trust to express this.
- Jane Ahlquist and Lynda Vezgoff agreed with Donna's disapproval.
- Brian McDonald quoted rules from the Companion Dogs Act: that dogs are required to stay at least certain distances from locations such the BBQ and the playground.
- Brian also noted that when the Majors Creek Music Festival committee were informed, they expressed gratitude as they have had problems regarding dogs at this event.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 27th October 2015

Meeting Closed: 9:15pm

Secretary:

Sarah Waters

Majors Creek Progress Association Inc.