

North Arm Cove Residents Association
General Meeting 10 am 15 December 2018

Minutes

Welcome and acknowledgment of country Jim Parnell President.

Apologies: Sue Carter, Janine Reid, Bob Reid, Gayle Chappell, Trevor Vandenberg

Welcome to New Members

Minutes of Previous Meeting 13 October 2018 were read and accepted.

Proposed: Len Yearsley Seconded Barry Young

Business Arising. Proposed NACRA Name Change. The NACRA Executive meeting on the 1 November discussed the proposed name change and it was decided that name will be kept at this stage, as the membership includes people who are renters, weekenders and non-urban land holders, should a name change be proposed by members it will considered at that time.

Correspondence: In

Confirmation from M. Kelly Sec Hall Committee that MCC does not plan to provide halls with defibrulators.

Resignation from Len Yearsley as NACRA Public Officer

Notification from Len Yearsley that a formal motion is required at this meeting for the recognition of the Fame Cove Subcommittee is a subcommittee of NACRA.

Aquatic Health – Janine Reid - people should remind their visitors that there are submerged posts in OL86/140 (Cove Blvd.) and everyone boating in that area should be cautious. Noted that all boaters should keep to the channel where possible to avoid leases.

Out: Graham Bowley Fisheries re: OL86/140 removal of remaining poles posing a risk to boaters. Noted that email response was received that the matter will be followed up with the lease.

Business Arising from Correspondence.

Nomination of Jim Parnell as Public Officer – confirmed.

Motion: That the Fame Cove Subcommittee continue as a subcommittee of NACRA. Members of the subcommittee are noted and meetings are held second Tuesday of the month.

Proposed. Len Yearsley. Seconded. Barry Young

Reports and projects

1. President's Report. Jim Parnell gave his background in management in Maritime. Acknowledged that NACRA has been running for 50 years and is perhaps one of the oldest associations. Jim is looking forward to building on the strength of previous effort. A new Council provides an opportunity for NAC to move forward. Acknowledgement of work of Len Yearsley, Doug Kohlhoff, Nigel Tully. Most members have been here for over 15 years and many longer and have been involved

in community projects. NACRA membership has been increased by 10 members today it is very pleasing to have the support of the community.

2. **Fame Cove – Len Yearsley** – Meetings with the rep from the site are held every 2 months. There are a number of reports over 1000 pages are with Council. The DA for one road has been approved, to the house, the other road is near to approval which is the one near the Fame Cove. The house site facing North Arm Cove and clearance has been made about 4 years ago. The house is ready to go and has a DA approved.

- Comment: Tony Hann – We have been fighting the development for 12 years and we thank and congratulate Len for maintaining the fight against the proposals at Fame Cove by Mr. Long. The meeting confirmed this sentiment with applause.

3. **Mid Coast Council - Southern Area Reference Group Meeting** – 2 November 2018 – Maria Pickles represented NACRA. List of items discussed for NAC

- Porter Loos for Australia Day, Hero's Beach Development and Rehabilitation
- Outdoor Gym, Signage – Request made for the clearing of trees around the North Arm Cove / Carrington sign on side heading north on the highway to reduce the risks for residents turning right into the Cove. Review of all signs and report needs for upgrading– NACRA. Boat Racks – Council has a model in place for communities to manage their own racks including charging users and providing them with requests for removal if needed. Kerry Simmons MCC Officer will send details of the fees/ charges etc. used at Smiths Lake.
- Comments.
- **Proposed changes – Great Lakes Tree Preservation Orders.** Council has voted on rescinding Tree Preservation for the Great Lakes Area. Orders are not in place in other council areas. MCC position is that the costs of enforcement is too high. Historical trees and all trees on public land remain protected. The rescission will mean reliance on the LEP and DEP policies to protect the environment. Loss of trees in MCC area is expected. MCC has stated there will be a forum on the proposed changes however this will not be open to the public.
- **Proposed NSW logging law changes.** Proposed changes have been posted on the NAC website. Opposition to these changes is strong as the clearing of hardwood forests does not make economic sense and there will be a significant reduction in habitat. Residents are encouraged to make their own submissions.
- **Proposed Changes to Housing Zones-** Mid Coast Housing Strategy – Differences housing zones across the MCC are a problem for planning. There are proposals to change the types of zones that can be used for developing areas. The final strategy will be available early in 2020 for consultation. Main concerns appear to be moves from low density to medium density. Noted

that NAC and other paper estates are not included in the strategy and will be dealt with as a separate project. Tea Gardens Hawks Nest expected to have a high growth rate with 2,000 more residents by 2035.

- **Other Council News.**

- Acquisition of the Masters Site for a new MCC Office has incited residents. An article written in the Manning Community News provides an update. See NAC website.
- The consultation process for the acquisition has brought a focus on other complaints about council such as setting up committees and lack of transparency of decision making.

- **Comments and Actions:**

- Council should be providing more services – we need to make a submission to MCC to increase the services provided by council – such as Toilets, Mowing, and Gutter Clearing etc.
- Is there any changes to APZ laws for clearance on shore lines?
- Maria Pickles to follow up and provide information on the website.

4. **Grants funds should be sought for Heros Bay** – Jim Parnell –

- There is an existing plan for the upgrade of Heros Beach prepared in 2013. The process included an extensive survey of the community priorities for the upgrade.
- The plan for Heros Beach that was approved by Council and the NAC Community, however funding was not available at the time. The plan does not include toilets. The feeling is now that the plan could be reviewed and a staged approach for upgrading be considered.
- Action : Further work on this is required by the Executive.

5. **Proposed Bottle and Can Recycling in the Cove** – Lyn McKee

6. It is proposed that NACRA conduct a trial project to raise funds through the NSW Return and Earn Scheme. Lyn has established an account with the recyclers so that when residents and visitors recycle items at collection points they can elect to make a donation to NACRA. This should be available in mid-January. Lyn will also explore provision of identified recycle bins in the Cove so that people can place their bottles that will be taken to the recyclers by volunteers. The bins can be located in two different areas of the Cove.

7. **Comments :** Depositing empty bottles can be a messy and untidy and everything should be done to prevent the area becoming an eyesore. People are not good at recycling and more info is needed to ensure that people use recycling bins correctly, particularly at the Hall.

8. **Action :** Lyn to make enquiries to Council regarding bins. Promotion of the donation option for NACRA one approved can be made on the website, Cove News etc.

9. **Fund raising:** Some of the ideas proposed for fund raising were; a Pop up kitchen in the Hall. Hire a chef and invite residents to dinner. Buy swap and sell for used goods.
- Action : To be discussed in the New Year.
10. **Proposed Cheaper Electricity and Gas Project:** Michael Pickles has sought information from a number of Energy providers who have indicated that there is interest in providing a group discount for residents if there are at least 50% of residents to start. Discounts would increase with the number of residents involved in group buying.
- On estimate if all residents are paying around \$400 per quarter this means that companies are making \$120,000 per quarter from NAC. It appears there is room for a generous discount. Solar power – the aim is to have deal that includes all the kilowatts – full rebate for all kilowatts into the grid.
 - Elgas have indicated that a deal is available for reduced fees and prices for houses with a flat area, and direct line of site from the bottles to the truck. Note that there is a rebate is available from Service NSW for \$99 per year for gas.
11. **Comments:** This model is a sound step forward for the community. It could be basis of negotiating other services such as NBN.
- The future for energy is solar and the technology for going off the grid is improving as new solar panel designs and batteries improve. There are a number of models for providing solar energy to communities including small farms and sharing of production between households. This could be the future of North Arm Cove. Group buying is a step towards a community based energy project.
- The members of the meeting were invited to complete forms and also provide samples of bills to Michael Pickles so that he can prepare costings and negotiations with energy companies.
- Note : 25 Residents gave their details as interested in the project.
- Action: Further promotion to be pursued by the Executive.
12. **Porter Loos for Australia Day – NACRA support for the Australia Day Event 2019**
- NACRA Executive will write to the Yes Committee informing them formally of the availability of one toilet and encourage provision of second toilet.
13. **Proposed upgrade for Medina Bay – John Blackburn of Medina Bay Upgrade Committee**
- Great Lakes Council and NSW State Govt provided a study access to the water ways in 2016. \$60,000 was spent on the report for access, and Medina Bay is nominated at the only site for access. At the time the proposal was found to be too costly as it was estimated at over \$3 million and funds were not targeted. Access to water is an important part of living at North Arm Cove and is only available to those with water front properties. Real Estate agents report that there is a loss of interest in purchasing at the Cove due to the lack

of water access. John has experience in working with council and funding and a history of success such as the provision of the NAC tennis court.

- The original plan for Medina Bay will be pared back so that the cost will be realistic. Medina Bay Upgrade Committee led by John Blackburn, have produced a series of draft plans have been prepared for Medina Bay, a Road, and Drainage, provision of car spaces x 5, table and chairs. The engineering details and reports have been provided pro bono by an experienced engineer who is providing advice to Council Meetings have been held with Council. The mayor and councillors support the project. A grant will be provided at \$100,000 a year to provide the amenities on the plan, and will be supplemented by Council following the 3 years if required. The Committee seeks the support of NACRA members in principal at this stage for the project going forward to product final plans which will be listed as a DA. Once the DA stage is reached all residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback. The committee will provide regular updates to NACRA.
- Motion: That NACRA support the Medina Bay Upgrade Committees efforts in pursuing the upgrade of the Bay.
- Proposed: Jim Parnell.
- Discussion: Tony Hann would like to see the proposal for Medina Bay before affirming the project. It was explained that at this stage the Medina Bay plans are still in progress and that the finalised plans once agreed by Council will be available for comment.
- Voting was made by way of show of hands :23 For and 3 Against. – Passed.

14. **Signage – Jim Parnell** – There has been a number of signage issues on the NACRA agenda for some years. We need to build on existing signage and make submissions to RMS and Council. NACRA – Need a group to pursue this – review all signs and make recommendations. We need to propose a new sign on the high way and will need to submit to RMS.

Discussion : Members proposed the following;

Wildlife Signs

Danger of speeding to Wildlife, walkers, traffic, elderly drivers.

Reduction of Speed Zones –from 80 kmh to 60 kmh–

Increase the signage within the cove to do 50 kmh.

Lighting at Promontory Way is poor. Council has put on review

Members supported the reduction of the speed zone along Carrington Road and North Arm Cove Road from 80 kmh to 60 kmh.

Action: Jim Parnell requested volunteers from the membership to assist with this project. No members volunteered.

Submissions for will be required for the following;

MCC – 50 KMH Zones, Wildlife and Walkers

RMS – New Sign on the A1 after Tarean Road warning of Right Hand Turn coming up for NAC etc.

RMS- Reduction of Speed Zone along Carrington Road and North Arm Cove Road from 80 kmh to 60 kmh.

15. Boat Racks – The following issues have been identified;

- Use of the racks for long term storage of tenders not being used.
- Use of racks for storage of tenders not related to a boat moored.
- Collection of water in the boats facing the wrong way where mossies breed.
- Volunteers required to keep the area in good order
- Council has a model in place for communities to manage their own racks including charging users and providing them with requests for removal if needed. Proposal that North Arm Cove adopt this policy and include a fee and that this be presented at the meeting in February.

Comments: NACRA has a history to attempting to have a policy on boat racks with no success previously. Now that Council has a policy we can move forward.

Action: Policy for boat rack management will be proposed in early 2019.

General Business.

Philippa Coltart: It is important to have access to the water and Medina Bay is a good start. It is also important to encourage drivers to keep to the speed limit around the Cove and drive at a safe speed for wildlife and walkers on the roads out.

Tony Hann : NACRA has worked hard with Council to ensure that the rules regarding containers on properties on both non urban and urban blocks are enforced. He asked that the current committee maintain this work. There are containers near Water St on council land that have been dumped several years ago. The rules are that containers are allowed on non urban land for storage only not for living, temporary accommodation is approved for urban blocks where there is a DA in place for use only while the resident is building the property.

Supported by Jim Parnell.

Thanks to all members for their participation and Season Greetings, have a safe and happy Christmas.

Meeting closed. 11:30 am