

SMRRA > Snowy Monaro Ratepayers and Residents Association

General Meeting 28th October 2023

Cooma Multi-Cultural Centre, Massie Street Cooma 1:30pm for 2pm.

Committee Members Present: Andrew Thaler – President, Matt Nolte - Vice President, Nicole Vlug – Digital support, Alisa Thaler – Secretary, Charles Kolano - Public Officer

Committee apology: Teresa Skowron, Vele Civijovski, Shawny Joint

Members Present: 13 members

Apologies: Karen Green, Jussi Terpinen, Luke Williamson

Broadcast: via Live-stream SMRRA facebook page by Nic Lungtungan

Correspondence in: Teresa Skowron resignation of position of Secretary, remain on committee as Ordinary Member.

Appointment of Alisa Thaler to Secretary, from Assistant Secretary
Vele Civijovski resignation from Ordinary Member on Committee.

Nomination process to be a SMRRA Committee Member:

A public call for interested persons to nominate.

AGM Sat 11th November 2023.

Nominations to be to secretary@smrra.org or VP@smrra.org by Friday 3rd November 2023. PDF of nomination form will be made available online.

A paper copy available at the meeting for those interested to complete today.

Question from the floor: Can the Constitution be online please?

A: SMRRA uses the Model Constitution. It is available with a simple online search, but could be put online (facebook page or website). (Nicole V)

Correspondence in: Hon Mark Banasiak, MLC re the SMRC building.

Andrew's comments – SMRRA acted quickly on the issue of the SMRC building on Commissioner Street. There was the Fire Escape issue with Deadlocks, Structural Integrity. There is Enterprise Risk verses Work Health and Safety Risk.

SMRRA to send a reply to Hon Banasiak.

Peter Anderson has been given a UCC by SMRC in the past.

Treasurer report: by Andrew, Bendigo Bank account was applied for, it is a 6 week process, and as Shawny Joint as Treasurer is an expatriate, there was a delay in processing, partly as the Bendigo Bank staff are not familiar with the forms. Due the AGM being imminent, a task of the new committee will be to start the application process again.

Membership list: The SMRRA membership list contains 130 members.

At \$2 a member that is \$260. There are some funds held to be deposited into a bank account. Not all funds were passed on by previous committee.

At the AGM there will be a proposal to raise membership fees from July 2024 to \$20 per person. Some expenses are advertising (social media, print and radio), venue hire (as

required), insurance (as required).

Question from the floor: Membership application process?

By the model rules: A membership application in writing lodged with the secretary, who then passes to the committee to approve, the secretary then tells the applicant the outcome.

Section 44 voting: member to be 18 years old, financial membership, no delay for voting.

The membership year is the financial year 1st July to 30 June.

A four part motion put by Andrew as President:

A. Membership list as at 7 days before 11th November

B. Members to be financial if possible

C. Vary AGM procedures to accept late membership applications before the AGM meeting.

D. accept that current members on the list are financial through to 30 June 2024.

Moved: Andrew Thaler, Second: Nick Kilpatrick. Passed unanimous.

Digital support: – Nicole Vlug encourages everyone to interact with social media posts that SMRRA places to promote the meetings, to encourage the algorithms. Like, Share, Comment.

Comment from the floor: Peter Anderson suggests a Media Department and Social Media Communication Role. Letter to the Editor in Monaro Post etc.

This role was held by Mick Newman but is currently Vacant.

Rail Trail: Andrew gave a summary of outcome from October SMRC council meeting.

There was a Bombala Railway Yard visit by only one councillor.

SMRC councillors decided that SMRC will submit an application for a \$1M grant to remove the rail track, then replace if needed, to allow a bitumen rail trail (for bikes).

This conflicts with the Friends of Bombala Railway who want to use the railway for pedal carts, not have it removed. Grant is via the Labor Party Kristy McBain office.

Propose a letter to the editor regarding how council voted, and their lack of understanding of the site and potential issues. (Andrew T)

Question from the floor: Nick Kilpatrick – who manages this project? A: SMRC.

Suggestion of a Letter to the Editor: By Mick Newman – letter to Monaro Post, with a photo if possible, of the Railway issue.

Letter to Kristy McBain regarding the Bombala Railway and situation. (Andrew T)

Letter to Kristy McBain Mobile Black-spot funding, (which probably came out of Discretionary Electorate Spending) suggested by Andrew. (Andrew T)

Question from the floor: Mick Newman -The Centennial Park speakers approved by SMRC, said to be used to discourage graffiti, that took funding from other areas– where are they?? Shouldn't there be constant music in the Park? There is no answer.

Yallambee Lodge: Potential SMRC liability re the care of Claire Nolan, says Andrew.

Berridale Nursing Home: No divestment decision yet, Andrew reports.

SMRC funds records are inaccurate. Berridale Nursing Home not included in the

budget. \$1.5M deficit.

The Berridale Community is remaining vigilant to fight closure.

SMRC Building: Letter to Senator Cotsis. No real news. Follow up letter required. Andrew

SMRC Audit: new CEO David Hogan, was Snowy Hydro, was UC (University Centre) Cooma. Narelle Davis (ex mayor) daughter on UC board.

CEO should commence audit. Audit budget is \$200,000.

Forensic audit, retrospective and detailed.

SMRRA will offer to meet CEO Hogan.

SMRC election: in 10 months, Sept 2024. Candidates needed from the Community.

De-merger: petition to hold a plebiscite, driven by the Greens Party.

Issues from members: Charles Kolano. Road access/ SMRC decision making process. Werralong Rd – 2015 SMRC resolution to acquire land, decision made in pre- briefing not main meeting, against process.

Iain Saunders. Council road to be maintained as such, after many years SMRC deigned status of the road.

RLUS: Rural Land Use: Crown road / no house permit, dirt road/ no house permit

Land owners rights at risk. SMRC UCC letter: Andrew mentioned his letter from SMRC re his UCC, from David Rawlings. Andrew will reply to oppose it.

Question from the floor: Mick Newman – could a percent of the membership fund be allocated to pay for GIPA applications?

A: \$30 per application plus there can be a per hour charge. Councillors can ask for a briefing on a matter, no cost, outside of GIPA. You can ask for a fee waiver, if in community interest to know.

GIPA total cost can be unknown. There is a lack of awareness of when can be used.

Suggestion from the floor: SMRRA could explain to members what a “GIPA” is.

Know your rights type information. A benefit of SMRRA membership is access to those experienced with various issues and council processes.

Suggestion: A GIPA that SMRRA ask for the Expense Claims of each SMRC councillor.

SMRRA promotion: idea of a stand at the Rotary Markets, 3rd Sunday each month.

Requires some volunteers, graphics, perhaps stories on display.

Promote membership, explain benefits etc.

Requires commitment. To be looked at in 2024.

Comment from floor: Michelle Wolfenden – Kalkite re-zoning proposal said to be in November business paper for decision. Needs people to attend SMRC Nov meeting

Meeting Close: 4:40pm.

Next Meeting: Sat 11th November. AGM followed by General Meeting.