

**Hackett Community Association**  
**Meeting at ACT Sports House, Hackett**  
**Tuesday 26 October 2010**

**Present:** James Walker, Max Huntington, Greg Haughey, Len Crossfield, Marion Williams, Waltraud Pix, Bruce Smith,

**Apologies:** Laura Turnbull; Lorraine Mason

**Minutes:** agreed

**Treasurer's report:** In Lorraine's absence there wasn't a treasurer's report, but there was a general discussion about money. There was general agreement that we need to think about how we spend our money, including on the 2013 birthday bash.

**Constitutional changes:**

James reported that, following the AGM, there were three proposals put forward for possible variations to the HCA. Each of them prompted wide-ranging discussion:

1. Lower the requirement for a quorum of 20 members at the AGM:

It had been put to James by some members that the requirement for a quorum was too high and could be lowered. Points raised in the discussion included:

- If we can't get at least 20 members to the AGM it doesn't reflect well on the HCA
- People are reluctant to go to AGMs or to get involved until there is a big issue which focuses their attention
  - Its about being there when something comes along (eg. Traffic lights, and the dragway)
- We need to get a better balance of active and inactive members
- We need to push for larger membership numbers and make people more aware of the benefits of HCA
- HCA membership also needs to be seen in the light of membership of closely related organizations such as FoMM
- A practical way of ensuring numbers for the AGM would be for members to come to the meeting with phone numbers of people they could call
- **The feeling of the meeting was not to change quorum.**

2. Increase or eliminate the current limit (3) on the number of terms a chair can serve consecutively

Some people felt that the limit on the terms a chair could serve was artificial and should be removed or liberalised

- It was noted that a number of similar organizations did not have a limit
- Other organizations have a limit of 3 terms plus one for emergencies

- A benefit of the limit is that prospective chairs may be willing to put their hands up if they knew it was only for a finite time (it is a protection for the person in the chair)
- An additional benefit is that it forces a circulation of people through key positions
- **The feeling of the meeting was that the current limit should stay**

### 3. Include provision for a patron or patrons in the constitution

It had been put to James that the HCA should have the capacity to appoint a patron or patrons

- It would be a nominal position – wouldn't involve the person doing anything
- Two people in mind – Eileen Pateman (longstanding resident) or Bob McMullan (retiring MHR)
- There are two reasons to have a patron:
  - A reward - someone who has done wonderful service (alternative is life membership) or
  - someone who is well connected and can champion causes of the HCA.
- **The feeling of the meeting was that while people were not convinced about the merits of having a patron, further consideration could be given to life membership as recognition of good and diligent service**

There was also discussion about whether the Association had the capacity to make changes (eg. have life membership) where there was no explicit provision in the constitution. This has not been tested.

### **Table at shops**

A general discussion agreed that setting up tables at the shops had been a very successful initiative of the HCA and that we should hold another one before Christmas. This should be aimed not only at signing up new members but also identifying issues for the HCA to be taking up over the next year.

**It was agreed to hold the next table at the shops on Saturday 11 December.**

### **Increasing membership**

James reported that Wilbur's have suggested that we have a membership box at Wilbur's with a photo of Wilbur as mascot of HCA.

Greg said that we should have information about what a positive thing the HCA is – an overview of why you would want to be a member – Greg volunteered to start writing something.

### **Hackett shops**

There was a general discussion about the increase in graffiti and anti-social behaviour at shops. Also general uncertainty about the future of the unoccupied shops.

It was agreed that James will speak to Arthur and Steve about what they know about where things are up to and report back to Len and Greg. It is an issue of interest to the community and we want to know what we can do. HCA will fight variations to make into units (unless they are on top of shops).

### **Future meeting agendas**

It was agreed that the Committee should map out a forward agenda of key issues to be discussed and taken forward. Two topics could be identified for each meeting and an agenda could be circulated a week beforehand. Possible future items include:

- Traffic: doubling of traffic over next ten years in projections (whether or not new roads are built) – could ask if the consultants can do a presentation
- Monash Drive
- The development of Kenny
- Life membership
- Tables at the shops
- Appearance of the shops
- The History Book

It was agreed that Len and Greg will think about the Hackett shops for the next meeting.

### **Events**

- Dickson residents association meeting tonight
- FoMM will have a wild flower walk this Sunday – has been advertised. Had a really good spotlight walk – saw sugar gliders. Leader of walk has agreed to do another walk

Meeting closed 9.15pm