
Darlings Downs Residents Association

Minutes from the AGM

conducted on the 28th September 2020

DDRA Annual General Meeting

The Darling Downs Residents Association (DDRA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Foxton Street Hall in Oakford on the 28th of September 2020.

Meeting Opened

The meeting opened at 7.30 PM.

The Chairperson for the AGM was Keith Ellis (President of the DDRA).

Present

The following persons attended the AGM:

Keith Ellis, Penny Ellis, Bruce Hilliard, Pam Hilliard, Peter Benson, Neil & Carol Waterhouse, Carol & Pat Hogge, Denelle Kennedy, Vicki Lynn, Brian & Pip Schupp, Robyn & Brian Vale, Carol Fawcett, Belinda Lewis, Sally & Steve Starling, Dean Strautins, John Watson, Joyce Arnold, Sharon Arena, The Honourable Alyssa Hayden, Shirlie & Jerome Donders, Nicky & Paul Gusterson, Rod Street, Louise Hannify, John Holligan, Leisa Watson, Cr Michelle Rich, Rob O'Callgoen, Wendy Leach, Sonia De Berner, Mike Slack-Smith, Karen Nelson, Cosi, Eric Chabros, Ian Stanley, James Morne, Deborah Venturini, David Emery, Lisa Kerwick, and Kim Greenwood,

From these attendees, Lisa Kerwick, Michelle Rich, Cosi, James Morne, and Rob O'Callgoen were not members. Additionally, Dean Strautins and Louise Hannify are Associate members. All of the other attendees were Ordinary Members of the DDRA.

Apologies

The following people supplied apologies: Russell Twinning, Kevin & Tracy Brimblecombe, Matt Emery, Ian Wilson, and Trevor Hayes.

Previous AGM Minutes

After opening the floor to discuss the previous AGM minutes, a vote was conducted on the following resolution.

Resolution

To accept the minutes of the AGM dated the 16th October 2019 and the outcomes of any matters arising from the minutes.

Proposed by: Robyn Vale

Seconded by: Sonya de Berner

Vote outcome: *Carried unanimously*

The DDRA Strategic Development Plan

Bruce Hilliard explained the status of the DDRA Strategic Development Plan and identified completed and planned works. The following points provide a synopsis of the issues covered in the discussion:

- **Workstream 1: Day Yards.** This Workstream has been **delayed** because requested grant funding from the SJ Shire has still not been forthcoming.
- **Workstream 2: Rest Area.** This project has been **delayed** because funding from the SJ Shire has not been forthcoming.
- **Workstream 3: Car Park Upgrade.** The Evening Peal Court southern car park was resurfaced, and most of the boundary poles were installed. A big **thank you** to the SJ Shire, **Peter Benson**, and his team for their efforts.
- **Workstream 4: Vegetation & Erosion management.** This Workstream is **ongoing**. At this stage, future works are somewhat dependent on finalising the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SJ Shire.
- **Workstream 5: Firefighting water tank.** At the time of the AGM, the implementation of the firefighting water tank had been **delayed**, while ongoing liaison was being conducted with the SJ Shire and DFES. The intent was to finalise the requirements as early as possible and implement the agreed solution during 2021.
- **Workstream 6: Gate & Fences.** This Workstream was **completed**. The DDRA financed this project, as the requested grant funding from the SJ Shire was not forthcoming. A big **thank you** goes to **Peter Benson** and his team for organising this.
- **Workstream 7: Safety controls & vehicular access.** There are several areas of concern within the Darling Downs Equestrian Estate (DDEE) (e.g. *speed controls for Masters Rd., Hopkinson Rd., etc.*). Unfortunately, this Workstream was further **delayed**, while the MOU has remained in limbo.
- **Workstream 8: Maintenance.** This is an **ongoing** focus within the DDEE. As outlined during the AGM, more than 1,810 person-hours of work had been applied by DDRA volunteers to support this maintenance.

It was also noted that since 1 July 2017, the SJ Shire had provided \$31,500 worth of funding to support the DDRA and their activities. In return, the DDRA had provided more than \$92,285 worth of services, materials, and equipment, to enhance and maintain the DDEE. This gave the SJ Shire a return on their investment of 293%.

Resolution

To accept the updated report on the implementation of the DDRA Strategic Development Plan.

Proposed by: Brian Vale

Seconded by Pam Hilliard

Vote outcome: *Carried unanimously*

Identify New Proposed Works

Attendees identified the following proposals for possible inclusion in the Workstreams:

- **Requirement 1.** Put up a safety fence between the bridle path and the Thomas Road drain towards the western end of the DDEE, as shown in Figure 1 (*overleaf*).
- **Requirement 2.** Possibly extend the bridle trail, as shown in Figure 1. This would include the easement through to the corner of Thomas and Masters Road.

- **Requirement 3.** If Requirement 2 was implemented, the safety fence identified in Requirement 1 would need to be extended.



Figure 1: Graphic of the first three Requirements

- **Requirement 4.** This requirement requested resetting the gate/chicane structures off Tulloch Way to allow carriages to pass through more readily.
- **Requirement 5.** A range of issues related to signage, including area usage/behaviour signs and horse-crossing warning signs, were raised. Additionally, issues related to speed controls (e.g. Masters Road) were raised. These requirements were considered applicable for management in Workstream 7.

Resolution

To accept the proposals for inclusion in the DDRA Strategic Development Plan and for the DDRA Committee to initiate and conduct appropriate tasks needed to implement the approved projects.

Proposed by: Bruce Hilliard

Seconded by: Brian Vales

Vote outcome: *Carried unanimously*

Present / Consider Committee's Annual Report

The Committee's report was provided with the notification for the AGM. After discussing key aspects of the Committee's report with the attendees, a vote was taken on the following resolution.

Resolution

To accept the DDRA Committee Report.

Proposed by: Pete Benson

Seconded by: Sonja de Berner

Vote outcome: *Carried unanimously*

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer's report was presented. This showed a balance of funds at the end of the financial year of \$12,311. \$6,530.40 of this amount was quarantined for implementing Workstream 1, which meant that the funds available for operations and maintenance equated to \$5,780.60. Of this amount, roughly \$2,990 was pre-allocated to cover the annual insurance costs. This meant that operating capital was currently limited to about \$2,790.

At the time of the AGM, the annual DDRA stipend of \$10,000, plus \$750 for partial coverage of the insurance, was still being awaited, while the MOU was still not finalised.

Resolution

To accept the DDRA financial report.

Proposed by: Penny Ellis

Seconded by Vicki Lynn

Vote outcome: *Carried unanimously*

Elect Committee Members

The present DDRA Committee had been in their roles for only two years. Therefore, in accordance with Clause 11.4(2) of the DDRA Rules of Association, the incumbents were not due for re-election until 2021.

The exception was the Treasurer's role. Harry Postma had resigned from the role, and a new Treasurer was required. Thank you, Harry, for all your hard work over the years. You will be missed.

Only one candidate (Carol Fawcett) volunteered to fill this role.

Additionally, one additional member (Brian Schupp) volunteered to be an Ordinary Committee Member.

Resolution

To accept Carol Fawcett as the new Treasurer of the DDRA and for Brian Schupp to be accepted as an Ordinary Committee Member.

Proposed by: Peter Benson

Seconded by: Bruce Hilliard

Vote outcome: *Carried unanimously*

Working Groups

The roles of the Maintenance & Works, Communications & Membership, and Finance & Funding Working Groups were discussed. Additional volunteers were requested, so they could assist in supporting the Workstreams and DDRA goals.

General Business

Review of Valuation Letter, which has been sent to all residents of the SJ Shire.

The attendees discussed the implications of the letter sent out by the SJ Shire on 14th September 2020, which required a response by 23rd October 2020. This letter proposed that the valuation of blocks would change from Unimproved Value (UV) to Gross Rental Value (GRV) rates. Most of the attendees were alarmed by the change, which this would create in their annual rates. Michelle Rich (SJ Shire President) and Alyssa Hayden (MLA – Member for Darling Range) participated in the discussion.

The attendees requested that the DDRA investigate this matter and provide support and guidance to assist the residents. The Committee accepted this responsibility.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 10:00PM.

I attest that, to the best of my recollection, these Minutes accurately reflect the proceedings during, and outcomes from, this AGM. However, in accordance with the DDRA Rules of Association, these Minutes must still be accepted at a following General Meeting, as part of the ratification process.

Signed as an attestation by the Chairperson for the meeting.

Name: Keith Ellis

Role: Chairperson & President