



Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc.

VHDPA Inc.
PO Box 43
Hall ACT 2618
www.hall.act.au

President: Peter Toet.

VHDPA Special General Meeting - Minutes.

Meeting date	7:00pm Wednesday, 27 February 2019
Location	Hall School Cottage
Committee Members	Peter Toet, John Starr, Tony Morris, Olga Minion, Margaret Monahan, Peter Howard, Ken Heffernan, George Southwell, Phil Robson, Juanita Caddy, John Burns
Attendees	Peter Toet, John Starr, Tony Morris, Olga Minion, John Burns, Phil Robson, Peter Howard, Margaret Monahan
Apologies	George Southwell,

Peter T, the President explained that he had called the meeting in response to issues at the previous meeting and generally.

The items he wanted to discuss were:

1. The bike track
2. Committee Handbook.

1. Bike Track

Peter discussed Stephen Alegria's presentation. He stated that his run down of the ideas for the Hall Park Initiative looked good and that we should follow his steps.

John B was interested in the design of the initiative and asked who would be the contact as he was heavily involved with the bike track. He was asked of the extent of his involvement.

Margaret stated that the VHDPA committee and particularly the current Committee had never been opposed to the idea of a bike track but that she believed that there had been a lack of transparency. In December 2018, John Burns told the committee that he knew very little about the bike track and that he was educating himself about it. Margaret asked John B the source of his education, and said that she felt it was important that he had spoken to a range of people to get a balanced approach. She said that the term "proponent" was initiated and used by the ACT government and was not a term that had been introduced by the VHDPA. .

John B stated that the people who had been working independently for the bike track disliked the term “proponents” and found it offensive. He said that they felt threatened especially when there were letters put under the door at the Post Office, even though they had surveillance cameras in place.

Peter T said we must push ahead and asked John to provide names of reps that could meet with the Exec.

John S asked where the new park would be. John B explained that it would be the exact footprint of the current park. Stephen Alegria had told John B that the government plans further engagement, such as pop ups on a Thurs or Fri, 10 to 4 to show kids what can be done in terms of new adventures and refreshed equipment. It was agreed by all that the bike track was finished and we are now talking about upgrading the existing playground environment. We will work together and do it as a community.

There was discussion about the amount of money available and Phil stated that Rotary would pay their portion when all the work was completed, on the basis that the site selected was appropriate and everything was signed off. Rotary will pay the final payment, however there is now in place a sunset clause as the money is held for a Hall community project, for the community to spend in Hall.

Tony explained that whilst one individual was working with the government we do not have a united voice. There was no consensus in the past with people going off without appropriate approval.

There was discussion on Dean Bell attending the previous VHDPA meeting and his standing in the aboriginal community.

Peter T stated that we would need to work together- Executive, Kids, Stephen Alegria and proponents. The committee assumed that they were responsible for getting the community together to see who was for the proposed changes and who was against. The proponents need to be here to put their case. It is not a competition; we have a facility that we will be able to improve.

John B was to be the contact between the committee and the proponents and help us to get them to a special meeting on the topic.

The whole committee agreed on the principle of the discussion.

2. Committee Handbook

Peter T stated that the Handbook said we must treat people with respect. There had been a lot of press coverage recently which could lead us to be a dysfunctional committee and does not allow us to get our work done.

We must be civil to each other and moderate what we put in e:mails. We must work to resolve issues and not be adversarial.

Peter T spoke to John B about him sending the VHDPA Draft minutes externally to Stephen Alegria. Peter T explained that we do not send out minutes to others outside the committee. John B was charged with notifying Stephen Alegria that the minutes would not be changed as he had no prerogative to change them.

Peter T moved a motion that all meetings in future would be closed meetings. Guests to be invited by a majority vote only. The AGM would only be open to members. This position would remain until further notice. Seconded Tony Morris.

John B questioned whether there had been previous closed meetings. A number of members agreed that there had been plenty in the past when required.

Peter Howard mentioned that he will be away with work a lot in the next 8 months but will stay on the committee in the short term.