

Down-To-Earth (Vic) Cooperative Society Limited

ConFest Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: **Thursday 27th April 2017**

Time: **7:30pm**

Venue: **CERES, Learning Centre Rm,1-2 Lee St, Brunswick East
VIC**

Online: <https://dte.coop/live.meeting>

#	Item	Raised by:
1	<u>Election Of Chair</u>	<i>procedural</i>
	1.1 Confirmation of Agenda: Mark Rasmussen 1.2 Confirm Minute Keeper: Coral Larke	
2	<u>Attendance</u>	<i>procedural</i>
	Mikoto Araki, Truilg Le, David Mc Donald, Steve Lee, Scouse, Fulvio, Troy Reid, Joel Joseph James, Elisa Brock, Dean Eastwood, Bubbah V, Sony Richards, Mark Rasmussen Online: Peter Carty, Marty Schwarz, Kristen Joy, Denise Branville, John 000, Robin Mac Pherson	
3	<u>Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes</u>	<i>procedural</i>
	No reading of previous meeting minutes due to not having a quorum. An agreement to have an informal meeting to debrief about the recent ConFest was adopted.	
4	<u>ConFest Summit Proposal</u>	<i>Robin Mac Pherson</i>
	Robin Mac Pherson Is planning a summit for June 16 & 17. The idea is to go away so that people can be separated from daily life and focus, to do it quickly when ConFest is fresh in everyone's minds. To canvass ideas and for facilitators to discuss their thoughts. There will be tight time lines for departments to give proposals, 20 minutes max for recommendations. Then write a report to the community. Mark Rasmussen wants the summit to include looking forward with the new site at Moulamein as we need to start to mark out the site. Robin would prefer that the ConFest Community determines that process. Action to be taken: Robin will formalise the ConFest Summit Proposal on a document and send to relevant parties.	
5	<u>New Site</u>	
	Scouse talked in detail about what machinery is required to move the containers and metal covers to the new site. He believes that it is not hard to move with the right equipment. Mark Rasmussen: It will be harder now due to new council requirements and that the people who claim that moving is not difficult are people who are not doing the physical hands on work. Troy Reid wants a meeting with villages to assess planning and estimation of move and costs, to identify low level infrastructure and Fire/First Aid/Fencing.	

6	<u>Toilets</u>	
	<p>Marty: Due to council requirements we now have to build and supply the double number of toilets, moving site is too expensive when there are other priorities.</p> <p>Troy Reid: There is a standard guideline which determines the number of toilets per population. ConFest has 1 toilet per hundred which is considered hard. That one toilet per 75 is reasonable and 1 per 50 is luxury. Council does not approve of the ConFest drop toilets, therefore, he looked into Natural Events composting toilets, he estimated by getting them from that company the toilets will pay for itself in 6 years, the cost is equal to the amount paid to a contractor to dig holes as per the current toilets over a six year period.</p>	
7	<u>Working Bee in June</u>	
	<p>Mark Rasmussen wants a working bee in June to start marking out the site.</p> <p>Action to be taken: Mark to consider date and priorities of what works are to be carried out.</p>	
8	<u>Problems due to drivers in the Gypsy Stay Put area</u>	
	<p>Peter Carty: There were ongoing issues with people driving dangerously and not respecting rules, that he was threatened by a person who said that he had been illegally detained due to having a gate closed to stop him driving at will. Mark Rasmussen: There are problems generally with DTE drivers who believe they have privileges that when well known people are asked why are they driving in places they know they shouldn't, they simply respond that they asked for permission, when conferring with the person whose name was supplied find they hadn't asked at all. Coral: The level of dust this year was worse than the previous ConFest due to constant drivers. Cars drove through Tranquility at night knowing that it is a car free area. On occasion walkers took it upon themselves to scream at drivers to slow down. Other festivals have a policy of no faster than 10 km per hr. That while driving through site if a driver looks into the revision mirror and sees dust, then they are driving too fast.</p>	
9	<u>Ticket sales and wrist bands</u>	
	<p>After an agreement was reached at a meeting to adopt no cash sales, tickets were sold using cash. Troy Reid: changed track when seeing the difficulty experienced by a percentage of people who do not use computers and internet at all. The disincentive cash sale gate ticket price of \$150 was not carried forward from the previous year and went back to \$100. A cash code for cash sales were entered into the ticketing system. The pub sold 35 tickets at \$120 each, This caused one individual to react badly because he could have paid \$100 at the gate instead of the \$120 at the pub.</p> <p>Although numbered wrist bands were ordered they arrived numberless and were delivered on site on Tuesday, this caused Robin to adlib using last years bands.</p> <p>Action to be taken: A standard procedure to be adopted that wristbands are ordered in September for a February arrival, or 6 months ahead of time.</p>	
10	<u>Village Budget Projects</u>	
	<p>Marty wants the village budget application projects to start earlier.</p> <p>Action to be taken: For a person to assess preparatory time lines for tasks prior to ConFest and have that approved by the CC</p>	
11	<u>The Hub and Volunteers</u>	
	<p>There was much discussion about the Hub and debate about who should be entitled to eat there. Presently there are too many people and too much stress on the Hub Volunteers. Given that some 24 hour volunteers hang out in the Hub have worked their hours prior to ConFest they appear to be slackers when in fact according to the DTE rules they are entitled to be there. Coral: The consistent number of dishes left on the ground indicate that some volunteers were draining rather than benefiting DTE. Someone decided to make an installation from the dishes left out overnight, a whole</p>	

	<p>mountain of them. Bubbah: Disappointed that there were people at the Hub who did no work. Dean Eastwood: more volunteers were needed with a person to count the number of meals given out, this way they could assess the volume of food to cook for the next meal. Would like to have Indian tiered tiffin containers for people working at the front gate and emergency crews for easier delivery of meals. Elisa Brock: People need to eat at the hub prior to the festival starting because there is no other place for them to cook and especially those with specialized dietary needs.</p>	
12	<u>Volunteer Coordinator</u>	
	<p>Troy Reid: Burning Seed has five volunteer coordinators where DTE has one. So Kali is doing the work of 5 people. Marty: The current number of department coordinators is clearly not enough and it is impossible to keep track on if people are working or not. Coral: Woodford has 1 department head to 10 – 15 volunteers. That each group has an orientation, health and safety induction prior to working.</p>	
13	<u>Ticket price</u>	
	<p>Mark: Should we consider a price rise of \$10 - \$20 to cover costs as it now costs DTE more to host the festival. Coral: A small price rise should happen to cover the costs of things like the new toilets that we can pay contractors to do the heavy work and not burn out volunteers. Steve Lee: As a student, a price hike could be the difference of attending or not attending ConFest. That DTE should be aware of people's situations before making a decision and consider the current environment where people who don't own a house, pay large rents and may have to live off \$75 a week. Coral: There is the extreme at ConFest, we have both sides, people doing it tough and those who arrive in BMWs and expensive campervans. David Mac Donald: The previous defunct proposal of canvassing donations be changed from charities being a beneficiary to things that DTE needs like going solar.</p>	
14	<u>Feed back sought from those new to DTE</u>	
	<p>Dean Eastwood: is interested in becoming involved in DTE, would like to see less negativity and have more diversity, more women and various nationalities. That the morning discussions at ConFest were confronting, to see coordinators snipping at each other and then belittle volunteers. That is was hard to want to work after having been yelled at.</p>	
11	<u>Next Meeting Date & Time Confirmation</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation of next meeting publication on dte.org.au 	