

Down-To-Earth (Vic) Cooperative Society Limited

ConFest Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: **Thursday 11th May, 2017**

Time: **8pm**

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

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

| # | Item | Raised by: |
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| 1 | <u>Election Of Chair</u> | <i>procedural</i> |
| | 1.1 Confirmation of Agenda: Peter Carty 1.2 Confirm Minute Keeper: Coral Larke | |
| 2 | <u>Attendance</u> | <i>procedural</i> |
| | Peter Carty, Scouse, John Reid, David Mac Donald, Marty Schwarz, Aaron Shipperlee, Troy Reid, Malcolm Mathews, Coral Larke, Denise Branville, Steven Lee, Joel Joseph James, Ian Hales, Mark Rasmussen, David Cruise, Lindy Hunt, Peter Tippett, Spira Staganouk, Craig Online: Kristen Joy, Robin Mac Pherson, Don Royal, Kristen Joy, Lars Nissen, Kate Shapiro, Jenny T, Katey Earnst, Paul Hutchison, Emma Bennet | |
| 3 | <u>Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes</u> | <i>procedural</i> |
| | No reading of previous meeting minutes. No objections to previous minutes. | |
| 4 | <u>Comfort Dogs</u> | <i>Lars Nissen</i> |
| | Lars Nissen Complaints on Facebook about comfort dogs. That one lady brought three dogs and did not keep them on a leash. Mark Rasmussen saw them turn into pack animals and bail up a 3 year old child on a bike. Bonny rescued the child. Scouse queried why was a dog that appeared to be a vicious breed considered a comfort dog. Robin Mac Pherson: need to set up a procedure for the front gate that if people bring comfort dogs there is a requirement of having written consent from DTE first and proof of it being a comfort dog, Kate Shapiro will draft a formal complaint to the woman in question re dogs, also pointed out that the woman had violated another consent issue regarding sending a photograph of nude people to a magazine which was published. Kate believes she should be banned from ConFest. <i>Actions to be taken:</i> Kate Shapiro will draft a formal letter to the woman and will research the legalities of comfort dogs, their training and required constraints and balance this with DTE's rights as a holder of a gathering on private property. Robin Mac Pherson: To write a recommendation on DTE's procedures on comfort dogs at the front gate. | |
| 5 | <u>ConFest Debrief</u> | <i>Ian Hales</i> |
| | <u>Toilets.</u> David Cruise: The holes were dug too shallow. Craig: We have half the number of recommended toilets. Need deeper holes and more toilet frames. Ian Hales: Ran out of soap, toilet paper, we need coordinators to make sure that the available volunteers are working when required. | |

Wristband ticketing system and front gate

Scouse: DTE keeps reinventing the wheel. Why were tickets sold at the front gate after a year of debating amongst ourselves if we should change the system and train people to buy on line.

Peter Tippet: On the Open Stage there was a performance which showed a person giving instructions on removing their wristband intact, This could be done to give to someone else. At the front gate no pass outs were given. Someone in possession of wrist bands could go and sell them.

David Cruise: Queried if the wrist bands have been audited and measured against online ticket sales.

Robin Mac Pherson: There was a gap in the system in that wrist bands were not serialised, that next year they will be ordered earlier.

Troy Reid: There is no provision for wrist band serial numbers be tied to tickets due to people buying in groups. Theoretically possible but will add time at the gate. Needs to get the wrist bands from the pub.

Ian Hales: the reason why wrist bands were introduced was in case of a disaster we could identify who was on site, also rangers were to check wristbands,

Steven Lee: Don't tie checking wristbands to the rangers, they need the trust of the ConFest community and having a police role could jeopardise that.

Ian Hales: Early entry was very lax, vast improvement needed. Generator too noisy. Not enough volunteers for pack down

Kristen Joy: Wants a report from Ian regarding the point of villages not allowing other volunteers to eat with them.

Lars: If we have cash at the gate why not use the old tickets?

Robin Mac Pherson: Wrist bands act as a deterrent. No front gate system is fool proof.

Villages.

Ian Hales: Some villages didn't allow volunteers to eat with them.

Darryl Reid: If there is significant changes in policy then there should be communication. DTE didn't communicate with the Bliss Kitchen that they were no longer being supplied gas. That they were left unprepared as a result.

The hub.

Craig: Food needs to be available quicker for crews, the system failed due to their having to wait in long queues for food.

Theft and sexual assault Wants to know if the figures went up or down, DTE could learn from Burning Seed as they have comprehensive methods to let everyone know the consequences of non consensual behaviour **Peter Carty:** supplied an OPs report that gave details. **Trevor Pitt:** Make sure the numbers don't accidentally double up due to the Wellness team also writing a report about the same issues. **Craig:** People do not know where to go to report an incident. That there are public radios for people to call for help but no one knows where they are. **Robin Mac Pherson** We need to be more pro-active about communicating issues of consent. **Steve Lee:** Wants to install a simple questionnaire on the online ticketing system.

Vehicles

Ian Hales Dust represent truck needed to be used more often, too much dust. Two sets of keys are needed for vehicles and we didn't have enough vehicles.

Volunteers

Joel James: Need more volunteer coordinators

Ian Hales: Too many volunteers and not enough team leaders. Not enough volunteers for pack down.

Peter Carty: Lack of management of volunteers.

Aboriginal Relationships

Coral Larke: Heard a comment from DTE quarters that aboriginal people are lazy and that comment was a worry due to it being massively inaccurate. At ConFest they drove trucks and facilitated Wellness amongst other roles. A smoking ceremony was taken over and mucked up as a result. It indicates that DTE members could benefit from training in aboriginal relationships. **David Mac Donald:** Wants Aboriginal person to represent themselves. **Trevor Pitt** Suggested Bonny for this role. **Robin Mac Pherson.** We need Aboriginal liaison, for them to come to meetings and so they can take the narrative back in their own words.

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| | <p>Rangers David Mac Donald Rangers need to double their purpose and act as fire wardens as well. Need to define a rangers role. Peter Carty: Need a better way to communicate to people where to go if there is an issue. Doesn't want signs</p> <p>Action to be taken: Ian will write a report for Kristen re villages and food.</p> | |
| 6 | <u>Funds to the 200 Club</u> | <i>Trevor Pitt</i> |
| | <p>David Cruise wants probity around the donation. Emma said as soon as she knows the exact numbers and amounts she will ask 200 Club for a letter of acceptance. Aaron Shiperlee, Ian Hales, Steve Lee wants to maximize publicity for their donation. Coral Larke disagrees that a donation is a donation and not advertising and shouldn't be equated with transactions or barter. Kate Shapiro: If we are giving money to the local community to gain favor shouldn't we give a similar amount to the Edwards River Council as well.</p> | |
| 7 | <u>Tree Planting</u> | <i>Emma Bennet</i> |
| | <p>Emma Bennett: Needs money that has been approved to be released. Was given a total budget of \$10,000. Wants to reallocate money from tree planting to go to rubbish removal and skip hire. Troy Reid: Does this need secondary consideration? Robin Mac Pherson: If there are unbudgeted expenses that should go to the OC or board for consideration.</p> <p>Action to be taken: Emma will present a revised budget for the OC meeting.</p> | |
| 8 | <u>Site move</u> | <i>Emma Bennet</i> |
| | <p>Emma Bennett: approves of the 12 June Queens Holiday to coincide with the tree planting weekend. Action to be taken: Mark Rasmussen: Will work with Troy and Emma to develop a subcommittee for the site move.</p> | |
| 9 | <u>Volunteer Recruitment</u> | <i>Mark Rasmussen</i> |
| | <p>Mark Rasmussen: Key criteria for a position needs skills involved in engineering and motor mechanic. John Reid: says that it may need six people. Action to be taken. Mark Rasmussen: will write a position description to move forward with and form a subcommittee to formulate incoming responses regarding volunteers to pick up the best people for the role. John Reid: Need 5 or 6 people to do this role.</p> | |
| 10 | <u>Finances and training session.</u> | <i>Ian Hales</i> |
| | <p>Ian Hales: 5 to 8pm 18th May. Finance Committee still has things that need to be done such as get outstanding receipts, need to audit them to make sure they are compliant that there are no personal costs like fuel and alcohol expenses. Malcolm Mathews: Half the training will be to establish processes that everyone does work done in an agreed way. Training is for people to learn Bree's method of inputting data into zero. She wants it done in a particular way. The training is for people interested in working on receipts. Kristen Joy: wants a list of villages who still need to send in receipts and she will follow it up.</p> | |
| 11 | <u>Inductions within the villages</u> | <i>Coral Larke</i> |
| | <p>Coral Larke: Due to the number of complaints on FaceBook regarding theft, public sex, consensual behavior, noise, cars driven inappropriately, photos and dogs etc. was thinking of a way that could enable the ConFest community to address problems themselves and avoid becoming victims. In the old days morning sharing's was the place to resolve problems and give people an induction to the site, safety and culture. In the 21st century the old style may not be appropriate where 5 to 6 thousand people congregate at one time, so proposes smaller gatherings in the Villages. David Cruise: Morning sharing just needs someone to do it and not talk about. Coral Larke: It needs to be set as a priority which is done when not competing with workshops etc. so needs DTE approval. Steve Lee: If it advertised as a DTE workshop, people won't attend, but</p> | |

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| | <p>if it is presented as come to this so we can hear your ideas that will be relayed back to DTE because someone will write them down. Keep inductions quickly and briefly with a few sentences on each point.</p> <p>Action taken: Coral will write a submission for the next CC meeting and invite comments an induction, to invite people to put forward their ideas.</p> | |
| 12 | <u>Refunds</u> | <i>Robin Mac Pherson</i> |
| | <p>Robin Mac Pherson Many activity sheets have not been filled in, so those people won't get a \$10 ticket for next year and will be unable to vote at meetings. Robyn has letters requesting refunds and wants clear guidance from the committee. David Cruise: As people no longer purchase at the ticket booth but may buy weeks ahead, thinks they should get refunds. Kate Shapiro: Wants people to supply a medical certificate or proof of circumstance. Wants a clear policy and put it in place for next year.</p> <p>Mark Rasmussen: moved a motion to pay the people a refund who Robin thinks in genuine. Don Royal seconded: Scouse: objected on the grounds there is no record of them coming on site, they should prove a copy of their ticket. Kate Shapiro they should provide proof. Motion is carried.</p> | |
| 13 | <u>Donation to Deniliquin Council Community</u> | |
| | <p>Kate Shapiro: Raised motion for a donation that equals the donation given to the Moulamein community be given to the Deniliquin Community Robin Mac Pherson: seconded. Trevor Pitt: the CC committee should not be making this decision then this should be presented to the board. Ian Hales This is a knee jerk reaction and the donation will open up a Pandora's box. Would people donate if it was their own money. For: 5 Against: Balance against Motion: Defeated.</p> | |
| 13 | <u>Call for OC meeting.</u> | <i>Troy Reid</i> |
| | <p>An OC meeting has been called for 18th May at 8pm after Bree's Training which from 5 to 8. Trevor Pitt. Need to inform people on Active that this OC meeting is occurring. Proposes a new account exclusively for announcements. Troy Reid: Some people do not want to be on email lists, people who are on the CC will be informed. John Reid. On the DTE websites, in terms of meetings it is impossible to know when meetings are on.</p> | |
| 11 | <u>Site Mapping</u> | <i>Aaron Shipperlee</i> |
| | <p>Aaron Shipperlee: Wants to know the result of the drone mapping. David Cruise: Paul has not been back to provide the images.</p> | |
| 11 | <u>Next Meeting Date & Time Confirmation</u> | |
| | <p>- Confirmation of next meeting publication on dte.org.au</p> | |