

## Meeting Minutes – Annual General Meeting 2006

28 August 2006, Council Chambers, Katoomba

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### **Meeting commenced 7:05pm**

#### Councillors

Councillor Myles (Chair)

#### Sports Council Representatives

Stephen Poole, Paul Thomas, Sue Kondek, Bob Bartlett, John Beazley, Estelle Godkin, David Brown, Walter Hitchell, Chris Moloney.

#### Council Officers

Adrian Birkbeck, Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow, Selina Young, Lisa Macqueen (Minutes)

#### Apologies

### **1. Welcome by Councillor Myles**

Councillor Myles welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the meeting was the Annual General Meeting for 2006. He advised that Adrian Birkbeck would be making a presentation on the Sports Council and later in the evening nominations would be taken for Sports Council Representatives positions.

### **2. Sports Council Presentation by Adrian Birkbeck**

The Sports Council has just completed its second year of operation. Adrian is very pleased that it has got off the ground. The Sport and Recreation Strategy 2002 highlighted that one of the major concerns for sporting groups in the mountains was the lack of communication with Council. This was the springboard for the Sports Council. The recreation team put a report to Council and the Councillors adopted the report. The Recreation Team would like to extend their thanks to the Councillors for their support. The main objective of the Sports Council is to elect a representative from each sporting code who is able to commit the time and energy into being part of the Sports Council and to set some directions for 2006/2007.

### **Aims of the Sports Council**

- Improve communication/relationships
- Discuss issues/develop initiatives
- Assist sporting clubs with minor works projects
- Create a better sporting future!

### **Sports Council Activities 2005/2006**

- Four Ordinary Meetings Each Year
- Sports Ground Hire & Use Handbook
- New Oval Booking Forms

- Fees & Charges
- Sports Council Minor Capital Works Budget Expenditure - \$20,000

### **Sports Council \$20,000 Minor Works**

The \$20,000 Minor Capital Works Expenditure 2005/2006 included:

- Lapstone Netball Complex floodlight shield installation
- Lomatia Park installation of concrete cricket net run up
- Pitt Park athletics long jump run up upgrade
- Blaxland Oval metal fencing extension
- Summerhayes Park Oval fencing extension
- Blackheath Pool disabled parking line marking and signage
- Katoomba Swimming Pool shade structures (2)
- Lawson Tennis Courts repair of vandalized court
- Blaxland Oval rubbish bin cage installation
- Lapstone Oval purchase/installation of removable rugby posts
- Gloria Park floodlight power box/timer upgrade

TOTAL:       \$20,034.88

### **Code Representative Duties**

A major aim of the Sports Council is to 'increase the level of communication between sporting clubs and council'. From this flow the duties of the code representatives:

- To represent your sporting code at Sports Council meetings;
- Be an advocate for all sport in the Blue Mountains;
- Provide input into issues related to the use, management and development of Council's sporting facilities.
- To keep your code up to date on issues of relevance and seek opinions on issues that may effect the code.
- Provide input for council planning and policy development.
- To assist in dispute resolution.

### **Issues for 2006/2007**

- Fees (continued)
- Leases (club houses)
- Partnership opportunities
- Sports Ground Hire and Use Book Launch
- Volunteer Appreciation Event

### **Issues added by representatives:**

- Administration Budget – Child Protection Seminar and other courses.
- AFL - would like to move from Glenbrook to Tom Hunter Park. However floodlights would need to be installed and the AFL would be happy to champion this project. It would be good to have a winter sporting group at Tom Hunter Park.

- Fees – Port Macquarie and Lithgow Councils have recently introduced fees for sporting ovals (at commercial rates) – could we get some information from them about the process, how it was received and the how much they are charging.
- Softball – closing of grounds in September for coring and fertilizing – however season starts on 16 September 2006 and training started this week, however, hamstrung by closing of the field.
- Warrimoo Oval – No.1 Oval has been resurfaced – could we please get an automated sprinkler system.
- Lomatia Park – Baseball fence and removable fence need to be repaired.
- Sports Council needs to pursue Lawson Golf Course and its usage for sport.
- Closure Periods for Sports Grounds – need to look at staggering the closure periods.
- Peter Carroll Field – existing fencing only on western side of the field, however, it needs a fence on the northern side of the field. The club would be happy with earth mounding with vegetation to a minimum height of 1.5m.
- Gloria Park – drainage.
- Car Parking at various locations.
- Pitt Park – why was it done the way it was – why was so much money spent and then the field was unusable. The representatives felt that the money was badly spent. How much more money will be needed to be spent to rectify the problems with the field? The representatives also felt that the partnership with user groups needs to be greater when this type of work is being planned. Users need to be involved in the planning process. Plan of Management consultation with users.
- Plans of Management – Calendar of Plans of Management for grounds across the mountains – where are they up to? Eg Knapsack Park, Glenbrook Oval – is it still on the agenda, Summerhayes Park, Lapstone Oval – need to get the schedule.
- Lighting Projects – update please. This year five capital works lighting projects have been submitted. The bids are for Lapstone Oval, Glenbrook Oval, Lomatia Park, Tom Hunter Field and Browntown Oval.
- Linemarking at Lomatia Park Car Park – need to formalise the car parking.
- Arson Attacks on Playground Equipment – Over \$100,000 worth of damage has been done in recent times to playground equipment throughout the mountains and is the subject of a police report. The representatives discussed ways of minimizing the amount of damage to council property. Eg. Alternative material to plastic used to construct the equipment – try to find something that is fire resistant, sensor lights for added security, an advertisement in the Gazette asking for help to catch the offenders and investigate partnerships with youth groups to paint murals to discourage graffiti. The play equipment is not insured. Council feels that once the excess is paid it is not worth paying the premium on these items. Adrian has asked John Odgers, Risk Management Co-ordinator to investigate the cost of insuring the equipment, including the option of just insuring the more expensive items.
- Tennis Courts – Bushfires have damaged tennis courts previously. The representatives asked Adrian to find out if Council insures our tennis courts.
- Restricted Smoking at Council Ovals Update (Trials carried out at Lomatia Park and Glenbrook Oval – Beth advised that Council has looked into what other Councils have done and if it worked. Users were questioned before and after the trial. It was established that money will be needed for signage, seating and smoking bins. Councillors asked for briefing on how it might work.
- Knapsack Park Plan of Management - Contour survey requested by Ian from Blue Mountains Soccer Club. The club is not planning any projects until after the Plan of Management is completed.

#### **4. Nomination/Election of Representatives**

All existing representatives are happy to retain their standing on the Blue Mountains Sports Council for 2006/2007 and the appointments were accepted.

Additional issues regarding the administration of the Sports Council included:

- Nominations taken annually. After three years Adrian Birkbeck will consult with codes to ensure that they are happy with their representative on the Sports Council.
- As the three year term comes to an end, if the standing member wants to resign then affiliates of the code will be invited to nominate themselves.
- By-laws – the Sports Council agreed to look at the terms of reference and review them towards the end of the year. Check to see if proxies are allowed. Any changes made to the terms of reference must be reported to Council.
- Representatives discussed the idea of existing representatives grooming a replacement to take over when they resign.
- Code meetings – Council may be able to assist.

#### **5. Other Business**

- LUX Survey – to revamp the lighting at sports ovals ie. Cleaning, redirecting etc. Council will be advised.
- Email Supergroup – Adrian is putting together an email supergroup and asked for representatives to advise him of the email addresses of anyone who was interested in the activities of the Sports Council.
- Key Register to be updated.

Next meeting: **Date to be confirmed.**

*Meeting closed 8.25 pm*