

Nhulunbuy Town Board Inc.

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Nhulunbuy Corporation Board Room, Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory
Tuesday 20 January 2015 at 8:30am

Present:

Angela MacMillan (AMac)	Chairperson (Nhulunbuy Corporation)
Jim Rogers (JR)	NT Government (NTG) Representative
Tracey Billot (TB)	Gove Operations (RTA) Representative
Sharon Georganicas (SG)	Member
Chris Putland (CP)	Member
Lyn Percic (LP)	Member
Estelle Cuperus (EC)	Secretary

1. Apologies

None

2. Conflict of Interest

None declared

3. Confirmation of Minutes – 16 December 2014

Moved: Chris Putland

Seconded: Sharon Georganicas
Carried

4. Business Arising from Minutes

- Vet services (28/14): JR explained the East Arnhem Regional Council will meet on 28 January 2015 to decide if they want to take on Nhulunbuy's vet service, and have asked for information from the NT Government and Rio Tinto about what support (financial/ non-financial) is available to them. LP asked if people new to town know that there is currently no vet service locally. The Board suggested that this is something that employers and individuals should research before moving. It was also raised that there appears to be no vet nurse but this is uncertain as the vet has not communicated this to residents. AMac confirmed that the Nhulunbuy Corporation is keen to assist Council, the NT Government and Rio Tinto where possible to progress this issue.
- Possible stop signs on John Flynn/Melville Bay Road and Arnhem/Beagle Circuit (31/14): AMac said that she has been unable to find any documentation to support the implementation of stop signs at these points. Instead, a review of this issue undertaken in 2013 stated that stop signs should not be introduced, and the give way rules should remain. AMac will collate photos of the intersections and will check with the Nhulunbuy Police if there are any safety concerns with these locations recently as the preference is to keep these sites as give ways. AMac will also try to locate a report previously drafted by a traffic engineer which has been referred to by the Board.

Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

Date:

CP raised a request that was sent to him about increasing the speed limit on the road to the refinery from 80km/h to 100km/h. AMac confirmed that road fell outside the Nhulunbuy Corporation's area of responsibility and as such, it is not able to influence any decision that Rio Tinto or NT Government make in this regard.

- Taxis (49/14): AMac spoke to the Nhulunbuy Police regarding the possibility of moving the taxi rank. The police are now in a position to fine taxis who cross the double lines in front of the pool and it seems to be acting as a deterrent to other transgressions as well. The Nhulunbuy Corporation is also keeping an eye on the number of taxis in the rank at any given time.
- Animal control (50/14): AMac reported that there was another incident in which a domestic pet was attacked by wild dogs. This was in the area of the BMX track and a den was subsequently removed by the Nhulunbuy Corporation. There are now dedicated patrols on the outskirts of town on Tuesdays and Thursdays, some Saturday and Sunday mornings or when sightings are reported. AMac reported that there is a small pack of dogs at the Waste Management Facility. The pack around town consists of big, well-fed mixed breed dogs, but the animal control team has managed to take two dogs out in the last week. The traps previously used were not successful and larger traps are currently being built on advice from a consultant animal trapper.
- Wuyal Park development (51/14): AMac informed the Board that Phase 2 plans for the park which included the installation of a half court are not in the 2015 budget, but this will be part of the upcoming feasibility study on recreation facilities in Nhulunbuy.
- Fluoridation of town water (52/14): AMac confirmed that no fluoride is being added to drinking water and the water is only chlorinated. LP asked if residents should be informed about this and whether the town is legally required to put fluoride in the water. AMac undertook to investigate the statutory requirements regarding fluoridation.
- Community Assistance Programme application Surf Club (53/14): AMac contacted the Surf Club to clarify their recent application. She explained the application was for \$2,000 in kind support (labour) and \$3,000 financial support. AMac explained that the Nhulunbuy Corporation does not have manpower available to undertake the required work in 2015, but she suggested that the Surf Club approach the Datjala Work Camp for assistance. In line with the Programme parameters, a grant of \$2,500 can be paid to the Surf Club and they can apply for additional funding during the next round. AMac will confirm when she hears from them again.
- Animal poop bags/fenced dog park (54/14): It was confirmed that the establishment of a fenced dog park would be investigated, but the Board agreed that the introduction of poop bags around town will not proceed.
- The Board mentioned that the instruction sign at the South exercise station has not been erected yet and asked that this be looked into.

Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

Date:

5. Monthly Operations Report – December 2014

Report tabled and noted. AMac highlighted the following:

- NBNCo’s engineers will be in town from 27 January to start preparing for the roll out. AMac told the Board that the NBNCo will have a stall at the market in February where residents will have the opportunity to ask questions. NBNCo have also committed to running information seminars for residents and business owners.
- Gove Community Garden soil turning took place in December 2014. The Nhulunbuy Corporation supplied land, water, storage, machinery as in kind support to this group.
- AMac had her first Gove FM on-air discussion session during the month and the plan was to invite residents to submit questions for the next session.

Airport

- UPS and power surge protection equipment has arrived for the two x-ray machines used for aviation security screening.
- Damage to the front entrance door and a wall in the old terminal was caused by unlawful entry and has now been repaired. All CCTV cameras were destroyed during the incident. This was reported to Nhulunbuy Police. All five perpetrators were subsequently apprehended.
- Marthakal Yolgnu air will commence tenancy of the office space previously rented by MAF in the old terminal building as of 1 January 2015.

Town Operations

- The road survey for up and coming road works (both repair and reseal) is ongoing.
- Holes in the road where water mains recently burst have had minor repair work done. These will be comprehensively repaired in the roads program commencing in late January 2015.
- The replacement water mains project is progressing well, ahead of schedule and under budget.
- Fogging operations occurred throughout December as required. This was in line with a report on mosquito numbers by NT Entomology and low rainfall in December. Rain at the end of December and subsequent high tides mean that higher mosquito numbers are expected in January 2015.
- There have been late night and early morning patrols in a bid to shoot wild dogs. Two dogs were eradicated at the end of December/beginning of January.
- There are still signs of wild dog activity and patrols on the wild dog program will continue. Evidence has been found of people feeding and watering the dogs at the Hospital and the GAMS. The Nhulunbuy Corporation has spoken to management at both sites in a bid to have this practice stopped.

Community Services

- The 2014 Christmas Lights Competition was judged and all prizes have been handed out to the various winners, including encouragement awards to houses that were not entered in the competition but still went to efforts to decorate their properties.
- Preparations for the upcoming Australia Day celebrations are underway, with activities and competitions planned for the day at the pool. Anja Nissen, winner of The Voice 2014, will be the 2015 Australia Day Ambassador.

Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

Date:

6. Correspondence

- Out: To Matthew Kidner and Rick Mooney letter of thanks for service on Town Board

7. General Business

- **Land Development Policy**

No update

- **Town Board election framework 2015**

It was resolved to accept the election framework with Enrolment Day on 30 January 2015, Nomination Day on 13 February 2015 and Election Day on 7 March 2015.

Moved: Chris Putland

Seconded: Sharon Georganicas

Carried

The Board asked about the Town Board/Board of Directors relationship going forward. AMac confirmed there were a few movements with the Board of Directors and she was waiting for the next chairman to be appointed.

AMac explained that consultants would be in town to facilitate the development of a 20 year vision for Nhulunbuy. Rio Tinto is initially coordinating this with key stakeholders. However, the Nhulunbuy Corporation will drive the collation of information and its use to develop a vision to a steering committee. The first phase of this work will kick off on 10 February and AMac encouraged the Town Board members to become involved in the process.

- **Town Centre painting:** AMac confirmed that the colour scheme has been decided by residents. Private properties can be included in this project by agreement with Rio Tinto who are funding the work. The program will include general cleaning and painting works, as well as lighting and air-conditioner vents. AMac said that Transpacific will be carrying out the work on behalf of Rio Tinto. The first month will be spent on preparing the areas before the actual painting starts. Once the project is complete, a community attitudes survey will be conducted to get feedback from residents on a general refurbishment of the Town Centre.
- **Update on power issues in town:** TB provided an update on behalf of Kyle Murray (Rio Tinto) who sent his apologies. TB said that Rio Tinto was committed to providing a secure power source. A team of specialists is working on rectifying the issues currently causing the power outages. She explained there were network distribution issues where the flow gets interrupted and not all outages were related to the new power station. Rio Tinto is working on a media release and was confident that the problems will be resolved.

Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

Date:

The Board explained to TB that residents are unhappy because a secure power source was widely advertised and then the opposite occurs. AMac said a media release would be beneficial as the silence from Rio Tinto management on this issue was not helpful.

- TB advised that Rio Tinto would advertise a new program within the next couple of months to replace the current Community Assistance and Partnership Program. This would see an increase from \$5,000 to \$10,000 available per entity per year and will be additional to the Community Development Fund.
 - CP said there was a need to know population numbers in town. JR said the NT Government was considering a local census (next national census due in 2016).
 - JR confirmed the new Officer in Charge at the Police is from Darwin and will commence in mid-February 2015.
 - JR said the recruitment of the CEO for the Economic Development Fund was progressing well.
 - Australia Post is putting out the Nhulunbuy Post Office service out to tender for a possible licensee in February 2015. JR explained this was standard practice when a town's population reached a certain number. If no suitable licensee is found, there will be no change to services.
 - LP asked if the ratepayers are funding the new office space for the Nhulunbuy Corporation as well as employee entitlements. AMac explained that as with any other council or similar entity in Australia, infrastructure and resourcing forms part of the operational cost of running the Nhulunbuy Corporation.
- LP suggested a camping ground could be established to raise income for the Nhulunbuy Corporation. The Walkabout Lodge currently provides that service and AMac said that the G3 camp has been identified as a possible camping area. This was being considered by Traditional owners, however there are no plans for the Nhulunbuy Corporation to undertake this service.
- The Board asked if there was an update from Airnorth. AMac said that Lynne Walker was in discussions with them as well as the Chamber of Commerce. JR confirmed that the NT Government was also talking to Airnorth, especially from a tourism point of view.
 - AMac told the Board that architects from Darwin visited the Nhulunbuy Corporation to design the new office in Westal Street. Once this has been finalised, the works will go out to tender.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 11am.

Secretary:

Chairperson:

Date:

Date: