

Altona Bay & Altona Green Residents Association Inc. (ABAGRA) - Minutes

7.30 PM TO 8.45 PM

WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH 2007

ALTONA GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Item	Items discussed	Actions
1.	Welcome and Introduction:	<p>Oliveria Nikolovska opened the inaugural meeting at approximately 7.30pm and welcomed the 27 local residents who came out for the first meeting of ABAGRA. This included a visit from the Cr Carl Marsich, our local Ward Councillor. Several apologies from local residents were also received from residents who could not attend on the night. We hope you can make it next time.</p> <p><u>Oliveria spoke about:</u> The reason behind wanting to create a residents association in Altona Bay and Altona Green – wanting to see things happen/change in our local community and not having a local residents association to go to. She commented that Williamstown, Newport, Spotswood have a residents association and so do Point Cook, Laverton and Brooklyn.</p> <p>The Association is based on the aims listed in the agenda, which was read out to all attendees.</p> <p><u>ABAGRA has to date:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Been incorporated. • Established a <u>PO Box 498, Altona, 3018</u> • Have designed a logo based on the time beacon located in Truganina Park. • A website has been established and is up and running. <u>Go to - http://home.vicnet.net.au/~abagra/</u> • A letterbox drop to some 2500 homes in the Altona Bay and Altona Green area to inform residents of the new association. • A newsletter has also been established and will be distributed shortly after this meeting.
2.	Nominations:	<p>A committee is required in order to become an incorporated club. Oliveria called for nominations for all 6 positions on the Committee, which were: President, Vice President, Secretary, Vice Secretary, Public Officer and Treasurer. The following people kindly offered to fill these positions and were accepted by the attendees at the meeting:</p> <p>Mark Robinson – President Christine Collins – Vice President Rudolf Endres – Secretary Anton Varga – Public Officer Narelle Wiggan – Treasurer</p>
3.	In and Out:	<p>Prior to tonight's meeting we have already received 7 memberships via our PO Box in Altona, which is very encouraging.</p> <p>ABAGRA has written to our Ward Councillor requesting a contribution of \$1500 towards the establishment of the Residents Association.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>Altona Meadows Ward Councillor:</p>	<p>Cr Carl Marsich was introduced to the attendees by Olivera and made a presentation to the group. Cr. Marsich said that he has lived in the local area for 12 years and is supportive of a resident’s group. He commented that there was an Altona Bay residents group about 15 years ago which operated for 6 to 7 years. He said that it ‘wound up’ in 2000 due to lack of interest. The money that this residents group had in the bank was given to charity.</p> <p>Cr Marsich announced that he would give \$500 from his Ward funds towards the establishment of ABAGRA and may give more money later to continue with initiatives.</p> <p>Cr Marsich commented that the letter drop was a good initiative and that being incorporated was important. Cr Marsich suggested that the association get involved in community planting days, clean up days and get involved in tree planting on residential streets. He suggested that ABAGRA should liaise with other established community groups in the area, such as the Altona Meadows Community Centre and the Altona Meadows Neighbourhood Watch.</p> <p>He is happy to take up issues ‘raised’ by the association. <i>He re-iterated that big issues take longer and that it is a 5 year planning/budget process.</i></p> <p>Cr Marsich spoke about the large projects that he has been a part of, such as the Trafalgar Avenue Park (which he noted is <u>not</u> part of the area this association runs in) and also the extension to the Altona Stadium, which is a 3 to 5 year project.</p> <p>Cr Marsich also suggested that we should identify issues and concerns then write to council, we should also write to council with a ‘wish list’ of improvements. ABAGRA can also look at the budget when it goes on public comment. Council is currently commencing budget phase now. Any capital expenditure can be formally requested.</p> <p>He also suggested that <u>we put pressure on Parks Victoria to take more responsibility for the local Wetlands</u>, i.e. Cheetham, as it is Internationally recognised.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Residents Questions/Issues for <u>Cr Carl Marsich</u>:</p>	<p>The issue of extreme amounts of Midgees in the Altona Green area, especially homes that face the wetlands were raised by a resident at the meeting to Cr Marsich. Cr Marsich commented that these insects were especially bad due to the extremely dry weather we are currently experiencing. Parks Victoria in fact manages the land in question and are responsible, not Hobson’s Bay City Council. The area has been sprayed. He suggested that we lobby Park’s Victoria and perhaps get the CEO to come out to one of our meetings.</p> <p>Another resident mentioned the <i>large number of motorbikes driving on bike paths and especially the aggressive riders, who are very intimidating.</i></p>

	<p>Other Issues raised by residents who attended the meeting:</p>	<p>Cr Marsich stated that <u>council currently pay police \$30,000 per year</u> to deal with these unregistered riders. The motorcycle riders are very difficult to catch in these areas. They have currently 'booked' 10 riders, which is a slight improvement. School holidays are obviously worse due to the number of kids around. Cr Marsich talked about the <u>'Hotline' number (93939552) set up especially to take calls of this nature.</u> He was asked by a resident for statistics on this hotline number and explained that reports are provided to Council by Police quarterly. Cr Marsich offered to find out more details on hotline statistics and get back to the Association.</p> <p>Cr Carl Marsich was thanked for taking the time to attend our inaugural meeting and supporting this new Association. Oliveria stated that ABAGRA looked forward to working with him in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Streetscapes (trees, nature strips, graffiti) ➤ Promotion of the Wetlands for recreation ➤ Broken glass in public space ➤ Maintenance of existing parks ➤ More lighting in schools for security. ➤ Why are house valuations so low compared to Altona? ➤ Who determines the price of a house? ➤ White houses attract insects which live near wetlands. What can be done about this?
<p>6.</p>	<p>Other Assistance:</p>	<p>ABAGRA will require other assistance by members willing to help complete regular newsletter letter drops in our local area. Several individuals offered to assist with this role. We will also require someone to prepare a quarterly newsletter and to keep the website updated regularly. We have had an offer from an individual happy to assist with this role.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Where to from here?</p>	<p>Oliveria Nikolovska informed the attendees that after the new Committee is finalized, ABAGRA will prepare our first newsletter and continue to post information on the website to keep our community informed.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Next Meetings:</p>	<p>The newly elected committee will meet on Tuesday 26 March, 2007 at 7.30pm at Altona Green Primary School.</p> <p>The date for our next General Meeting has yet to be decided. Committee members agreed to hold a meeting four times a year. The whole community will be advised when this will be.</p>