

**Meeting of The Middleton Beach Group held Sunday 17th January 2010
from 5.00pm at Albany Surf Club**

Present: J Mouritz (chair), Cr Dot Price, Ken Clark, Ron and Patti Kerruish, Henry and Jeannie Reynolds, Barrie and Alicia Bickford, Vivienne Jansen-Buckley and Dermott Buckley

Apologies: Barb Madden, Nan and David Anderson, Peter and Patti Locke, Suzie Potter, John and Sue Vennemore, Andrew Wenzel

Welcome to our first birthday meeting!

Minutes of last meeting: Moved P Kerruish seconded Ken Clark. Accepted

Business Arising from previous meeting:

It was noted that the Esplanade site was sprayed with a stabiliser – not mulch

Correspondence

K Ketterer – Bike racks being re-installed after being temporarily removed for APEX Carols by Candlelight. K Ketterer's correspondence explains as follows; *"Bike racks were interesting at the Carols event. We were requested by the organisers to remove them temporarily which we did, but then the area vacated was not utilised for the stage, nor for informal seating. In fact a speaker tower was erected directly alongside the bike rack location (between the bike rack area and the stage) and taped off for use, including the adjoining bike rack area.*

So it is clear that the stated motivation for the relocation is not valid and the Carols event went off swimmingly and without a hitch, and the presence (or not) of the rack was not and will not in the future be a factor. I attended the event and specifically noted the use of this area, versus the stated need for their relocation. The City is of the view that the original requested location is indeed suited for the placement of the bike racks, and serves its intended purpose well.

We have already discussed internally with a consensus view that they are not to be relocated, and that they will not be temporarily removed for any event taking place at Ellen's Cove amphitheatre.)

Minutes of Roadwise Meeting held 8th December – items referring to TMBG;

- Shared Path – Middleton Beach – to surfers carpark C of A applying for Grant to install a Pedestrian/Cycle/Walk path.
- Public Complaints from Middleton Beach Group about traffic, hoon issues and the congregation of young people at Middleton Beach late at night, particularly 10.00 pm – 3am.. Sgt Nigel Fiander reported that not much more can be done, as by the time the Police arrive they are gone, or quiet. Unless they are breaking the law there is little they can do. Currently making extra patrols and recording complaints being made by community. Suggestions are 'turning off the lights' or CCTV will need to be directed and discussed with Kevin Ketterer (Works and Services Executive Director)

David Caddy – email on 18th November informing TPG no longer contracted to Project Plaza, and that D Kuh of Syrinx has the design scapes we are seeking.

Deborah Kuh of Syrinx Environmental PL– forwarded our request for use of concept plans of Middleton Beach to SNG developers – declined by SNG.
Mayor Evans – letter of in principal support for FPA applications for funds for MBG Planning forum
Albany Advertiser- photo and report on surveys in paper 11th January 2010

Outward Correspondence;

D Kuh – Syrinx – requesting availability of design plans for MB precinct and Plaza Development for consideration at Futures Planning and Umbrella Surveys
City of Albany (via FPA) application for Financial Assistance Grant
Great Southern Development Commission – (via FPA) application for Planning funds
Mayor Evans, K Ketterer – requesting bike racks not be re-installed at same place

Moved Barrie Bickford, seconded Ron Kerruish that the inward correspondence be accepted and outward endorsed. Carried

Business Arising from Correspondence;

Bike Racks; Cr Dot Price and Cr Denis Wellington had also asked about the bike racks and received the same response, that they were there to stay. After further discussion it was agreed that poor consultation and ad hoc nature of this issue is regrettable but there are many more important projects to be discussed, and this matter must be put to rest. It was noted that some art/fun attire, currently decorating the bike racks, have encouraged a positive response and more usage!
Hoons and Excess vehicle speed and noise; it was noted that this past fortnight there has been disturbance by noisy vehicles nearly every night in the Esplanade carpark, and several in attendance had talked to the young folk, and when no cooperation evident, had called the police. The police had responded, usually after about an hour delay but the culprits seemed to have notice of the police' intending presence and left the area for a time before returning afterwards! The broken glass and damage to curbed shrubs is an added problem and eyesore. Funds towards video surveillance cameras had been offered by local residents but who would be responsible for the surveillance? Another potential solution may be to engage with these young folk and find out what activities/facilities they want.

Project Plaza contacts? The report in Albany Advertiser in early January with quotes from David Caddy TPG indicating TPG was still under contract to SNG developers seemed doubtful, and concerning if it is providing out of date information. A phone inquiry to D Caddy had not been returned at time of meeting. Cr D Price to inquire via email.

Reports;

Children's Safety Drive; Kendra Green, on behalf of Davin Philips, asked if TMBG would be supportive of a MB area Bin Stickers initiative that asked people to slow down – for the sake of local kids. She is interested in applying for funds for stickers, as part of a range of strategies to improve street and speed safety –

comment was that bins are only put out once a week and would not get enough exposure. Again the matter of hooning with noisy parties and loud vehicle exhausts congregating and taking off from the Middleton Beach, Flinders Parade and Adelaide Crescent car parks was discussed with a view to seeing if any funds from Road safety Council might be used to rectify this problem. The question was asked if anyone has talked with the people who are causing the damage. Many of those present had done so – to no avail. Ken Clark, in his role with apprentices had had extensive contact with some of the offenders. Dermott Buckley, in his capacity with GSR Health felt there might be some initiatives that could be used. It was suggested a delegation from this group drop by the young folk and make them aware of the problem they cause. D Buckley and K Clark to discuss options. Kendra Green agreed that there is a need for Roadwise and TMBG to put their heads together to rectify this situation – perhaps an interactive bbq could be arranged?

Moved K Clark, seconded P Kerruish that TMBG provides in principal support for a multifaceted safety initiative proposal to be prepared for funding. Carried Grants are available through Roadwise for events and long term projects that encourage safe road use. Next meeting is on 9th February at 9.30am and Cr Dot Price will attend and report back to TMBG.

The meeting noted the additional effort by Cleanways worker in picking up glass and other debris after busy hoon sessions.

Website update – Andrew Wenzel has established a very user friendly site for us. www.middletonbeachgroup.com – all TMBG interested persons are encouraged to subscribe so that all notices and communications are easily accessible. It seems that many have not as yet subscribed, so are not getting notices of meetings. Emails to the whole e-group will need to continue until more are using the website.

The 2010 Umbrella Survey is underway- have completed two days at Middleton Beach and have a substantial number of completed forms with an extensive range of views to consider. Most people receptive to our request to complete the survey. Now survey underway at Emu Point for Sunday and Monday. Thanks to all the volunteers who have manned the stands, and especially to the group, led by Nan Anderson, who prepared the survey and set up the displays – a great team effort. Additional surveys can still be completed – see our website for the form. Ensure they are forwarded to Barb Madden who has offered to collate all the comments on a spread sheet.

Thanks also to those who contributed some funds towards survey printing costs.

Futures Planning Forum; Providing applications for funding completed under auspices of FPA to City of Albany and Great Southern Development Commission are approved, then it is planned that Sandy Jackson of Kojonup will be engaged to facilitate a community forum in Feb/March – preferred date Saturday 6th March?

We need to access a venue suitable for 40 or so attendees – and at lowest cost. If sufficient funds, then sketch designs of some survey suggestions may also be prepared for consideration at the planning forum. Nick Ayton, a local town planner will be invited by Barrie Bickford to be involved. Advertising for the workshop must be communicated to all those who use/care about Middleton Beach – circulate by letterbox drop, doorknocking, and via Surf and Swim Clubs etc – Cr Dot Price will raise the planning forum at Council meeting too.

Other Business;

Frederickstown Progress Association Inc – first meeting for 2010 is on 1st February – encourage locals to attend. We hope to hear good news about funding **Albany Surf Life Club plans**; Ken Clark reported that the first stage of building upgrade commences on 18th January. A local builder Bert Museler (spelling?) has been awarded the contract, and he will make efforts to reduce the impact on the public as best he can during the renovations.

HYELA Café/tavern – Jane met with Roger Dawkins and his daughter Kate _ recently. They are still keenly proceeding with plans to operate a public facility from their delightfully historic Flinders Parade cottage – currently arranging revised plans with disability access modifications.

Picnic at Middleton Beach – Trish Flowers' newest book, with superb photography by Barb Madden, is well worth reading. Congrats to Trish for this initiative that promotes the Middleton Beach precinct. Moved J Reynolds, seconded P Kerruish that TMBG wholeheartedly endorse this initiative.

Welcome! Very new Wollaston Crescent residents Dermott and Vivienne were welcomed and provided with some local tips;

Full Mooners gathering – informal but anyone welcome on each full moon.

Doggy Bags – people are encouraged to use their own bags for their dog refuse. Some are provided by the City, but often can't guarantee availability, so take own.

Walking Group – an inquiry if these happened as MB is a perfect place for such initiatives locally. Whilst there are already several such groups, there is potential for walking leaders to use local facilities as their base and encourage more people to utilise the Surf Club as a hub facility, especially when it is refurbished – will draw more people to the region.

The positive aspects of having a community based group were discussed.

Meeting closed 6.45pm with Jane thanking all in attendance for their participation, and urging that everyone do their bit to bring people to the Futures Workshop tentatively planned for **Saturday 6th March 2010** at a venue to be confirmed.

Please be reminded of our agreed vision and purpose!

Our Vision: A Leading World Class beach precinct

What we are:

- ✚ A pro-active community group including local residents, property owners and businesses, visitors and users of the Middleton Beach precinct.
- ✚ We formed in January 2009.

What we aim to do:

- ✚ Provide a forum for those who visit; work and live in the Middleton Beach precinct to have positive and constructive input into the future development of the area.
- ✚ Work with the City of Albany, developers and all beach users to improve the area for all who live, work in and visit the Middleton Beach precinct.
- ✚ Be actively involved in maintaining and improving the Middleton Beach precinct; environmentally; physically; socially, culturally and economically.

What we are not:

- ✚ Just knockers or whingers
- ✚ A separate Progress Association
- ✚ Another group working in isolation;

What the Middleton Beach Precinct is:

- ✚ The precinct includes Middleton Beach from Ellen Cove to Emu Point; including Eyre Park to Middleton Road and up to Hare Street.

JOIN US: we meet at the Middleton Beach Surf Club (where else!) usually on Sunday evening.

Go to www.middletonbeachgroup.com.au