

## 2016 CAPaD AGM amended minutes

Date: Sunday 6th November, 2016, 2-2.30pm

Place: Canberra Folk Dance Hall, Hackett

Attendees: Fiona Tito Wheatland, Beth Slatyer, Peter Tait, Bob Douglas, Trevor Powell, Mark Spain, Petra Cram, Catherine Settle, Cindy Steensby, Gary Shapcott, Chris Lockley, Sarah Stringer, Bill Bush, Walter Steensby, Rosemary Douglas, John Goss, Plaxy McCulloch

Apologies: Darlene Cox (Health Care Consumers), Tom Swann (CAPaD Committee), Marion McConnell, Penny Lockwood, Jane Alver, Mary Bush, Paul Meyer, Rosemary Blemings, Christine Larkin, Areti Metuamate, Lyn Stephens

**Welcome and introductions.** AGM declared open by Beth Slatyer, Co-convenor CAPaD Committee. Overview of today's meetings, it consisting of CAPaD's first AGM followed by a General Meeting. Thanks to Committee members for their work over the last 12 months. CAPaD has made exciting progress; is well positioned for 2017, but does have its challenges, including the engagement of increasingly larger numbers of the public. The participants at the AGM were informed that the meeting was being recorded to assist in the preparation of the minutes.

### Items.

1. Acceptance of minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Proposed resolution: that the minutes be accepted.

- Moved: Bob Douglas      Seconded: Marilyn Tanduker
- Motion carried unanimously.

2. Acceptance of Annual Report written by Fiona Tito Wheatland, and distributed to all members via email prior to the AGM. Proposed resolution: that the Annual report 2015-2016 be accepted.

- .Moved: Beth Slatyer      Seconded: Mark Spain
- Motion carried unanimously.

Fiona was congratulated on her succinct and informative summary of the CAPaD year.

3. Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report written and spoken to by Trevor Powell. Hard copies of the financial statement were circulated at the AGM. Proposed resolution: that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

- Moved: Walter Steensby      Seconded: Fiona Tito Wheatland
- Motion carried unanimously

4. Appointment of Committee for 2017.

Confirmation was made that a quorum of at least 5 financial members were present.

Members were encouraged via email prior to the AGM and verbally at the AGM to nominate for Committee positions.

John Goss acted as Returning Officer for the election of the Committee.

### **Composition of the Committee;**

Two Co-Convenors: Beth Slatyer and Peter Tait were the only nominees for these positions and were declared elected, with two year terms being for 2017 and 2018.

Two Deputy Co-convenors: the two previous deputy co-convenors, Chris Lockley and Fiona Tito Wheatland, have resigned and will not be standing for re-election. No nominations were received for these positions, leaving these two positions vacant.

The remaining Committee members were elected on two-year terms and all have chosen to remain standing. These comprise of Petra Cram (Secretary), Trevor Powell (Treasurer), and General members Bob Douglas, Tom Swann, Walter Steensby and Mark Spain. These positions will become vacant at 2017 AGM.

In addition, two nominations were received for the position of General Member to the Committee. These came from Jane Alver (prior to the AGM) and Plaxy McCulloch (during the AGM). Both these were declared elected. By being elected at the AGM both these qualify for the two-year office bearing term, for the calendar years 2017 & 2018.

Congratulations and welcome to Jane and Plaxy!!

This brings the total Committee membership to 10 people, with 2 vacancies still existing for the positions of Deputy Co-Convenors.

Special thanks given to Fiona Tito Wheatland and Chris Lockley for their significant contribution to the CAPaD Committee over the course of the year, and to Catherine Settle (present at the AGM) and other committee members who had to leave the committee for various personal reasons during the year, but whose contribution is also greatly valued.

### **5. Frequency of General Meetings**

Proposed resolution: that CAPaD General meetings are to be held between two and four times during 2017, rather than the six to which the Committee had committed for 2016.

Discussion: CAPaD constitution requires that we have at least 2 General meetings annually. GMs required a lot of organising as well as venue and other expenses, but were not well attended on the whole through 2016. The comment was made that attendance at meetings is not necessarily an indication of how highly a member values CAPaD. The question was raised for further exploration 'Do we know how members want to be involved and how can we facilitate that?'

Moved: Beth Slatyer      Seconded: Bob Douglas

Motion carried, noting that there will be other efforts to engage members, as a key principle of the 'Alliance for *Participatory* Democracy'. Engagement is valued and fundamental to our work. Also, CAPaD's constitution makes allowance for extra meetings to be called by only 5 members if they should wish to do so.

Closing of AGM 2:30pm

Draft minutes:

**CAPaD General Meeting:** held Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016 immediately following the AGM.

**Welcome and summary** of the background and history of Canberra Alliance for PD, given by Mark Spain. There are similar Alliances in Sydney and Brisbane. The intention here was to form a collaboration of Civil Society groups as well as individuals in Canberra, engaged through Kitchen Table Conversations or through specific issue groups, who could see the benefit of bringing Participatory processes to our local governance and our Democracy. Mark described some of the early tensions within the Canberra Alliance, including between efforts enabling top-down structural change versus bottom-up cultural change, and also the tension between taking time for learning, theorising and doing. Throughout the process we have held the value of respect and listening to each other and have deepened our relationships, our friendships with one another. This is the strong foundation for our work together into 2017.

### **Strategic Plan**

Over a period of a number of months, the Committee developed a draft Strategic Plan. Its impetus can be divided into three major drives; *Educate, Demonstrate, Legislate*.

Paper copies of the Strategic Plan document were circulated and time for reading allowed. Participants around the circle were given the opportunity to answer -

- . what has CAPaD done well this year and
- . what does it have the potential to do in 2017, building on this year's work?

Following this, participants broke into groups of 3-4 people and listed high priority outcomes for CAPaD for the next 12 months, things that could be tangibly implemented. Outcomes collected and collated.

See attachment CAPaD Directional Ideas for 2017

### **Closing the Meeting**

All participants thanked for their attendance and their contribution to wise discussion.

### **Afternoon Tea and Celebration**

A generous amount of time was set aside for informal discussion over afternoon tea and CAPaD's first birthday cake. Much enjoyed and appreciated.

CAPaD High Priority Activities for 2017 (from 2016 AGM) for consideration in development of Operational Plan.

From the Wisdom Circle, answering:-

*what has CAPaD done well this year?*

- Legislative Assembly Candidate Statements
- Communicating effectively through the CAPaD website
- DemFest'16; generated inspiring and effective working groups
- Genuine tone of the General Meeting and Committee meeting minutes
- Open, honest sharing in a respectful and collaborative environment

*what does CAPaD have the potential to do in 2017, building on this year's work?*

- Create cultural change from the bottom up
- Use CAPaD as a vehicle to assist existing communal structures with PD practices; educating groups on the use of different PD tools and techniques
- Make use of PD practices in Resident Groups, Community Councils and Planning and Development Board
- Foster respectful and deep dialogue about how PD works and can enhance democracy
- Use PD to unpick policy measures and programmes to help the average person to understand these, thereby creating an electorate that's savvy and educated about all issues that affect them.
- Use PD to counteract misinformation from the media through educative dialogue, eg. through KTCs.
- Build on SeeCHANGE 20/20 Vision process, do a day workshop getting schools to think about governance not just ecological sustainability
- Educate young people about the potential of PD via getting this content into school curriculums, civics classes etc
- Run a U3A course on Participatory Democracy in order to educate older citizens about what these are
- Design DemFest'17 as a joint collaboration between CAPaD and other groups, especially youth groups, develop our street cred together with youth
- Give a gift pack to each of our newly elected representatives about how to run really good, participative Citizen Juries
- Identify a real and contentious issue that will affect ACT citizens in the 2 year lead up to the next election and run PD practices on it, so that there is deep community engagement on the issue, awareness of pros and cons, immediate and future costs and benefits.
- Engage with members of Assembly by taking up a specific, contemporary issue that has been flagged as a potential election issue by governing parties, and run a citizen's jury on it and/or other PD practices. Drug Law reform suggested as possible topic.
- When running a Citizen's Jury, strategically manage the to-and-fro between the mini public and the mass public via media, so that the process is very visible.
- Using Citizen Jury not just to resolve an issue but to prove the concept behind Participatory practices and building support for the process.

- Build on Candidate Statements; follow up and hold accountable those representatives who pledged to support PD and DD practices
- Build on Candidate Statements in a way that builds community relationship with legislators
- Start a campaign about fixing Governance; getting Governance right will fix a whole raft of other issues
- Explore the idea of a Public Interest Council in the ACT as a mechanism for engaging Civil Society in the issues that affect the public interest and the common good.
- Support the development of a Legislative Act, requiring transparency as to what is behind decisions that affect our future. An Act that would require genuine public access to the reasons for choices behind Government policy decisions, including background material, budgetary and vested influences, At its core, public access to this information, is what makes a truly democratic state.
- Public deliberation on what it is that we, as civil society, want to know. Give people a chance to say what they think sits behind certain policies
- Support the establishment of a Public Interest Council, which would function as a Legislative body within the Deliberative Practices Act and would empower citizens directly.
- Get citizens together to deliberate on how we want the Deliberative Practices Act to be formed, structured, and what processes would be involved.
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