

CAPaD 2017 DRAFT AGM MINUTES

Date: Sunday, 19 November 2017, 2:10-2.44pm

Place: St James Uniting Church, 40 Gillies Street, Curtin.

Present: Beresford Stock, Beth Slatyer, Bob Douglas, David Dickson, David MacKenzie, Dierk von Behrens, Fiona Tito-Wheatland, Gilles Rohan, Karina Saldias, Kathryn Kelly, Lyn Stephens, Margaret Dean, Mark Spain, Michael Searle, Peter Lindenmayer, Peter Tait, Petra Cram, Plaxy McCulloch, Robin Nair, Ronis Chapman, Ryan Joseph, Shirley Gourgaud, Shirley Pipitone.

Apologies: Areti Metuamate, Chris Lockley, Christine Gingell, Christine Larkin, Cindy Steensby, Alaine Chanter, Jane Alver, John Goss, Margaret Lee, Robyn Coghlan, Rosemary Blemings, Rosemary Douglas, Tom Swann, Walter Steensby.

Meeting opened: 2:10pm. Quorum present.

1. Acknowledgement of country. We noted that Aboriginal Australians have a deep and ongoing practice of deliberative and participatory governance, as evidenced by the process that led to the recent Uluru Statement from the Heart.
2. Welcome & apologies.
3. Relational conversation. We spent a few minutes connecting with someone we didn't know well, focusing on the topic of our recent observations of participatory democracy uptake, and our feelings about them.
4. Acceptance of minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting, distributed to all members via email prior to the AGM and available in hard copy at the AGM. Proposed resolution: that the minutes be accepted. Moved: Bob Douglas; Seconded: Fiona Tito-Wheatland; carried unanimously.
5. Acceptance of Annual Report (Attachment 1) written by Co-convenors Beth Slatyer and Peter Tait, distributed to all members via email prior to the AGM and available in hard copy at the AGM. Proposed resolution: that the Annual Report 2016-2017 be accepted. Moved: Fiona Tito-Wheatland; Seconded: Petra Cram; carried unanimously.
6. Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report (Attachment 2) written and spoken to by Trevor Powell, distributed to all members via email prior to the AGM and available in hard copy at the AGM. Proposed resolution: that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Moved: Kathryn Kelly; Seconded: Gilles Rohan; carried unanimously.
7. Vote of deep thanks to Trevor Powell, resigning as treasurer and committee member. Moved: Peter Tait; Seconded: Beth Slatyer; carried unanimously. Thank you, Trevor!
8. Selection of Committee for 2018. Returning officer: Fiona Tito-Wheatland.

Co-convenors Beth Slatyer and Peter Tait were elected/re-elected in 2016 and so are half-way through their two-year terms, and not due for reselection at this AGM.

All other committee positions were declared vacant.

No nominations were received for the two Deputy Co-convenor positions, which remained vacant.

Plaxy McCulloch was the only nomination for the role of Secretary and was declared elected.

Mark Spain was the only nomination for the role of Treasurer and was declared elected.

Walter Steensby was the only nomination for the role of Website Manager and was declared elected.

The following members were elected/re-elected for the Ordinary Member positions of the committee: Bob Douglas (re-elected), Petra Cram (re-elected), Ryan Joseph (newly elected) and Kathryn Kelly (newly elected).

AGM closed at 2:44pm.

General Meeting opened at 2:45pm.

1. Reviewed CAPaD vision and mission and 2018 Activity Plan.
2. Circulated project engagement forms (Attachment 3) & members selected any projects they want to be involved in in 2018.
3. Members requested regular emails notifying of date/time/place/agenda of each committee meetings.
4. Lisa Kelly, CEO Carers ACT, presented on the recent Citizens Panel process that developed the principles to inform an ACT Carers Strategy.
5. Afternoon tea

GM closed 5pm.

CAPaD Annual Report – 2017

What a year! Things are hotting up and now we need you more than ever!

Our vision

A democratic Canberra – where citizens can trust their elected representatives, hold them accountable, engage in decision making, and defend what sustains the public interest

A democracy is more than voting. Democracy needs three essential qualities if it is to work for everyone and can solve 21st century challenges fairly and sustainably. Those three qualities¹ are

- Openness: the public should be able to understand, influence and hold decision makers to account for their actions and inactions – and the resulting and the outcomes
- Participation: people should have the freedom, support and opportunity to shape their communities and influence the decisions that affect their lives and the future
- Deliberation: a key role of democracy is exchanging and acknowledging different perspectives, understanding conflict and finding common ground, and building a shared vision for society.

Reaching that vision requires a change of mindset and culture across our political institutions and society. **We are a social movement for change!**

2017 Activities – what we did and how:

- Encouraged the government to trial citizens juries and other participatory democracy mechanisms
 - Developed and publicized a set of criteria/principles for evaluating whether these processes were valid from the communities point of view (working with ACTCOSS)
 - worked with civil society groups and academics (ACTCOSS, ACT Carers Association, UC Institute of Governance and Policy Analysis,) to hold the government to account for valid trials
 - built widespread interest and support for strong and effective citizen participation within the community
- Met with every MLA who responded to our invitation to discuss their roles, how they represent and interact with the community and how they think our democracy could be strengthened.
- Worked with Community Councils, local residents groups and others to identify and address the “democratic deficit” that makes it hard for community members to engage on neighbourhood and urban planning issues. Developed a shared set of “asks” to work towards in 2018.

¹ The three qualities are adapted from the Involve (UK) 2017-2022 Strategy

- Made submissions to ACT Assembly Inquiries on the 2016 Election (and gave evidence at the public hearing) and an Independent Corruption Commission
- Developed an accountability framework for the CAPaD 2016 Election “candidate statements”
- Gave a perspective on participatory democracy to the ACT Law Reform Advisory Council work on Canberra as a Restorative City
- Met with ACTCOSS and the Environment Council to explore what training in social change for our members
- Maintained our website, Facebook page, Twitter presence and kept an active media profile through interviews, opinion pieces and letters to the Editor

We decided early on that we would know we’re **on the right track if**

- Canberrans are enthusiastic about what we are doing (ie most know about it and support in principle, many know the details and some are actively engaged)
- Elected representatives will acknowledge and respect our work
- Civil society, business, and elected representatives will want to work with us to demonstrate and learn what is possible, workable and effective for strengthening democracy

How did we go?

- We’re finding that more people have heard of us, are starting to take an interest, want to work with us, and think what we are doing is important
- Our MLAs definitely know about us and broadly support our aims
- Our “alliance” with other groups is building
- We’re confident about our vision, but definitely need more people engaged to take advantage of growing opportunities to build an essential social movement in Canberra for change.

What are the opportunities ahead?

2018 offers many opportunities for action, including to

- extend our alliances in Canberra and build “communities of practice”
- take up good ideas from elsewhere – in terms of both what and how we can better implement our vision. eg Engage UK, NewDemocracy Foundation
- inform/educate, demonstrate and learn what works to strengthen our local democracy
- advocate for and defend democratic systems and processes
- develop and try methods to hold our representatives accountable to their constituents

What we will do next

1. Create and communicate a new story of wise governance for the common good
2. Develop and support citizen and civil society engagement in government decisions
3. Create opportunities for citizen input to government deliberations
4. Develop capacity to help parliamentarians better to represent us

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the 2016-2017 Financial Year

Funds Carried Forward from 2015/16	\$4823.75	
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Funds Received to 30 June 2017		(2015/16)
Interest Free Loans		(\$3,800.00)
Membership Subscriptions	\$1,505.00	(\$2,695.00)
Donations	\$670.25	(\$1,531.00)
General Meeting Door Income	\$249.85	(\$387.00)
DEMFFEST Registration	0	(\$2,122.75)
Total Funds Received	\$2,425.10	(\$10,510.75)
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Expenditure to 30 June 2017		
Website	\$126.65	(\$4,477.00)
General Meeting Venue Hire	\$228.00	(\$689.00)
DEMFFEST16 Expenses	\$2,726.79	
Loan Acquittal	\$300.00	(\$500.00)
Bank Fees		(\$21.00)
Total Expenditure	\$3381.44	(\$5687.00)
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Cash in Bank at 30 June 2017	\$3867.41	(\$4823.75)
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Creditors at 30 June 2017^{1,2}	\$3435.50	(\$6,026.79)
Assets Less Liabilities at 30 June 2017	\$431.91	(- \$1203.04)
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Notes to Statement:

1. Following conversion of a loan of \$300 to a donation, outstanding foundation loans of \$3000 are currently available to 31 December 2017 giving rise to a liability of \$3,000 at 30 June 2017.
2. An outstanding liability of \$435.50 at 30 June was Premium for Public Liability Insurance for 2017-18.

Trevor Powell,
Treasurer

Beth Slatyer
Co-Convenor

2018 CAPaD Activity - Things to get involved with

Please chose any number of groups to work in and write your name and contact details on the sheet and tick off what activities you might want to join in progressing.

Activity Key

1. MLA Accountability - Discussion Group

Task - explore new ways of defining the role of MLAs and holding them to account. Test community acceptance (through community dialogue/ KTCs - see below)

2. Participation into Urban Planning - Working Group

Task - implement the “asks” agreed by CAPaD and the Community Councils (including building a community of practice)

3. Community Dialogue/Kitchen Table Conversations - Working Group

Task - work with Residents Groups to support local level discussion of the questions developed by the MLA Accountability Group

4. Citizens Juries - Working Group

Task – Monitor evaluation of the CTP Citizens Jury and Carer’s Strategy Panel, and advocate for more trials

5. Good Citizens Guide - Writing Group

Task - write an online guide for voters about how ACT democracy works and ways to participate

Name	Contact email	Activity topic				
		Accountability	Planning	Conversations	Juries	Citizens’ Guide

Please turn over, there is more on the other side

