



Minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting

25 October 2015

Theatre 3, Manning Clarke Centre, Australian National University

Attendance List at Attachment A.

Introduction

Chris Lockley welcomed everyone to the Inaugural General Meeting of the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy (CAPaD). He then introduced a 2 X 3 min paired relational conversation on what brought each person to the meeting today, which all present participated in.

Chris then introduced Bob Douglas, who provided a brief history of the Alliance, including:

- Its genesis in the Kitchen Table Conversation work commenced by West Belconnen SEE-change Group, which spread over more of Canberra and led to the production of the Voices of the People report in early 2015;
- The formation of a Scoping Group and later a Steering Committee to consider the formation of a body committed to improving participatory democracy in the ACT;
- The attendance of several members of the Steering Group and others involved in helping establish CAPaD to the 5 day training in community organisation run by the Sydney Alliance;
- An outline of three elements of community organising – relational conversations, kitchen table or table top conversations and development of strategic actions from a range of participatory, lobbying and deliberative methods.; and
- The history and spread of community-base organising, which has led to the creation of Alliances in other Australian states, England, the United States, South America and some European countries.

Bob pointed out that the effectiveness of the new Alliance would depend on the breadth of its representation and encouraged members to work to rapidly enlarge individual and organisational membership of the new body. Currently there are 75 individual members and 11 organisational members.

Chris Lockley reminded members present that if they wished to nominate for the Committee they should provide their nomination by 3.15pm.

Constitution

Chris then introduced Fiona Tito Wheatland, who provided an outline of the Constitution and why the Steering Committee had varied from the model rules for an incorporated association. She outlined the desire for an organisational model that was itself more democratic and allowed active, broader participation by members through regular General Meetings, with specific strategic and practical tasks within the Constitution. She also outlined the intention to have an on-going Constitutional Review process, where people are able to identify issues with the current constitution and these could be looked at by the General Meeting to determine whether constitutional changes were needed.

A member raised a concern about the small number of people that could make a quorum at a General Meeting in the draft Constitution. He suggested that it should be a specific % of current membership eg 15%. Fiona said that this provision was as it was in the model rules, and so attendance at General Meetings as a percentage of members would be monitored to see what proportion of members attended. The balance needed to be made to ensure that General Meetings could be quorate as much as possible.

Motion 1 was put to the meeting:

That the draft Constitution be endorsed by the members present as the inaugural Constitution of the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy.

Moved: Beth Slatyer, Seconded: David Townsend Carried Unanimously

Motion 2 was put to the meeting:

That the Committee, once elected, apply for incorporation of the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy under the ACT's *Associations Incorporation Act 1991*.

Moved: Dierk von Behrens, Seconded: Nikolai Blaskow. Carried Unanimously.

Motion 3 was put to the meeting:

That the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy open a Bank Account.

An amendment was proposed that the Bank Account not be opened in one of the Big 4 banks and be one which did not invest in fossil fuels. It was proposed that the account be opened with Bendigo Bank.

The amendment was passed unanimously, so the revised motion was put to the meeting:

That the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy open a bank account with Bendigo Bank.

Moved: Nikolai Blaskow, Seconded: David Townsend, Carried by majority

Election of Committee

Chris Lockley informed the meeting that the Steering Committee had approached John Goss to be the returning officer for the Election of the Committee. This was acceptable to the members present.

Co-convenors

John announced that there had been two nominations for the two positions of Co-Convenors and therefore an election was not necessary and the two nominees were appointed. The nominees were:

Beth Slatyer and Chris Lockley

Deputy Co-convenors

John announced that there had been two nominations for the two positions of Deputy Co-Convenors and therefore an election was not necessary and the two nominees were appointed. The nominees were:

Nikolai Blaskow and Fiona Tito Wheatland

Secretary

John announced that there had been one nomination for the position of Secretary and therefore an election was not necessary and the nominee was appointed. The nominee was:

Petra Cram

Treasurer

John announced that there had been one nomination for the position of Secretary and therefore an election was not necessary and the nominee was appointed. The nominee was:

Trevor Powell

Ordinary Committee members

John noted that there had been 8 nominations received prior to the meeting and one received during the meeting. He said there were two options – that an election be held for the 6 formal positions on the Committee, or a motion could be made by the General Meeting to elect all 9 members to the committee, if all were considered suitable and able to bring skills and experience to the Committee. All nominees were asked to make a one minute presentation. Mark Spain who was not able to be present was spoken for by Bob Douglas. The nominees were:

Julian Cribb

Bob Douglas

John Franklin

John Sanderson

Catherine Settle

Mark Spain

Walter Steensby

John Symons

Peter Tait

Motion 4: Having considered all the nominees, it was moved:

That the General Meeting elect all nominees to the Committee.

Moved: Fiona Tito Wheatland, Seconded: Bob Douglas. Carried Unanimously.

Public Officer

Motion 5: John announced that Fiona Tito Wheatland was happy to fulfil the role of Public Officer.

Moved: Bob Douglas, Seconded: Peter Tait, Carried Unanimously

Fixing of number of General Meetings for the year and First General Meeting

The constitution requires the members to determine the frequency of general meetings for each 12 months at the Annual General Meeting.

Motion 6: It was moved that General Meetings be held between 6-11 times in the following 12 months, and that the first general Meeting be held on Tuesday night 24 November 2015, venue to be advised via email, on the web-page and on Facebook.

Moved: Beth Slatyer, Seconded: Catherine Settle, Carried Unanimously.

John Goss then handed over the meeting to Co-convenor Beth Slatyer, at the end of the formal Inaugural General Meeting. The meeting then moved into its strategic planning role, as part of an ordinary General meeting.

The Way Forward

Beth discussed the membership survey that had been sent out to all members, following receipt of their membership. She summarised the findings thus far in a table (see Attached). She indicated that people should continue to complete these, as it would provide further instruction to the committee in determining member priorities for CAPaD's first year.

Beth set an ambition goal for CAPaD that within the twelve months, most people in Canberra had heard of our work and thought positively about it.

A series of relational conversation of 15 minutes was then held between 4-5 members, and the groups were asked to come up with their top priorities for the new 12 months. A separate summary of this will be prepared and forwarded out to members for checking, reflection and consideration

Those in Attendance at the Inaugural General Meeting:

There were 79 people counted as present at the Inaugural General Meeting. The members who registered to vote were:

Marwa Altalib	Irene Kiely
Judith Bailey	John Kiely
Ann Bazeos	Peter Lindenmayer
Peter Bazeos	Chris Lockley
Peter Bedford	Paul Meyer
Nikolai Blaskow	Trevor Powell
Catherine Blunt	John Sanderson
Charles John Bright	Catherine Settle
Ian Coombes	Peter Sherman
Susan Alice Cooper	Marika Simpson
Darlene Cox	Beth Slatyer
Petra Cram	Walter Steensby
Julian Cribb	Beresford Stock
Margaret Dean/Stock	John Symond
Bob Douglas	Bruce Donald Taggart
Rosemary Douglas	Peter Tait
Don Dwyer	Merilyn Tandukar
John Franklin	Fiona Tito Wheatland
Janice Leonie Goodall	David Townsend
John Goss	Michael Varga
Audrey Guy	Patricia Varga
Digby Habel	Dierk von Behrens
Kerry Habel	Nicholas Gordon Ware
Yasushi Hayashi	Frank Watson
Edmund Hsu	Pauline Westwood
Shriram S Kalaspurkar	

Apologies for the CAPaD Inaugural General Meeting

The following members were absent and apologised:

Sergio Gullen Grilic
Noel Haberecht
Christine Larkin
Bruce Peterson
Mark Spain
Peter Taylor