

Lord Mayor	Executive Management
Aldermen	B. Armstrong - G.M.
Ruzicka	Corporate Services
Archer	J Warner - DCS
Haigh	M. Johns - E.O. - C.S.
Zucco	J. Stafford – C.S.O.
Briscoe	L. Wells - C.S.O.
Hayes	L Wilmshurst - CSO
Sexton	Minutes
Freeman	Ald. Room
Christie	
Burnet	
Cocker	



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
28 NOVEMBER 2005 AT 7.43 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER TOWN
HALL, HOBART**

PRESENT: The Lord Mayor Alderman R.H.F Valentine (Chairman),
The Deputy Lord Mayor Alderman E R Ruzicka,
Aldermen G L. Archer, D A. Haigh, M Zucco, J.R. Briscoe,
E J Hayes, P T Sexton, R G Christie, H C Burnet and P S Cocker

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Alderman J W. Freeman

1. DECLARE THE MEETING OPEN

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting open at 7.43 p.m. and extended a welcome to all in attendance, introduced the Aldermen of the Hobart City Council and noted the attendance at the meeting of the Hobart City Council's 2005 Citizen of the Year Ms Robin Wilkinson AM and Young Citizen of the Year Miss Katie Kingshott.

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were noted:
Chris Jones Anglicare Tasmania Inc, Eris Smyth Catholic Women's League,
Tim Waley Fahan School, Greening Australia (Tasmania), Donna Knox Hobart Benevolent Society, Hobart Legacy Club, Hobart Walking Club Inc, Sue Johns Lions Club Of Hobart - Sullivan's Cove, Chris Atkins Master Builders Association – Tasmania, Steve Martin National Trust Of Australia (Tasmania), Arthritis Tasmania, Royal Australian Institute Of Architects,

Major Allan Daddow Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters (Tas.), Joan Atkins St Mary's College, The Principal St Michael's Collegiate School, Chief Executive Officer Tasmanian Chamber Of Commerce & Industry, Vin Barron Tasmanian Convention Bureau, Chief Executive Tasmanian Cricket Association, Director Tasmanian Museum And Art Gallery, The President Tasmanian Rugby Union Inc, Rowan Sproule Tourism Tasmania, Maxine Griffiths Volunteering Tasmania Inc.

3. MEETING PROCEDURES

The Chairman outlined the procedures for the conduct of the meeting.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2004

DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
ARCHER

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting conducted on 22 November 2004 be signed as a true and correct record, subject to clarification of former Alderman Jones' attendance.

MOTION CARRIED

THE MINUTES WERE
SIGNED

5. LORD MAYOR'S ADDRESS INCLUDING:

5.1 2004/2005 ANNUAL REPORT

The Lord Mayor delivered his address to the meeting including highlights from the 2004/2005 Annual Report.

The Lord Mayor invited discussion and/or motions arising from the 2004/2005 Annual Report.

The following submissions were received:

MR LEO FOLEY

The **attached** questions were asked by Mr Foley.

MR FOLEY
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

That in respect to the matters raised, the issues be investigated and a written response be provided.

MOTION CARRIED

MS SUZANNE LOCKHART

Ms Lockhart lodged the **attached** submission.

DEPUTY LORD MAYOR That the matters raised be referred to the
ALD BRISCOE appropriate committee(s) and a written response
 be provided.

MOTION CARRIED

MR ROBERT RANDS

Mr Rands' submission, as **attached** was noted.

DEPUTY LORD MAYOR That the matters raised be referred to the
ALD HAIGH appropriate committee(s) and a written response
 be provided.

MOTION CARRIED

MR JAMES BOWLER

Mr Bowler presented the **attached** submission.

MR BOWLER That the matters raised be referred to the
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR appropriate committee(s) and a written response
 be provided.

MOTION CARRIED

MR KEVIN WILSON

Mr Wilson presented the **attached** submission.

MR WILSON That the matters raised be referred to the
ALD BRISCOE appropriate committee(s) and a written response
 be provided.

MOTION CARRIED

MS LOCKHART

Ms Lockhart submitted the **attached** additional questions in relation to the Annual Report.

MS LOCKHART That the matters raised be referred to the
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR appropriate committee(s) and a written response
 be provided.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

28/11/2005

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MOTION CARRIED

DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
ALDERMAN HAIGH

That the 2004/2005 Annual Report of the Hobart
City Council be received.

MOTION CARRIED

6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business before the meeting the Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

TAKEN AS READ AND SIGNED AS
A CORRECT RECORD THIS 27th DAY
OF NOVEMBER 2006.

CHAIRMAN

To: Hobart City Council

I, **Leo Foley**, of 31 Brushy Creek Rd, Lenah Valley,
wish to ask the following questions at the Hobart City Council Annual General Meeting
to be held on 28 November 2005

Question 1: ...Hobart skyline: In consideration of recent public interest in Hobart's bushland skyline, what discussions are occurring with Glenorchy, Clarence and Kingborough Councils to ensure a coordinated approach to securing bushland, and thus ensuring protection of all of Hobart's skyline?

Question 2: Hobart skyline: What funding source and financial plan has been identified to secure bushland for public benefit in Hobart?

Question 3: Vacant land: What vacant land is owned by HCC?
Is a register of landowners in the Hobart area available for public information?

Question 4: Rates revaluations: During the term of this Council, revised property valuations will considerably alter the rates base. What options are being considered by Council to protect ratepayers from massive rates increases?

Question 5: Ageing population: In light of the imminent rapid increase of people over 65 in Hobart, what impact will that have on Council finances and resources? Will the current Grants Commission formula satisfy those future requirements in a timely way?

Question 6: Disabled parking: Existing signage for disabled parking varies considerably between Councils. This results in confusion for motorists and unavailability of parking spots for their intended purpose, due to mistakes being made. Will HCC work with other Councils in Greater Hobart (and Tasmania) to ensure consistent signage?

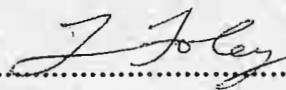
Question 7: Big Box development: Will the HCC insist on an independent economic analysis to assess the financial effects on Hobart of the Austexx proposal? What action will HCC take to work with the State government to ensure all developments in Tasmania conform to Tasmanian planning standards?

Question 8: City Parking issues: What plans are intended to develop a regional approach to commuter issues, and the development of commuter parking hubs with transport links?

Question 9: AGM – Public participation: Given the miniscule advertising of the public's entitlement to participate in the Council's AGM (eg back page of Capital City News), does Council regard public participation at the AGM as unimportant? What methods of informing the public of their rights are planned for future years?

.....
Declaration:

I have read and understood the Public Question Time procedures, and I agree to abide by them.

Signature..........Leo Foley

Contact details:0427 286 486.....

28/11/05

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES	
	Hobart will be a city that:
<i>A liveable city</i>	is a safe and convenient place for people, encouraging creativity and lifestyle opportunities
<i>Management of our environment</i>	protects and conserves its environment and natural beauty
<i>Protection of our heritage</i>	conserves and enhances its significant built and cultural heritage
<i>Growth of our economy</i>	encourages the sustainable growth and prosperity of the community
<i>Gateway to Tasmania</i>	as the state capital, commits itself to the development of the economic, tourism, cultural and social life of Tasmania
<i>Management of our resources</i>	prudently manages its affairs and the delivery of quality affordable services

Environment / Heritage:

It is very difficult to manage and protect the natural environment or heritage without mapping that environment and heritage and then working to a single long-term plan to achieve the desired outcome.

It is common practice in HCC for one department to want to achieve one outcome whilst another department is working against the other department's goals. This particularly happens between the planning, parks, bushland, and hydraulics departments.

In order to stop these inter-departmental power plays, these 4 departments should have 1 overall manager whose strength is strategic planning, with 4 equally paid lower-level managers reporting to this one person. The focus of the overall manager should not be aligned with any of the 4 subject areas, but with overall management of the 4 areas equally.

And feeding into this management structure should be public precinct committees, with equal public representation from every suburb, to ensure that the suburbs with the ear of particular aldermen don't dominate, and that they receive equal funding to achieve the long-term goals of the community.

Also, public input would protect long-term goals, because currently, the public are promised a long-term outcome, whilst at the same time, a particular HCC department is working against that outcome e.g. we are promised long-term urban stream restoration and linear parks and walking tracks between suburbs, at the same time as officers are failing to maintain buffer zones of streams, and are quietly encouraging private ownership of these buffer zones and are using far-reaching discretion to allow building over the buffer zones. This means that they are undermining long-term goals.

Officers are not ensuring that developers allow sufficient public open space in the suburbs. In fact there seems to be evidence in council documents of council receiving money from developers in lieu of public open space and parking space.

There is insufficient emphasis placed and too few staff employed to follow up approved building permits, to ensure that the development is built according to the permits issued.

There are inadequate penalties and those that exist are often not pursued, against residents who destroy heritage buildings or cultural heritage, so that it becomes economically viable to break the rules and then take the penalty. Council has not lobbied state government to have penalties strengthened. For example, I'm told that in France, one of the penalties for destroying a heritage building is that the owner is not allowed to develop the land gained for at least 10 years.

Council has failed to recognise the cultural value placed on mature trees in the suburbs or on heritage-listed houses, so that when these things are destroyed, without looking at alternatives, members of that suburb feel that their suburb has been vandalised. Other councils require that a council permit is required in order to destroy mature trees, so that council has some say in maintaining suburban landscape. HCC does not recognise urban landscape as it applies to the suburbs.

Management of Resources:

Resources are spent with inadequate reference to the wishes of the majority of residents. For example, the expenditure on the trams, a growing public art programme, sister-city trips that show no beneficial outcomes, the latest spending on developing a brand for Hobart, have all been undertaken without sufficient proof of benefit, or backing of the community, in order to demonstrate that these expenditures are the best use of council resources.

For example, the public art programme may be a good idea, but what is a realistic budget for it? The total budget should be on the public record and it should be balanced against the budget requirements of other equally important programmes and the need for expenditure on core council business.

Endless reports are produced by council and they must cost a lot of employee hours to produce; their recommendations are adopted by aldermen, but then many are shelved and no further action takes place - ever. The subject of the report is likely to be re-visited some years later, and then another report is produced. All such adopted reports should be entered into a database, along with a time-frame for their activation – even if that activation takes 10-15 years.

Aldermen should declare what action is to be taken, including that no action will be taken, instead of simply saying that a report is “noted”. All this should be recorded onto one database.

A public record of recommendations adopted would stop the practice of one department working against the goals of another department over a period of time, because both officers and members of the public would have easy access to long-term goals, derived from the reports, and recorded on a database.

VALUES

Equity

- Ensure equity, consistency and co-operation in its dealings with the community and government

Because of a lack of easily accessed information – e.g. annual reports and annual plans are not on the website; finding agendas and minutes on the website would be difficult for an inexperienced computer user; a search for “annual general meeting” on 25/11 returned no result; this opportunity to make a submission about the annual report was not advertised on the website, etc – council does not deal consistently with residents, in the same way that they deal with government or the business community – council actively pursues the latter two and meet with them formally on a regular basis, whilst making access to information for residents difficult, and offering no formal access pathway to council for residential groups.

Community Involvement

- Encourage effective democratic involvement by the community in the life of the city through communication, consultation and participation.

Effective communication, consultation and participation are notably absent in council dealings with residents. Refer above re equity.

E.g. there has been no communication, consultation, or participation with residents about the City of Hobart Planning Scheme that is undergoing major change behind the closed doors of the planning department. Council has the authority to undertake consultation with the public above the mandatory consultation requirements, but they ignore public pressure for this to occur, even when undertaking a project of major public interest, reviewing the Planning Scheme or deciding on priorities for the strategic management plan.

Council offers no forums, or pathways for residents to have meaningful input into planning matters. Council offers multiple discretions to the Planning Scheme that a majority of residents oppose. Council offers the bare minimum of consultation via written submission, as required by law and there is no evidence that these written submissions are taken seriously.

Despite knowing what the public prefers, council has made no recommendations to government to lengthen the 42 day planning permit time frame and this time frame is often used as an excuse to rush the process, thus making the likelihood of errors with plans more likely. Often these errors lead to a stressful legal process for residents in RMPAT.

Responsiveness

- Be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community

Council is not responsive to the aspirations of the community because they choose not to know what those aspirations are – they offer no pathway for residents to have meaningful input.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

ACHIEVEMENT OF TARGETS	STRATEGIC OUTCOME	KEY STRATEGIES
	A Liveable City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety • Community and Cultural Development • Community Health • Transportation • Planning and Development Standards
	Management of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Natural Resource Management • Environmental Services
	Protection of our Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Heritage
	Growth of the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development • Sustainable Development Planning
	Gateway to Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Tourism Development • Sport and Recreation
	Management of our Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital City Leadership • Communication and Consultation • Customer Services • Infrastructure Planning and Management • Service Delivery • Organisational Management • Financial Performance

The graphs above show the lack of progress in strategic areas.

Some have moved out of a dip to get back to a level of several years ago. Others are moving downwards. Growth of the economy is slightly up, but how is this measured? And are the methods used ones that the general public would be in favour of?

The public are not in favour of selling our lifestyle in order to become like any other polluted city, with little character to distinguish it from any other city, and ultimately loss of tourism, because tourists will not favour a city that is indistinguishable from those on mainland Australia.

When one browses the body of the annual report, one notices many symbols for strategic plan actions that are “underway” but this gives no indication of the stage of action reached, so that it is difficult to see what is being progressed and what may be at a standstill.

Council should immediately move to research the possibility of setting up precinct committees, so that residents of all suburbs have a formal pathway to interact with council, and council will finally be aware of the goals of residents for their city, and council will have access to volunteer hours that many skilled residents would be able to offer council – a resource that is presently largely untapped.

Brent Armstrong
General Manager
Hobart City Council
GPO Box 503
Hobart 7001

25 November, 2005

COMMENT ON THE ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

Dear Mr Armstrong,

I note the invitation to submit comments, given in the Hobart City Council Annual Report, published in the Capital City News of November 2005.

My comments are related to the possibility of an identified walking track along the Sandy Bay Rivulet, from Marionville Esplanade to The Waterworks Reserve.

Plainly, due to infrastructure and residential development, it is impractical to put a walking track through the riparian zone for the entire length of the rivulet.

But I believe the HCC should progress toward including as much as possible of the extant riparian zone of the Rivulet in a linear park which also serves as a bushland recreation area and flood mitigation zone. A long-term plan toward this goal would include gradually resuming property in the riparian zone, as properties change hands. This might possibly be funded through federal flood mitigation programs.

Such a walking track/path would meet several of the Council's stated strategies, as reported in this year's HCC Annual Report. For example, with regard to Sustainable Development Planning:

"Sustainable use and development of natural and physical resources"

- *Complete review of Local Action Plan under Cities for Climate Protection Program*
- *Develop the Adopt-a-Waterway pilot program*

A goal of the Adopt-a-Waterway program could be identification of pedestrian paths and access, as well as promoting the idea of reclaiming the riparian zone in the long term as a flood mitigation measure, in the face of changing flood event patterns associated with global warming. This is in addition to the current plans being progressed by the Friends of the Sandy Bay Rivulet.

With regard to Sport and Recreation,

"A city in which all people have equal access to facilities, services and activities"

- *Prepare the Bicentennial Walking Track brochure*
- *Formalise walking tracks and construct the south-west viewing platform at the Pinnacle*

The development of walking tracks within the urban areas of Hobart provides immediate recreation opportunities which are low cost and low impact. I am personally convinced of the very high educational and amenity value of urban bushparks in riparian zones. I believe such areas provide a daily opportunity for people to connect with a less disturbed and managed environment than is represented by the usual streetscape, however unique or valuable in terms of historical and cultural heritage.

Hundreds of people are able to access an urban riparian zone walk as part of their everyday activities, going to and from work or school or the shops, or just for a stroll. Such urban areas may thus become far more embedded in everyday urban life than, say, a "viewing platform at The Pinnacle", which is indisputably valuable in its own right, but which requires a departure from everyday activities for all but the small minority of Hobart residents.

Without going into extensive and detailed argument, urban riparian zone walking tracks can meet others of the HCC strategic goals, as well. Such a path system can be arguably considered part of infrastructure, particularly if it is viewed in light of flood mitigation. It is also arguably part of a health strategy, given the proven benefits of walking to wellbeing, and to recovery from a variety of health conditions. As an alternative to driving, walking tracks can contribute toward reducing greenhouse gases.

The Waterworks Valley Landcare Group has a 20 year management plan which the HCC has recognised. The management plan includes a general strategy for developing a walking track from the Waterworks Reserve down toward Fitzgerald Park. Many Hobart residents would benefit from the availability of such a track, and I earnestly pray that the Council will consider my submission toward this worthy goal.

Sincerely,



Robert Rands
60 Waterworks Road
Dynnyrne, Tasmania 7005

MOTION TO HOBART CITY COUNCIL AGM

With reference to the results to be achieved under the key strategy in the Annual Report - "Community and cultural development, Hobart is a city in which people are actively involved in shaping the community to meet its own needs",

It is moved that the Council consult widely with ratepayers on the merits of setting up a formal community consultation process or precinct system and move to adopt an appropriate system with the objective of improving the communication and dialogue between citizens and the Council.

Reasons :- Setting up a formal community consultation system or precincts would improve the two way communication between the community and the Council. It would ensure people are actively involved in shaping their community. It would be part of the ongoing initiative of undertaking information sessions with the community, and derive the benefit of better feedback to council on many issues such as planning scheme amendments, cultural and community funding programs, and wider strategic issues i.e. purchase of bushland, development of recreation areas and transport matters.

MOVED – James Bowler,

! Seeing community perception of the standard of management of traffic and parking has fallen in past years , when is a strategic plan to be released ?

- 2 The Annual Report notes the reduction in community awareness of heritage values and this may be caused by the lack of action on the implementation of heritage studies of various suburbs When is there likely to be action on these recommendations ?
- 3 The Annual Report for 2003/2004 noted that a project to enable acquisition of land to complete the Hobart Rivulet Linear Park had been completed What is the present situation ?



Kevin Wilson

South Hobart Progress Association

QUESTIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORT FROM SUZANNE LOCKHART

Strategic Outcome – Management of our resources

Would it be possible to list special on-going programmes, like the Public Art Programme, separately in the Annual Report, listing all revenue and expenses of the special programme e.g. cost of purchasing art, housing art, wages of employees to manage and display the art, displaying the art overseas, etc. so that members of the public may be informed of the on-going costs of such special programmes?

Key Strategy - Transportation

Are there any plans to undertake a major study of transportation e.g. traffic movements and load, vehicle ownership, future public transport needs, and future parking needs for both the city and suburbs?

Will such a major study take place before the new Planning Scheme is considered?

Key Strategy – Cultural Heritage

Why has there been no move to implement the recommendations from the Heritage Studies for South Hobart, Sandy Bay, West Hobart, City Fringe, and the Central Area?

When will the recommendations be implemented?

Key Strategy – Sustainable Development

The downward movement of the graph reflects a community perception of quality of development and public spaces.

Will the public be invited to take part in a series of public forums, to discuss the new Planning Scheme, with planning officers in attendance, to fully explain to members of the public what is proposed and to record public input, before the stage where the proposal has already been written up by officers just before written public submissions are called for?

Regards
Suzanne