

MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TEKAPO COMMUNITY BOARD HELD IN THE LAKE TEKAPO COMMUNITY HALL, ON MONDAY 30 MARCH 2009 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Peter Maxwell (Chairman)
Peter Munro
Catherine Young (from 8.03 pm)
Murray Cox

IN ATTENDANCE:

John O'Neill Mayor
Glen Innes (Chief Executive Officer)
Phil Brownie, General Manager, Destination Mt Cook Mackenzie
Paul Morris (Manager – Finance and Administration)
Garth Nixon (Community Facilities Manager)
Rosemary Moran (Committee Clerk)

I APOLOGIES:

Resolved that apologies be received from Leon O'Sullivan for absence and from Catherine Young for lateness.

Murray Cox/ Peter Munro

II MINUTES:

Resolved that the Minutes of the meetings of the meetings of the Tekapo Community Board held on 2 and 26 February 2009, including such parts as were taken with the Public Excluded, be confirmed and adopted as the correct records of the meetings.

Murray Cox/Peter Munro

MATTERS UNDER ACTION:

2. **Convert Bus Parking Bays into Ordinary Car Parks**
The Asset Manager said that he had expected the road marking to be completed prior to the meeting.
4. **Traffic Calming Plantings for the Northern Entrance to the Township:**
The Community Facilities Manager advised that NZTA had undertaken to contribute up to \$5,000 towards traffic calming plantings between Greig Street and the bridge.
9. **Public Foot Access for Walkways**
This issue to be removed from the Matters Under Action list in the meantime.

II REPORTS:

1. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT LAKE TEKAPO – LETTER FROM COLIN MACLAREN:

This report from Colin Maclaren was accompanied by proposed plans and the suggestion that the Council undertake development of the village centre area in Lake Tekapo.

The Mayor suggested that Board members consider the proposals and make comment to the Council if desired. He warned that it was not the time to sit back. It was important that the Township be developed to the degree and at the pace determined by investors.

Opportunities for promoting development were discussed, including the establishment of a company to look for commercial prospects, similar to the body established to develop and market the Pukaki airfield. It was noted that the process to date had complied with the community's *Vision* for the area. Now that process had come to an end, it was time to move on with a clean slate.

The Mayor explained that the Pukaki airfield situation had been the outcome of a completely different set of circumstances.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that it was intended to obtain advice from a development consultant to ensure that the optimum return could be gained for the community for what was the most desirable Council-owned land in the District.

Murray Cox suggested that the Council's proposed way forward be the subject of a media release.

Resolved.

1. That Colin Maclaren's work in preparing his proposals be gratefully acknowledged and that he be thanked for submitting them to the Council.
2. That Mr Maclaren be advised that his proposals had been taken note of and would be considered alongside all options available to Council to proceed with the future development of the Tekapo village centre.

Peter Maxwell/Catherine Young

2. FREEDOM CAMPING:

The Board considered a letter from Barry Lennon which referred to the issue of Freedom Camping at Lake Tekapo and Environs.

Phil Brownie, General Manager, Destination Mt Cook Mackenzie, said freedom camping was a national problem. The Tourism Industry Association had set up a working group and established a website with ideas on how the problem could be addressed. He suggested the problem wasn't confined to people who hired campervans; domestic campervan owners often considered it was their right to camp anywhere. He said it would be beneficial to encourage members of the Motor Home Association to use commercial camping grounds; there had been substantial growth with approximately 500 new motor homes on the market and Tekapo was a desirable

stopover point for these people. He suggested it could be timely for consideration to be given to the development of a second motor camp in the town.

The use of bylaws was discussed and it was noted that enforcement would require community volunteers to be warranted.

Wider employment of suitable signage which would let people know where they were permitted or not permitted to camp was discussed.

Peter Munro said he had reviewed the current Freedom Camping Guidelines and a new draft was presently being converted to a more pictorial brochure which could be better understood by visitors.

Mr Brownie said the new guidelines could be included on the DMCM website and he undertook to make them available to campervan wholesalers and other information centres.

Resolved:

1. That Mr Lennon be thanked for his letter.
2. That Mr Lennon be advised of the national effort driven by the Tourism Industry Association to develop freedom camping policies and standardised signage for use before next season, and of the new improved Freedom Camping Guidelines brochure currently being developed by the Community Board/.

Peter Maxwell/Murray Cox

3. MAINTENANCE OF MURRAY PARK:

This report from the Community Facilities Manager was accompanied by a letter from the Lake Tekapo Enhancement Association which referred to contract arrangements with Whitestone regarding the maintenance of Murray Park, and a copy of the specifications for lawn mowing and gardening from the Township maintenance contract.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.
2. That an onsite meeting be held at Murray Park after Easter 2009 with representatives of the Lake Tekapo Enhancement Association, the Community Board and the contractor to review and document maintenance arrangements for Murray Park which would meet the expectations of the Community Board and the Lake Tekapo Enhancement Association.

Peter Maxwell/Catherine Young

4. MOTUARIKI ISLAND:

The Community Board received information from LINZ regarding progress towards setting apart Motuariki Island and Mailbox Inlet, Lake Tekapo as reserves.

Resolved that the report be received.

Peter Maxwell/Catherine Young

5. WARD MEMBER'S REPORT:

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Council had completed its draft budgets which had resulted in a slight decrease for the Tekapo Community. He said there would be opportunity for the Board to make further adjustments to its budgets.

6. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT THE BOARD ON OTHER COMMITTEES:

Murray Cox reported that Environment Canterbury had set a budget allocation in its Long Term Council Community Plan for the **Lake Tekapo Regional Park**. He noted that pest control and other forest maintenance would have to be funded from that budget which seemed to be quite low. The Lake Tekapo Regional Park Society intended to make a submission to Environment Canterbury on the issue.

Mr Cox referred to the development of an accessway to the Park and advised that the Community Board and Mt Hay would be involved in discussions about the proposal to have one entrance from Lilybank Road. This would provide the necessary level of control, especially with regard to the risk and management of fires.

Catherine Young read a letter of appreciation from **Elizabeth Scott and family** in response to the Board's message of sympathy to them on the death of Bruce Scott.

The Chairman reported the Lake Tekapo Lions Club was planning a memorial for Bruce and the Enhancement Group intended to plant a tree in his memory in Murray Park.

IV GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. COMMUNITY HALL:

Murray Cox referred to the need to address the inadequate size and facilities of the Lake Tekapo Community Hall. He said regardless of proposed long term planning for a new facility, in the short term large events were going to be held at Lake Tekapo and large numbers of people needed to be catered for. He suggested that the existing kitchen facilities be upgraded and improved access developed to the outdoors where marquees could be used.

The Community Facilities Manager said that he had raised the issue with architect Stephen Loach, who had undertaken to be available to meet with Board members at 2.00 pm on 9 April 2009 at Lake Tekapo.

V VISITOR:

The Chairman welcomed Phil Brownie and invited him to address the Board.

Mr Brownie updated the Board on recent activities. He circulated graphs showing the previous 12 months record of diminishing visitor numbers into New Zealand which contrasted with a healthy growth of guest nights in the Mackenzie District.

Mr Brownie referred to the Official Visitor Guides produced for the summer and winter seasons, the Winter Marketing Group, proposed Starlight Reserve, the shift of the Fairlie DMCM to Heartlands Resource Centre, Sponsorship of Vehicle and Return from Investment in AA Campaign

Mr Brownie explained his efforts in conjunction with Meridian to provide improved information about the Waitaki hydroelectric system. He had suggested that Lake Tekapo was the ideal centre to have a display.

The Chairman referred to publicity given to a *No Recession* campaign which was currently being promoted and suggested that Lake Tekapo could become the first *No Recession* town in New Zealand.

Mr Brownie explained the process which was underway to establish an I Site in Lake Tekapo and his efforts to negotiate the lease of premises for an affordable cost. He said the challenge was for the facility to be open for the summer season.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE
CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30 PM**

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE: _____