

Draft AGM Minutes

Meeting Name	Sustainable Dunedin City Inc. AGM		
Meeting Venue	Room G201/203 Otago Polytechnic		
Date Of Meeting	23 July 2008	Time Of Meeting	7 pm
Chairpersons	Jocelyn Harris, John Cocks	Recorder	Charlotte Flaherty

The meeting opened at 7.10pm. John Cocks and Jocelyn Harris welcomed everyone to the AGM.

Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Maureen Howard, Geoff Craig, Jenny Neilson, Michelle Ritchie, Jean Harris, Ian Goldsmith, Judy Martin (Jocelyn Harris / Jinty MacTavish). The motion was carried.

There were 24 people present, of whom several were not members (including Graeme Rice of Land Transport New Zealand who was to give a talk after the AGM). Eight subscriptions were renewed on the night.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 25 July 2007

There were no comments or amendments to the minutes from the inaugural AGM meeting. Jocelyn Harris proposed that the minutes be confirmed as those of the last AGM, this was seconded by David Tucker. All were in favour. Jocelyn Harris proposed that the minutes be adopted as a true and accurate record this was seconded by Mark Jackson. All were in favour.

The Chairpersons' annual report on the business of the Society

Jocelyn Harris spoke about the **Secondary School Symposium** organised by Jinty MacTavish and David Tucker. The symposium this week presented its conclusions to the Dunedin City Council where it was well-received. Council members seemed surprised by the overwhelming response shown by students (thousands of students recorded their fervent interest). Jocelyn offered her congratulations to the organisers and reiterated that they had the full support of the society.

Jocelyn described the **cloth bags** produced by SDC and mentioned that they were for sale at \$15 each.

Jocelyn then asked members to become more involved by down-loading and printing **membership forms** and taking them along to events to distribute. It was then moved and seconded that the chairpersons' report be accepted (Jocelyn Harris/Scott Willis). All were in favour.

Chris Mein asked where to find out about activities apart from the newsletter (which often relayed information about activities without giving a good lead-in time-wise.) There followed some discussion as to whether **committee meeting minutes** should be archived on the web-site. This was to be discussed further during discussions of the annual plan.

Treasurer's report on the finances of the Society, and the Statement of Accounts

Phil Cole presented the Treasurer's Report (*see attached*)

A discussion about the **financing of the cotton bags and the radio station** followed. The radio station was not accounted for in last year's plan as it had not then been set up. Some of the finances for the cotton bags had been put towards the radio station.

Comments on the plan were received from members. Scott Willis suggested **separating income** e.g. subscriptions into one account, donations into another and earmarking these accounts for different projects.

Phil Cole mentioned that he had some reservations about **becoming a charitable trust**. There seemed to be little benefit to an organisation which makes below a threshold of \$10,000. We were one such.

Scott Willis moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Jinty MacTavish. All were in favour.

Annual Plan for 2008/9

Phil Cole discussed the **annual Financial Plan** saying there had been some broad changes (*see attached*). Geraldine Tait suggested that we charge a **gold-coin donation** for talks as this would raise income. A discussion followed.

Scott Willis suggested that SDC be hosted by **Transition Towns web-site**. Mark Jackson discussed the options for website and said that cost, expectations and outcome all needed to be considered. Chris Mein said that if SDC had **two sites** one could be for interested outside parties seeking to know what we were active in. The other, for instance on the Transition Towns web-site, could be interactive for members and hold copies of committee meeting minutes. John Cocks suggested this was something for the new committee to look at. Jocelyn and Jinty then suggested that a group be set up to examine these ideas.

Membership

Jocelyn suggested that members print off membership information and give it out. Scott Willis suggested that enriching the participation experience would encourage membership to rise.

Chris Mein said that the stall at the **Farmers' Market** had resulted in donations of \$300 and that eight people had signed up as a result. He suggested putting forms in the Farmers' Market caravan. Jocelyn asked that he follow this up.

John Cocks said **facilitating new membership** should be a priority job for the new committee.

Phil Cole said the new committee needed to source **funding for workshops** etc. Scott Willis said we needed to use our people resources.

Talks

Regular talks are planned for the rest of this year. Marc Schallenberg is working on an agenda. The first talk will take place at 7pm on 14 August at Burns 2 lecture theatre, University of Otago. The speaker will be **Hugh Campbell on Food, Energy and Politics for a New Global Future**.

A friend of member Jean Harris said that Jean had suggested the **stadium could be an issue because it costs will impact on the future of sustainability of the city**. Jocelyn Harris said that submissions to the Dunedin City Council concerning this issue close this Friday. Rowan Cooke asked whether SDC's inclusion of the stadium issue might not turn people off.

Chris Mein asked whether the society could **re-run popular events** (such as the electric car event), Scott Willis said the electric car event could fit into the Waitati Expo on August 10.

Format for meetings

John Cocks said that perhaps members could use electronic means (the web etc) to co-ordinate and self-generate.

Marc Schallenberg said the present structure of SDC was not inclusive and did not involve the membership. SDC could turn the meetings over to members and let them suggest topics for talks, prepare agendas and chair the talks.

A member suggested that we set monthly meetings for members thereby forming a community and developing ideas.

Another member asked whether we could have an easily accessible calendar where dates were recorded far in advance so that we did not have the "last minute-ism" of getting a newsletter and finding one was busy on the date in question. Mark Jackson said the best calendar was available on the environmental website, Dunedin Environment Centre Trust, [sustainabledunedin.org.nz](http://www.dect.org.nz) (<http://www.dect.org.nz>).

Jens Rekker said it was important to include the initiatives of the general membership. Mark Jackson and Scott Willis both suggested that SDC provide a **forum for events** and, in effect, become the **mother ship for a variety of events linked to the common themes**. Geraldine Tait said she supported the idea but warned that momentum might be lost because of the feeling that if everybody was able to contribute then nobody would do so as they would all wait for others to do it.

A member suggested that SDC adopt a **club system** whereby all the membership was invited to a regular event (say the third Thursday of every month) for tea, biscuits and discussion. Mark Jackson suggested a bridging idea of a short committee meeting followed by a themed evening. David Tucker said he had worked with tele-conferencing with a great measure of success. Several

members commented that the actual contact of a meeting generated better ideas. Scott Willis suggested themed evenings.

Jocelyn Harris said we needed a **regular schedule** so everyone knew what was happening. A member suggested that perhaps we should start small and have meetings every alternate month. Chris Mein suggested members needed to be able to contact each other. Marc Schallenberg said the structure needed to be flexible. Jinty MacTavish made a plea for a regular date, Jocelyn Harris added to this saying regularity would foster the generation of new ideas.

Scott Willis said there needs to be a reflexivity of input and that members must be able to reciprocate with the committee. John Cocks said this was Point Two to be taken on board: communications needed to be streamlined. John asked that members consider what would enthuse them and communicate it to the new committee. He then concluded the annual plan.

Election of Committee members

John Cocks and Jocelyn Harris thanked all committee members for their sterling work throughout the year. John then read out nominations for the new committee.

Proposed as Chairperson: Jocelyn Harris (co-chair position to remain vacant at present)

Proposed as Treasurer: Phil Cole

Proposed as Secretary: Charlotte Flaherty

Proposed as Spokesperson: Bob Lloyd

Proposed as Committee members: John H Cocks, David Tucker, Jinty MacTavish, Mark Jackson, Scott Willis, Ian Goldsmith, Maureen Howard, Elizabeth Rudd, Paul Young.

Nominations were moved for acceptance by Jens Rekker, seconded by Florence Stone.

David Tucker asked whether it was possible to elect all of the membership to the committee, as this would oblige them to go to committee meetings and be productive. John Cocks said it was technically possible but problems would arise when the committee had to make a decision and needed a quorum (whereby at least half of the membership would need to attend each meeting.).

Motions to be considered

Rule 25 (Definitions) **definition of a person**. It was decided that a person could only be an actual person, not a company or organisation. This definition was proposed by John Cocks and seconded by Jocelyn Harris.

In order **to register as a charitable trust** some of the rules needed alteration. These included rule 14 (Use of Money and Other Assets) regarding where the assets would lie were the society to wind up. It ensured that they would not be vested in an individual.

Rule 24 (Winding Up) has been changed to specify that **if the society winds up** the assets must go to another charity. These changes were proposed by John Cocks, seconded by Jocelyn Harris and all were in favour.

It was moved and seconded that the policy with respect to finance be accepted (Jinty MacTavish. Jocelyn Harris).

General Business

It was proposed and seconded that the society make a statement on the construction of a stadium in Dunedin (Jocelyn Harris/ Scott Willis).

It was noted that submissions close this Friday and members were urged to make a submission. Fears that the stance SDC was taking may alienate some of the membership were raised. Other members pointed out that finance for the stadium should be discretionary spending in the face of the challenges the region was facing. After lengthy discussion the following wording was decided upon:

Given the challenges of climate change and peak oil Sustainable Dunedin City believes that public ratepayer funding of a stadium is inconsistent with a sustainable future for Dunedin.

David Tucker made a plea for the insertion of the word potential so that the sentence read *Given the potential challenges of climate change ...*

This prompted Graeme Rice of New Zealand Land Transport to tell the meeting that road engineers had earlier in the week raced to Waitaki where a road surface was falling into the sea at the rate of 10cm per day as a direct result of climate change (change in weather patterns?). Mr Rice also reported that climate change was seen as so immediate a problem that the Ministry for the Environment had issued guidelines advising local government to make contingency plans for the effects of climate change.

Jocelyn Harris moved that the statement be accepted. All bar one were in favour, with David Tucker recording that he was not in favour of accepting the statement as it stood.

Max Crowe of **Students for Environmental Action Otago** proposed that his group be affiliated with Sustainable Dunedin City. This was seconded by Jinty MacTavish.

Chris Mein asked that **SDC post records of meetings** somewhere accessible by all the membership.

Mark Jackson flagged **Bright Sparks** (provisionally for 21 August). Bright Sparks would be a forum whereby people had ten minutes to talk on an idea relevant to sustainability. This would be followed by five minutes of discussion.

David Robb told the meeting about his idea to bring together existing resources to convert cars to new forms of energy with part of the purpose being to prepare NZ for **electric cars**. He said he wanted a physical presence in Dunedin and had support from University of Otago staff (including Bob Lloyd) and many others throughout the country. At present he was investigating the legislative repercussions of his idea and researching consumer behaviour. He had put feelers out as to the possibility of using the Fischer and Paykel premises.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

It was followed by a talk by **Graeme Rice** of Land Transport New Zealand and one on the possibilities for public transport in Dunedin by **Phil Cole**. Both talks were very well-received. A request to put Graeme Rice on the agenda of speakers' talks was received.