



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 9 April 2014 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(President)	Uniting Church, FTG
(Vice-president)	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
(Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
(Publicity Officer)	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
	Egyptian Coptic Church
	Uniting Church, FTG
	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region

APOLOGIES:

St John's Anglican Church, Wantirna

GUESTS

Bayswater Church of Christ

1. OPENING

- 1.1 Pat opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:00pm.
- 1.2 The meeting format included the AGM initially, followed by a normal Knox Inter-faith Network (KIN) meeting. The minutes below are in those two parts.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

- 2.1 Pat welcomed John as a guest to the meeting.

3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 3.1 *Quorum* was confirmed with six voting Members present – the first six on the attendance list above. This represented all current voting Members.
- 3.2 The Chairperson confirmed *no proxy votes* were held by either her or anyone.
- 3.3 *Minutes of the AGM for 2012* (from 4 February 2013).
RESOLUTION: The minutes of the AGM for 2012 were moved for acceptance: Mark; seconded: Gwenda. **Approved unanimously.**

- 3.4 *Financial Statement:* Mark presented the Financial Statement for the 2013 calendar year. In summary:
 - Opening Balance of \$xxx
 - Income of \$xxx (annual membership fees)
 - Expenditure of \$xxx (including \$xxx for parts 1 and 2 of the OMAC funded forum)

- Giving a closing balance of \$xxx (including the residue of \$xxx from the OMAC funding for the 2013 photographic event, and the residue of \$xxx from the OMAC funding for the 2012 events)
 - Effective closing balance excluding grant amounts outstanding is \$xxx.
 - **RESOLUTION:** Mark moved the acceptance of the Financial Statement; seconded by Peter. **Approved unanimously.**
- 3.5 *Internal Review of Financial Statement:* Peter presented the Review of Financial Statement for the 2013 Financial Year. This involved a full review of the income receipts, cheque book, receipts or other documentary evidence for all expenses, and bank statements. He confirmed the Financial Statements were complete and accurate.
- RESOLUTION:** Peter moved that the internal financial review be accepted as presented; seconded by Gwenda. **Approved unanimously.**
- 3.6 *Election of 2014 Office-bearers*
Nominations were received as follows:
- | | |
|----------------------|--------|
| - President: | Pat |
| - Vice President: | Gwenda |
| - Secretary: | Peter |
| - Treasurer: | Mark |
| - Publicity Officer: | Lee |
- All were declared elected unopposed.
- RESOLUTION:** Per the notice for the AGM, Peter moved that “There be up to two ordinary members of the Committee elected in 2014.” This was seconded by Lee. **Approved unanimously.** There were no nominations at the AGM for ordinary members. However, this resolution gives KIN the opportunity to have new member organisations join the KIN Committee as ordinary members. Maher consented to continue in the role as the liaison between KIN and KMAC (the Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee).
- 3.7 *New Rules of Incorporation:*
SPECIAL RESOLUTION: Per the notice for the AGM, Mark moved that “KIN adopt new Rules of Incorporation consistent with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic.)* and as made available to all Member Organisations prior to the meeting.” This was seconded by Peter.
Discussion Arising: Mark amended the resolution to propose a minor change to rule 34(4), consistent with his experience with the new Rules in a different organisation. This added the word “not” near the start of the rule so it reads, “If the Committee has **not** approved a form for the appointment of a proxy, the member may use any other form that clearly identifies the person appointed as the member’s proxy and that has been signed by the member.” Peter accepted this amendment; the amended Rules were **approved unanimously.**
- 3.8 *Annual Subscription Fees:* **RESOLUTION:** Mark moved that the 2014 fees be set as follows, with fees due no later than 30 June 2014:
- No Joining Fee
 - Annual fees for a Member Organisation of \$50
 - Annual fees for an individual joining as an Associate member of \$20.
- This was seconded by Peter. **Approved unanimously.**
- 3.9 **ACTION:** Peter to prepare the report for Consumer Affairs as per requirement.
- 3.10 AGM closed by the Chairperson at 7:50pm.

Normal KIN Committee Meeting

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

- 4.1 Mark requested addition of an item under 11.2 – Future items of interest – to explain the Communities that Care program. This was accepted.

5. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST KIN MEETING (3 FEBRUARY 2014)

- 5.1 **RESOLUTION:** The minutes of the February 2014 meeting were moved for acceptance: Mark; seconded: Tina. Approved unanimously.
- 5.2 No actions remain to be discussed other than those on the agenda.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 6.1 Mark noted his comments presented at the AGM
- A closing balance of \$xxx after current unrepresented cheques are finalised (including the residue of \$xxx from the OMAC funding for the 2013 photographic event, \$xxx of which will be used for insurance for when the photos were on various sites, and the residue of \$xxx from the OMAC funding for the 2012 events)
 - Effective closing balance excluding grant amounts outstanding is \$xxx.
- 6.2 **RESOLUTION:** The treasurer's report was moved for acceptance: Peter; seconded: Lee. Approved unanimously.

7. EVENT REPORTS

- 7.1 Maher presented a summary of the successful Knox Harmony Festival. Various members reported on interesting conversations with people who attended the Festival. Members agreed it was an excellent event and a better return on effort for KIN than the Knox Festival.
- 7.2 Other events:
- Pat reported on the induction of Stephen Morris at St John's Anglican community in Wantirna.
 - Pat also reported on an event for blessing of wine and bread at the Jewish Community in Kew.
 - Lee reported on the Muslim Women for Peace event in Clayton.

8. PLANNING FOR THE JUNE 2014 MEETING RE THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVENT

- 8.1 There was discussion about the event based on the draft plan and draft budget presented. These were both broadly agreed, with some changes to the draft plan based on the discussion.
- 8.2 There is a preference for running the event at Knox Council if possible – but this will need confirmation of the likely number of attendees. Backup locations were agreed as either the Temple Society site in Bayswater or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Cathies Lane, Wantirna South.
- 8.3 Agreement was reached to order an additional copy of the photo book for retention by KIN and use at future events.
- 8.4 A follow-on planning meeting will be held on the evening of Monday, 5 May.

9. ITEMS RAISED BY KNOX COUNCIL

- 9.1 Members discussed a possible response by KIN to the recent comments made by Senator Brandis regarding changes to legislation related to religious vilification.
- 9.2 **ACTION:** Riad will distribute any information he has about statements prepared by other organisations.
- 9.3 **ACTION:** Peter will prepare a draft statement for inclusion on the KIN web-site, release at the 2 June event and release to local media.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 Network members agree, particularly after the experience at the Knox Harmony Festival, that invitations for other organisations to join KIN or attend KIN events are best done, wherever possible, face-to-face. This will be adopted wherever possible in future.
- 10.2 An idea raised during discussions at the Knox Harmony Festival was the use of social media to help promote KIN, particularly to younger people. There are benefits to this approach, but it also requires ongoing effort to ensure the information and interactions are timely and frequent. It was agreed that Peter will ask Imelda to present on aspects of preparing a successful social media strategy at a future KIN meeting.
- 10.3 Pat had received a request from Matt Posetti – Labor Party candidate for Ferntree Gully in the upcoming state election – to attend a KIN meeting. After discussion it was agreed he would be invited as a participant only to the June event and be given the opportunity to attend the October meeting.
- 10.4 Lee had suggested by email that KIN meet with the Knox Mayor, adopting an idea taken up in the Monash Interfaith Network. After discussion it was agreed to invite the Mayor and other Councillors to the 2 June KIN event. If none of them were able to attend that event we would seek a separate meeting.

11. FUTURE ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK

- 11.1 Discussion about a possible visit to the new Islamic Museum of Australia concluded that this was a desirable goal in the medium term. It might even be possible to do this as a program with/for Knox area schools in 2016. It would be good, if possible, to arrange this jointly with ISOMER, although there may be some challenges in achieving this. **ACTION:** Peter will prepare a letter to ISOMER raising this possibility; on the recommendation of Riad, this should be preceded by a discussion with a person suggested by Riad.
- 11.2 Mark introduced *Communities that Care*, a program promoted by the Knox Community Health Service. This is a position funded (for Deborah Cocks) to raise with the whole community the risk factors associated with drug and alcohol use and abuse and prepare a community response. **ACTION:** Mark will keep KIN informed about the program by sharing any information.
- 11.3 Riad noted he is participating in a 10 day visit in May to Jerusalem by 4 members from each of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities. Members are keen to hear about the outcomes and will pray for a safe and successful trip.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

- 12.1 The meeting was closed at 9:20pm; Gwenda provided a concluding prayer.