

SIRA

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING



Sunday, November 30, 2014
Venue: Community Hall

SIRAC Committee: Bill Gye, Cass Gye, Carol Floyd, Tim Turpin, Tanya Costin, Hubert van Mierlo, Sharon Kinnison, Adrian Matthews, Jenny Frazer, David Hegarty, Shar Jones

Apologies: Judy Readman

Members; Tim Jacobs, Juliet Holmes a Court, Graeme Crayford, Colin Haskell, Boyd Attewell, Emmie Collins, Carolyn Milani, Jaime Sala, Michelle Sala, Emmie Collins, Andres Rodriguez

Minutes

1. Welcome: BG opened the meeting and thanked SIRA members for attending, and spoke about the purpose of the meeting.
2. **Special Resolution:** HVM explained that the SGM is necessary to make changes to the Constitution.
Rationale is:
 - a. Allow for a more efficient nomination process for the election of the SIRA committee
 - b. Allow for a more efficient organisation of the ballot (if necessary) at the Annual General Meeting

BG introduced the motion, which was moved by BG and it seconded by HvM. BG read the motion:
“That Section 14 from our current SIRA Constitution titled ‘The Election of Members’ be replaced with the wording from the equivalent section from the NSW Fair Trading’s 2009 Model Constitution titled ‘The Election of Committee Members’. The details of the proposed change being set out in the Attachment”

Proposed new text (Attachment) was shown on screen:

Election of Committee Members

- (1) Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of the association or as ordinary committee members:
 - (a) must be made in writing, signed by two members of the association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of the nomination), and
 - (b) must be delivered to the secretary of the association at least 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.
- (2) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and further nominations are to be received at the annual general meeting.
- (3) If insufficient further nominations are received, any vacant positions remaining on the committee are taken to be casual vacancies.

- (4) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected.
- (5) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot is to be held.
- (6) The ballot for the election of office-bearers and ordinary committee members of the committee is to be conducted at the annual general meeting in such usual and proper manner as the committee may direct. A person nominated as a candidate for election as an office-bearer or as an ordinary committee member of the association must be a member of the association.

Key differences to current change:

- Currently nominations can be made in writing up to the time of the AGM and orally during the AGM, regardless of the number of nominations received.
- Under the proposed change:
 - ✓ nominations in writing close 7 days before the AGM
 - ✓ nominations during the AGM are only allowed if insufficient nominations are received to fill one or more positions.

HVM showed ppt slides that diagrammed the three scenarios under the current and the proposed new system.

BG opened the meeting to speakers against the motion:

Q: CH said that he didn't agree with people going around getting nominations and then voting as a block – it is divisive.

A: This cannot be prevented or dealt with in this motion: factionalism is a separate issue.

BG asked for a vote: meeting approved the motion unanimously (21 people).

3. **Possible Future changes to Constitution in 2015:** BG invited people to become involved in Governance. Possible future changes could include size of committee and Constitutional changes to bring us more in line with the Model Constitution.
4. **Voting Process at the upcoming AGM (February 2015):** BA presented the proposal for changing the voting processes. He showed the 2014 ballot papers which has five sections to vote; then showe the assumptions based on 20 candidates. BA illustrated the case by a scenario in which 60% of people want to paint the hall pink, and 40% want to paint it purple, then showed how using individual ballots skews the results. If each ballot for specific positions (VP, Pres etc) maintains the 60/40 preference and is treated as its own separate ballot when counted, as does the ballot for the ordinary members, and these two are added up to create the final committee, you get 80% pink and 20% purple rather than original 60/40 split. The alternative being discussed was to have all contenders voted for first as general committee members and then vote that person again for a key position nomination. If the person is successful on the general committee, then the key position preferences are counted and elected. This is how a council election runs and is an agreed democratic process. BA showed aproposed ballot paper.

JHaC suggested that the block for ordinary members be at the top. It was commented that it could be difficult to ensure that people understand it fully.

BA also showed a proposal for electronic voting which would solve ballot problem issues. BG said that introducing electronic voting might require a Constitutional change; BA responded that he had spoken to the Electoral Commission and that they had advised that the Constitution does not rule out electronic voting. He suggested that a possibility could be that we have laptops in the hall and people could vote on site or with their mobile phones.

TT said that SIRA is a small organisation and that the pink/purple issue is a furphy because it assumes that people vote on issues rather than people. BA, HVM and CF responded that this new system would not encourage factionalism. BA said factionalism already existed. JF said that Boyd had been part of the vote count in the last election and realised there were problems with distribution. GC raised a point of order that internal election matters should not be discussed as they are not public. BG said the last election was conducted exactly according to process; it is the process that is under consideration for change. JF clarified her comments, saying she wasn't suggesting there was anything inappropriate with the way the votes had been counted. Rather it was with the process, which is why Boyd's had suggested the changes to ensure a truer representation of voter intentions.

GC said according to the draft minutes of the last meeting this proposal has been accepted, so he questioned why we are debating it. He also said that we have no Constitutional right to change anything here. BG agreed and said we are not making decisions on it at this meeting. HVM said that according to the Constitution the committee can decide the ballot process, so this meeting is just a chance for people to comment.

5. Q&A

CH said we should have a meeting to discuss the future of the island. There are bigger issues than the carpark and people need to know about them.

SJ responded as head of Island Vision. She flagged community forums on Vision in February and invited anyone interested to join the working party. She also presented **Guiding Principles** – sustainability, intergenerational equity, community engagement, community benefits. SJ also presented the **Values** statement:

- We value living within a **beautiful natural environment** where the elements of water, air, earth, plants, trees and some native animals largely predominate over the built environment. In this somewhat isolated special place, accessible only by water, living has unique challenges and a sense of adventure.
- We value living within a **friendly and flourishing community**, united by our common context. Our daily lives are often made up of many small friendly encounters, shared events, celebrations and cooperative activities which weave together an inclusive, innovative and nurturing social environment.
- We value living in a **healthy and aesthetically built environment** with the necessary but modest infrastructure to allow all residents to go about their daily lives, with convenient access their homes and with adequate facilities for normal family life.

and the **Vision** statement:

VISION

People		Place		Processes
Key Direction 1	Key Direction 2	Key Direction 3	Key Direction 4	Key Direction 5
Supporting & Connecting our Offshore Community	Enhancing our Creative and Cultural Environment	Valuing and caring for our Natural Environment	Integrating our Built Environment	Effective Processes to achieve Community Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced sense of community Excellent Communication Systems Enhanced community health, safety and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A friendly, creative lifestyle shared by residents Enhance educational and cultural activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced natural environment in balance with the lifestyle needs of the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced low impact infrastructure that balances community and environmental needs in a cost effective way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Governance Efficient Service Management Responsible Finance and Insurance Management

6. Other business:

- a. AM showed the colours for the hall painting for inside/outside and asked for feedback. Also told about the work that will be done on hall: new toilets and cisterns, vanities and mirrors, additional power points downstairs, tile over concrete steps, new stairs, storage improvement, replacement and lowering of sound booth to improved compliance with railing and benches, painting of beams, sanding and restaining of timber walls at end, painting of side walls, dimmable track lighting, awning over part of the deck, sanding of floor.