



**Rockdale Chamber of Commerce
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 2nd March 2005
The Grand Hotel**

**Chairperson - Shaun Fraser
Minute Taker – Maria Tsounias
Meeting open: 8.00am**

1.0 Attendees:

Shaun Fraser - Rockdale Community Church of Christ
Craig Bucknall - Bullie Graphics
Paul De Maria - Hales Redden and Partners
Maria Tsounias - Rockdale City Council
Joe Mandile - Joe Mandile Real Estate
Annette Ritson - Rockdale Dentist
Mohammad Moubayed - Trendy Hair Cuts
Nazmy Salib - Rockdale Soul Pattison
Walter Herrmann - Walter Herrmann Real Estate
John Dickson - Dickson's Fashion
Anthony Maronese- The Grand Hotel
Michael Harmer - Wizard Home Loan
Rami Abdallah - Richardson and Wrench
Bob Sakr- Yes Home Loans
Natasha Davey- Yes Home Loans
Ramy Armanyous- Yes Home Loans
Tom Mackovski- Rockdale Newsagency
Ahmed Abbas- Somantic
John Touma - The Property Centre Rockdale
Zahwat Hoballah - ITSYS Australia
Rosemary Choppra- St George Migrant Resource Centre
Kent Alderson- Alderson's Pharmacy
Radwan Hamdan- Hamdan & Associates

2.0 Apologies

Darwin Luhur - Rainbow Camera House
John Goff - The Grand Hotel
David Graham - RSL Rockdale

3.0 President Welcome and Report

- We have recognised some issues which have risen from our Chamber of Commerce meetings which are
 - 1) Communications are fantastic
 - 2) Attendance to meetings is down. Feeling is because the communications are so good there is not a great need to attend the meetings as you know what is happening.

- o 3) Timing of meeting is good
- o 4) Suggestion to have Guest Speakers
- The Chamber has done a lot for the business owners and have had council pay for things to be done around Rockdale Town Centre e.g. Street Cleaning
- This has meant the Chamber was not credited for the work, when in fact it was from the lobbying of the Chamber Members that Council was made aware of the true state of the streets. It was also the Chamber who organized the trial steam cleaning which triggered the Councils response to hire the steam cleaner to clean the street.
- Thanks to everyone for the support.

Action- Shaun Maria & Lani re evaluate Correspondence

4.0 Stepping Down of 2004 Committee

- All committee members stepped down
- Positions are now vacant

5.0 Nominations for 2005 Committee

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 5.1 President - | Shaun Fraser |
| 5.2 Vice President – | Rami Abdallah |
| 5.3 Secretary – | Zahwat Hoballah |
| 5.4 Treasurer – | Craig Bucknall |
| 5.5 Committee Members- | Joe Mandile |
| | Michael Harmer |
| | Kent Alderson |
| | Mohammed Moubayed |
| | Darwin Luhur |
| | Nazmy Salib |
| | Radwan Hamdan |

All Nominations voted yes with no objections.
 Congratulations to our new appointed Committee Members

6.0 Treasurers Report

- Joe Mandile reported that the balance of the Chamber of Commerce bank account is \$5700.98

Suggestion made to report a balance sheet.

Action- Joe Mandile to do a Balance sheet.

7.0 Year Planning

7.1- Maria's work Calendar for March- July 2005

Please refer attached. Maria told the Chamber that programs either this calendar may change without noticed.

Calendar was discussed with Maria's plans for the next few months. .

7.2- Brainstorming

The floor was opened for general discussion and brain storming for the year past and the Chambers achievements. The following points were made.

- The chambers goals and objective for the past year were discussed.
- Members ask what was planned for the upcoming year. Suggestions included:
 - o A SWOT analysis for the area and the Chambers.
 - o The Chamber lobby for the DCP to be completed.
 - o For the state member to be lobbied to help make changes in the area.

- o A Business development strategy be developed to ensure that businesses are attracted to the area and that we do not lose any more businesses.
- o The Chamber to set 5 substantial goals and work on achieving them, and not concentrate only the smaller issues.
- o The Council be made more liability for their decisions and that the chamber be included in the decision making processes.

These suggestions will be taken to the next committee meeting and a response will be brought back to the next Chamber meeting.

8.0 Website Update

- February received 253 site hits with 169 unique visitors.
- Overall site has received 2853 site hits.
- Search engines hits are Google 36, MSN 32, Yahoo 11, Ask Jeeves 1
- Key Phrases & keywords range from Rockdale to Calico Shopping bags
- Business Directory Hits continue to increase
- Don't forget to get your Business Directory Listings on the www.rockdaletowncentre.org total cost is only \$80.00

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th April 2005. This meeting will be sponsored by Telstra.



Maria's Calendar of events and programs
March - September 2005

| Month | Dates | Program | Description |
|-------|----------|----------------------------|---|
| March | 02.03.05 | COC Meeting | Venue: The Grand Hotel Annual General Meeting |
| | 10.03.05 | BEC Networking Breakfast | Topic: Compliance, OH&S and Risk Rockdale RSL |
| | 17.03.05 | COC Committee | Committee meeting with Council officers to discuss the graffiti program Venue: Rockdale City Council |
| | | Improvement Grants | Approval process |
| | | Directory Details | Data Collection from each trader to update business directory |
| | | Parking Survey | To assess parking needs and perceptions |
| | | Environment Assessments | All retrofits to be completed. |
| | | Doing business in Rockdale | Creation of a business pack for all businesses. |
| | 29.03.05 | 2005 RTC Dinner | Dinner for all traders. Great chance to meet everyone and kick start a hugh year. Presentations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business in Rockdale Packs ▪ Environment Awards ▪ Improvement Grants |
| April | 6.04.05 | COC Meeting | Venue: The Grand Hotel. Sponsor: Telstra |
| | 14.04.05 | BEC Networking Breakfast | Venue: Rockdale RSL |

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| | 20.04.05 | COC Committee | Committee meet with Directors of Council to discuss the future of Rockdale Town Centre Venue: Rockdale City Council |
| | | Business Directory | Launch of 2005 Edition of the RTC Directory |
| | | Environment Bag Distribution | Environmental Friendly shopping bags distributed to all traders |
| | | Welcome to Rockdale Packs - creation | Creation of packs for local residents of Rockdale Town Centre. Sponsorship opportunities available. |
| | | Parking results and actions | Actions created based on the results of the parking survey. |
| | | Pedestrian Safety Planning | Program designed to make Rockdale a safer place for pedestrians. |
| | | Improvement Grants | Second Round of Grants for 2005 open |
| | 18.04.05 To 23.04.05 | Cleaning Rockdale Week | A cleaning team will be hired to spend the week in Rockdale. All traders will have the opportunity to clean out their stores, and have their windows cleaned. |
| | 23.04.05 | Cleaning Rockdale Expo | Final day of Clean up Rockdale Week - Expo in the court yard of the Council Admin. Building |
| May | 04.05.05 | COC Meeting | Venue: The Grand Hotel Sponsor: Bullie Graphics |
| | 12.05.05 | BEC Networking Breakfast | Venue: Rockdale RSL |
| | 18.05.04 | COC Committee | |
| | 24.05.05 | DA workshop | DA Workshop for all business in Rockdale. Council officers will educate on all DAs that effect business and how to lodge them correctly. Venue: Rockdale City Council Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm |
| | | Improvement Grants close and | Improvement Grants collected and reported for approval. |

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| | | report | |
| June | 1.06.05 | COC Meeting | Venue: The Grand Hotel Sponsor: St George Migrant Resource Centre |
| | 14.06.05 | BEC Networking Breakfast | Venue: Rockdale RSL |
| | 15.06.05 | COC Committee | |
| | | Saturday Program | Street Entertainment and activities on Saturdays |
| | | Welcome to Rockdale Packs - Launch | Welcome to Rockdale Packs, inviting all residents to Rockdale. |
| July | 06.07.05 | COC Meeting | Venue: The Grand Hotel Sponsor: Ayar Dental Practice |
| | 14.07.05 | BEC Networking Breakfast | Venue: Rockdale RSL |
| | 20.07.05 | COC Committee | |
| | 21.07.04 | Small Biz Awards | Celebration night- awarding outstanding businesses in Rockdale Town Centre Venue: Rockdale Town Centre |
| | | Saturday Program | |
| Aug | 03.08.05 | COC Meeting | Venue: The Grand Hotel Sponsor: ? |
| | 12.08.05 | BEC Networking Breakfast | |
| | 20.08.05 | COC Committee | |
| | TBA | Street Event and Markets. | |
| Sep | 07.09.05 | COC Meeting | Venue: The Grand Hotel Sponsor? |
| | 13.09.05 | BEC Networking Breakfast | Venue: Rockdale RSL |

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| | 21.09.0 5 | COC Committee | |
| | TBA | St George Employment and Trader Expo. | |
| | TBA | Markets | |