



ROCKDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MINUTES WEDNESDAY APRIL 7, 2004 THE GRAND HOTEL

Chairperson - Shaun Fraser

Minute Taker – Lani Fraser

Meeting open: 7.55am

1.0 Attendees:

Shaun Fraser - Rockdale Community Church of Christ
Manual Koutsourais - Rockdale Smash
Craig Bucknall - Bullie Graphics
Lani Fraser - Rockdale Community Church of Christ
Paul De Maria - Hales Redden and Partners
Darwin Luhu r- Rainbow Camera house
Rodney Goff - The Grand Hotel
John Goff - The Grand hotel
John Dickson - Dickson's Fashion
Michael Harmer - Wizard Home Loans
John Brandenburg - Rockdale City Council
Maria Tsounias - Rockdale City Council
David Graham - Rockdale RSL
Zahwat Hoballah - ITSYS Australia
Annette Ritson - Rockdale Dentists
Tony Drew - St George Tavern
Nazmy Salib - Rockdale Soul Patterson
John Touma - The Property Centre

2.0 Apologies

Rami Abdallah - Richardson and Wrench
Walter Herrmann - Walter Herrmann Real Estate
John Ajaka - John Ajaka Solicitors
Kent Alderson - Alderson's Pharmacist

3.0 Matters arising from previous meeting

John Touma - Lighting to report committee

4.0 Letter to council-

- Letter to council has been done
- The letter covered DA's, regulation, health and business support
- Since then Shaun has spoken to several people in council and received a good response
- Further discussion with senior staff and the committee will take place at the next committee meeting on the 21/4/04 at 7.30am in the committee room

5.0 Letter to Hon Frank Sartor

- Letter has been sent addressing his lack of interest and commitment to the community
- Only response received has been through his secretary , no direct response from Mr. Sartor
- Letter was also CCed to Alan Jones- no response

Action - Shaun to write follow up letter

6.0 Rockdale City Council Boundary Challenge

- Letter to Frank Sator
- No response from Frank Sator
- Rockdale council could lose \$1.5 million
- Council would like support shown by way of writing letters

7.0 Street Cleaning

- On Saturday 3rd April street cleaned and scrubbed
- Looked great but dirt was left loose and not washed off

Action – Maria to check

8.0 Krispy Kreme

- Maria, Rami and Shaun met with representative from Krispy Kreme
- Krispy Kreme opening shop in Mascot
- Krispy Kreme operate By way of community involvement
- Maria to represent Rockdale Community to liaise
- Info sheet handed out

9.0 2004 Launch-Recap and Suggestions

- Launch was good
- Turn out of 60 people from council and businesses
- There was reflection of 2003 and what to look forward to in 2004
- Examples shown
- Info sheet was handed out- Extra copies are available from Maria

10.0 2004/2005 Budget

- Shaun requested and ideas and quotes for upgrading town centre
- Next year will be looking at improvement grant for lighting budget \$25000
- Maria- employing
- Open for discussion

11.0 Appointment of Administration Assistant

- At full committee meeting it was decided that we needed help
- Discussed volunteers- not good idea
- Appointed Lani Fraser
- Minutes will be sent out the same day as meeting to all members

Action - Lani to do

12.0 Website Update

- Business could sponsor a meeting \$100 price being negotiated

Action- Maria to give Craig a list of everyone's emails and web addresses

- Have the floor for five minutes and promote their business and any promotions
- Keep the money in Rockdale
- Website received 48 hits in March
- Hits continue to grow

- Updated picture of Rockdale and new gallery section
- Online poll
 - Daily 22%
 - Weekly 39
 - Monthly 28%
 - Never 11%
- Website statistics given out
- Planned updates for website - increased exposure to Rockdale business
 - Updated minutes from today's meeting
 - \$80.00 inclusion on site for Members

Questions from the floor- Paul DeMaria asked if anyone has looked at his site

Action- Craig to find out

13.0 Council Update

- **Refer report below**

Comments from the floor

- General discussion about Traffic
 - How many people been hurt
 - Inconvenient to public
 - Biggest crossing
 - Removal of one more viable
 - Removal of none is better

Action- Maria to report to council chambers disagreement

- Bus Service
 - Rockdale to be divided into two sections
 - Meeting to be held – can chamber attend?
 - Already losing business

Action- Maria to investigate

- Shop front grant
- 7 ways upgrade

Questions-

David Graham- Is Masonic Temple being turned into Library?
What's happening?

John Brandenburg - Council brought land, surveys show public don't want library to be paid by developer, Council is looking into other options, if not in Bay St-there will be a proposal for that site, we don't know what that will be.

John Dickson - Road in Bay to Chapel same road for Library

John Brandenburg - Unfortunately Council keeps changing their mind even though there is a vision for the area. We will keep in contact.

14.0 General Business

John Dickson – have Elections been finalized

John Brandenburg - Declared today

6 council members continued, 9 new council members

First meeting 14 April 7, 2004

Zahwat Hoballah - Light Boxes why are they off?

Makes big difference when they on

Action- Maria to educate shop owners

Nazym Salib - parking why only short term parking and not long term parking
Commuter parking should be mad into multilevel parking complex
Shaun Fraser-gave run down of parking and past issues

Zahwat Hoballah - new issue Air traffic Noise
People hold back from having business in Rockdale due to noise
Noise is affecting our business
Can we lobby? Federal member

John Dickson - Noise has gotten better in the last 5yrs

John Brandenburg - We should be asking the government when are they starting and finishing new airport

Zahwat Hoballah - We should lobby

Darwin Luhur - Catalogues and advertng- Chamber should negotiate on behalf of business for price of delivery for letterbox drop.

Action - Shaun to investigate

Meeting closed 8.55am

**ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL UPDATE
PRESENTED TO THE ROCKDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Wednesday 7th April 2004**

Continued - 13.0 Council Update

1. Traffic Committee Update

The below traffic issues are taking place over the next month.

- Local Macedonian community have requested that Frederick street be closed this Friday and Saturday for Easter celebrations.
- Removal of the pedestrian lights between Bay and Geeves is being considered. It has been suggested that such a change would improve pedestrian safety in the area. This will also mean that a pedestrian fence will be put across the Princes Highway.
- Another suggestion has been tabled - removing one set of lights (south set) and leaving one crossing.
- Your opinions are welcomed. Any comments?

2. Review of Bus Services in NSW.

The State Government are currently reviewing their bus roots and contracts (both public and private) throughout the state. A proposal has been sent to Council that will divide our City into two, creating a boundary at President Avenue

This means that when the new bus contracts are tendered, a bus root will not be able to cross this boundary. Meaning that areas such as Sans Souci, Ramsgate, Kogarah and Monterey, who currently have services to Rockdale, will be now taken to Hurstville.

This proposal also sketched out 10 strategic areas, in which Rockdale is not included.

Council is lobbying this proposal and needs your help. Council have contacted the Hon Frank Sartor and the Minister of Transport for a meeting. Please refer to report that illustrated the effects of this proposal to both business and the greater community.

3. Rockdale Town Centre Shop Front Improvement Grants Program

Applications will be open again in May 2003. Applications forms are available today or on the web site.

The following businesses have completed their improvements.

- Dickson's Shoes and Fashion - 522-524 Princes Highway - New light boxes and signs under awning.
- Buffet Coffee Lounge - 488 Princes Highway - New awning signage

4. Under awning Blinds and Hooks.

Several businesses south of Bay street will have their awning blinds replaced and hooks removed as part of our improvement program over the next month.

5. Local Supplier List

A local supplier list will be created where local businesses will be able to advertise their services to other businesses. This could include: catering, accounting, improvements etc.
If your interested please let me know.

6. Parking Short Term Goal - Audit and where to park ads.

A parking audit will be conducted over the next month which will audit each shop keepers parking habits. As discussed in previous meetings we need to encouraged business people to park further away from the centre.

Once this audit is completed 'Where to Park in Rockdale' signs and flyers will be created for our customers.

7. The Seven Ways Development

Progress documentation drawings for the Seven Ways Plaza for review and comment will be presented to the committee at their next meeting. Updates will be presented at the next Chamber meeting. .

HAPPY EASTER

