

GRIFFITH BUSINESS CHAMBER INCORPORATED | Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 | Quest Apartments | 6.00pm

## MINUTES

Meeting opened:

**APOLOGIES:** Chris Sutton, Pat Pittavino

**ATTENDING:** Paul Pierotti, Amanda Quarisa, Josh Nadzielski, Denis Conroy, Sky Han, Dean Owen, Greg Collier.

### **1: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Read & accepted as being a true and correct version of events.

**Moved:** Denis Conroy

**Seconded:** Josh Nadzielski

**Motion carried**

Sky Han raised discussions about MYOB live and queried the wording of how it was minuted in regards to ownership of the program once purchased.

### **2: BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

NIL

### **3: CORRESPONDENCE IN / OUT: Since last Executive Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

- In**
- Beyond Bank Statements / My Credit Union Statements
  - Invitation from Beyond Bank to attend Community Event – Paul attended
  - NSW Farmers Membership Card and information
  - Speak Up Newsletter – May 2018
  - Resignation Email from Kirsty Parish 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018
  - MLHD Business Breakfast Invitations for Tue 10<sup>th</sup> July
  - Letter from John Bishop Re: Water
  - Individual Exec's Invitations to attend Council Housing Forum on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018
  - NSW Health – Response letter re: Chamber's submission to Nurses Quarters
  - Speak UP – Newsletter June 2018
- Out**
- Membership Form to Speak UP – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018
  - Griffith Now Hiring Agreement form – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018
  - Letter of Support to Griffith City Council re: Country University Centre – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018
  - Griffith City Council – Submission re: Draft Delivery Program 2017/18-2020/21, incorporating the Draft Operational Plan (Budget 2018/19 Financial Year – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018
  - MLHD – Nurses Quarters Submission – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### **4: BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:**

Discussions were raised surrounding the MLHD Nurses Quarters Submission.

### **5: FINANCIALS**

Financials were emailed to Executive prior to meeting. Prepared by Treasurer Sky Han.

**Moved:** Dean Owen

**Seconded:** Josh Nadzielski

**Motion carried**

Denis Conroy abstained from voting.

Discussion raised about closing previous My Credit Union account. Denis to investigate with IT department with Beyond Bank if we can internally manage the dual account issue.

Also to look into approval of batch payments. Amanda is unable to approve Sky's batch payments, but Sky can approve Amanda's batch payments.

### **Financial Procedure**

Sky Han Presented a financial procedure for Executive consideration

#### **1. Custody of financial records**

- 1.1 Filing – all invoices received for payment to be scanned, saved and file name is the business which invoice received from and date of payment set up
- 1.2 Storage –once financial year ends MYOB back up file, filed invoices, bank statements and etc to be electronically filed and to go to storage or go to the public officer.

#### **2. Payment procedures**

- 2.1 Set up payment-invoice received will be scanned or taken photo then filed and set up for payment
- 2.2 Approval of payment - match details to invoice and approve payment

#### **3. Payment approval**

- 3.1 Anything over \$2,500 spending on a single invoice require pre-approval at the executive meeting or approval required by at least three of executives
- 3.2 Any donations and contributions to be approved at the executives' meeting

#### **4. Data Base – GBC members only**

- 4.1 Keep a single data base for GBC members on web based storage – i.e. drop box, if any changes to client contact, only change made to this master data base  
To be discussed further on logistics

#### **5. Budget**

- 5.1 Prior to any major chamber event, budget to be set and discuss details at the executive meeting

Amanda and Sky to discuss logistics and practicality of suggestions.

**Moved:** Sky Han

**Seconded:** Dean Owen

### **6: AGENDA**

#### **Grow Our Own**

Kirsty was the delegate from Griffith Business Chamber attending Grow our Own Meetings. Kirsty Parish resigned from Griffith Business Chamber on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018, therefore we need to replace her position.

Paul has asked the Executive to consider volunteering on this committee.

#### **Business Awards**

A very successful event with 33 submitted entries for the NSWBC Categories. 7 additional entries were not completed and not submitted into the awards for various reasons. The Area News Local Customer Service award attracted substantial entries and was well received by the community. The Local Business Person of the year had 9 entries. 244 people attended the awards night which received positive feedback. Overall it was a hugely successful event which motivated the business community, however the NSWBC process has flaws which need to be addressed.

Amanda to prepare a feedback letter to NSWBC.

### **Membership Renewal Update**

Sky Han emailed reports through to the Executive. Membership renewal going well. Further assessment required towards end of July.

Amanda has looked into payment of memberships online through 'Square'. They don't support non for profit organisations at this stage. Working on an online membership form. Still need a cost effective method of online credit card payment.

Denis to investigate if Beyond Bank can provide a cost effective method of memberships paid via credit card.

### **Housing Forum**

Discussions were raised around the Housing forum.

Community feedback about Council's Housing Forum was- why didn't they know it was on and why was it invite only? Chamber believe the general community should have been invited as they are the ones who are most affected by the housing crisis. The powerpoint presentation can be view online [here](#).

Upon reflection of attending the forum, the information didn't address the immediate and very serious Housing and Rental crisis that has been negatively affecting our entire community for some time.

Most of the earmarked land for development is many years away.

Council can make a huge contribution to resolving "The Housing Crisis" by immediately developing themselves ratepayer owned DA approved and ready 1A Lake Wyangan 180 blocks.

Council needs to show leadership and ownership of this problem and develop this land to be real estate sales ready themselves, as originally planned when they purchased it around 20 years ago.

Council needs to pull out all stops to incentivise developments and get housing going immediately;

- cutting red tape.
- expediting DA approval times.
- significantly reducing development contribution fees.
- extension of 94A tax rebate, which was voted back in on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- immediate investment into arterial infrastructure.
- assistance with improving timeliness of Essential energy.
- low cost housing grant assistance.
- Improved consultation / communication with Chamber and Developers.
- more detailed planning and acknowledgement in short and long term strategic plans.
- Council develop 1A Lake Wyangan - 180 master planned blocks to be ready for real estate sales immediately.

Denis voiced concerns about the factuality but refrained from indepth discussion due to conflict of interest.

### **Proposed Member Events**

- a) Discussed Ian Parkers offer to present a Sales Leadership Course to Chamber Members. At this point in time the committee don't see a market for this type of presentation at the moment.
- b) Jemena is running a 90-minute research focus group for its commercial gas users in the Riverina. They are looking for 12-15 participants in total and each would be paid \$175 each in the form of a Coles Myer gift card for their time. They are looking for commercial users of gas in the Riverina and thought our members would be interested. It would be in a group workshop format with lots of interactive activities about gas pricing. They are hoping to attend in Griffith on Friday 24 August.

The committee decided they were happy to promote via Chamber's facebook page

## **Submission to Office of Local Government**

Pat Pittavino & Paul Pierotti met with Austin Evans MP to discuss the Chamber's Submission to GCC Draft Delivery Program 2017/18 - 2020/21 Incorporating the Draft Operational Plan (Budget) for the 2018/19 Financial Year. All parties agreed to wait for official response from Griffith City Council so that Chamber - with the assistance Austin Evans to make official complaint of The Office of Local Government.

## **Gross Regional Product for Griffith LGA**

GRP Griffith figures radically and retrospectively adjusted in May 2018 from all previous available data. Either they were radically wrong with all data up to 2016 or wrong now with 2017 adjustments. Phil Harding GCC Director presented at Mon 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 a 15 page report to Business & Major projects committee he said ; " he was shocked as us with radical change in reported GRP." He agreed that the reasons may explain some variance but hundreds of millions of dollars variance is excessive & retrospective changes caused distrust in accuracy over too many years. He committed to ask for a presentation from Aust Bureau of Statistics & Economy I.D to justify how an over \$200 million dollar variance could occur in reports at next Business & Major Projects Meeting in 2 months

2010 \$ 1571 billion Griffith GRP per annum (now retrospectively adjusted \$1724 billion) dropping each year to the current record more than 30 year low of  
2016 \$1391 billion (now changed to \$1685 billion in 2016) \$294 Billion change these are the only GRP data that was only available Councils Website  
<https://economy.id.com.au/griffith/gross-product>  
2017 NEW report Griffith GRP \$1724 per annum with a previous record GRP in 2006 of \$1792 Billion

## **Burrinjuck Dam**

Chamber were pleased to see that Chamber's submission to NSW Government water Inquiry has been adopted as a key recommendation;  
Recommendation 35 139 That the NSW Government:  
(a) conduct a feasibility study into the augmentation of Burrinjuck Dam, and  
b) subject to the findings of the feasibility study, construct a new dam wall or extend the existing dam wall for Burrinjuck Dam.

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Denis – asked when AGM was being held. Always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in October – being 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Greg – asked if Chamber have any bearing on immigration – more importantly Skill Labour 457 Visa's. Paul explained the past Chamber have made a submission on this topic. A lot of our members are affected by this and believes it's a worthwhile project to investigate – but it need government support. Suggested Greg to write a letter and with the help of Chamber to possibly arrange a meeting with State and Federal MP's to discuss.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

Next Executive Meeting: TBA

Meeting closed 8.10pm

Amanda Quarisa | Secretary