

MINUTES OF MEETING AT SYDNEY TOWN HALL

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY [2005], 2PM

WELCOME

Barry Goldman, President of the Pyrmont-Ultimo Chamber of Commerce, welcomed all the participants.

APOLOGIES

Elizabeth Elenius & John Brooks (Pyrmont Action), Lorraine Findlay, Narelle Thirkettle & Lalita Lakshimi (Harris Centre), Cheryl Clauson (Watermark Body Corporate), Drew Morrow (Friends of Pyrmont Point)

PURPOSE

Barry explained that the Chamber was interested in the development of the Pyrmont-Ultimo community, and that he had initiated this meeting with the aim of bringing together all interested community groups to work together to develop a strategic plan for Pyrmont-Ultimo and to apply for funds under the Community Grants Program. Apart from the general good of groups working together, the community would have more clout and more chance of success negotiating with the City Council, the RTA, etc, if the whole community could be represented by one organisation, and if the strategic plan was developed by all the groups working together.

MEETING RULES

Discussion – one at a time through the chair

Minutes – Mary Mortimer

GROUPS REPRESENTED

Ultimo Parents' and Citizens' (Bill d'Anthes) – 40+ members – incorporated?

Jacksons Landing Community Association (observer – Stephen Falkiner)

Pyrmont Progress Inc. (Bronwyn Connolly, Bruce Naphtali) – 30+ members – incorporated

Ultimo Village Voice (Paul Hannah, Mark Turner) – 20+ members - rules, not incorporated

Pyrmont-Ultimo Chamber of Commerce (Katherine Goldman) – 170+ members - incorporated

Pyrmont Action (Keith Johnson, Stephen Falkiner) – 40+ - constitution, not incorporated

Pyrmont Community Group (Jean Stuart, Juliette Churchill) – est 14 years, varied membership, issue-based – rules, not incorporated

Promontory & Macarthur Body Corporate (Janet Matthews) – 90+ members - incorporated?

DISCUSSION OF THE IDEA OF AN UMBRELLA ORGANISATION

There was a wide-ranging discussion of issues, including concerns about a steering committee (directing people); the need for it to be inclusive; the idea of a resource centre/clearing house for information others could also use; pros and cons of a formalised structure; the distinction between formalised and legalised (eg incorporated); the desire to have one strong group to liaise with Council and apply for Council funding; the value of sharing our intellectual property about the area, issues etc; how large an area to cover (Pymont or Ultimo/Pymont); lots of synergies/common issues.

AGREED: It was agreed that a formal group be established to encompass all the community groups in Pymont and Ultimo, while encouraging all the groups to continue pursuing their particular concerns.

NAME

Suggestions included Coalition of Ultimo Pymont (CoUP), The Ultimo Pymont Society (UPS), Federation of Ultimo Pymont (FedUP), Council of Ultimo Pymont Associations/Organisations (CUPA/CUPO), Coordinating Committee...

AGREED: To call the group The Council of Ultimo/Pymont Associations (CUPA)

STRUCTURE

The Chamber of Commerce could provide some initial funding, help with secretarial and publicity.

Incorporation: has advantages in dealing with money, seen as more formal and transparent, but do we need to handle money? We could make recommendations to Council and they could manage the money. Need to be inclusive. Formalised, not necessarily legalised.

AGREED: We agreed to wait and see whether we need to incorporate.

AIM: To include and empower all interest groups in Ultimo and Pymont to develop and implement a strategic plan for a vibrant, diverse and harmonious community of those who live and work here.

CO-CONVENORS: For the first six months (May to November 2005):

Bronwyn Connolly and Mary Mortimer

INITIAL MEMBERSHIP

The following groups to be included, plus others as we identify them:

(each group to have one representative on the Council)

Pymont Community Group

Pymont Action

Pymont Progress Inc.
Friends of Pymont Point
Ultimo Village Voice
Harris Centre
Mustard Seed Church
Catholic Church
Peninsula Church
Ultimo Parents and Citizens
Jacksons Landing Community Association
Promontory and Macarthur Body Corporate
Watermark Body Corporate
Pymont Ultimo Chamber of Commerce

MEETINGS

Once a month

Possibly in the Town Hall

ACTIVITIES

It was suggested that PPI be asked to agree that CUPA conduct the next workshop on 4 June in the Pymont Community Centre.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?: Convenors to set the next meeting date and place; draw up recommendations about how to proceed; email everyone to get ideas circulating; publicise the establishment of CUPA (including a press release to go The News and Sydney City Council); encourage participation in the Council and its working groups from as broad a cross-section of the community as possible.