



Minutes: VTA Meeting #06 2009

Tuesday, 9th June 2pm, La Vela

▲ = Action

▲ = Motion

Present: Janine Le Strange, Doug McNally, Baker Hardin, Kurt Carlson, Emma Shepherdson, Lucy Fa'anunu, 'Eveli Lavaki

Apologies: Bruno Toke, Gordon Allison

1. Minutes

- Minutes from Executive Committee meeting #05 accepted, Emma to email out to members.



- **Proposed:** Baker, **Seconded:** Kurt

2. Treasurer's Report

- Baker reported that VTA has a total of 32 members and a current bank balance of \$6,177.87.
- Langafonua Handicrafts Association has recently renewed its membership.

3. Matters Arising:

- Member Certificates

- Baker has further developed the certificates; final changes were suggested by the committee



- Baker will finalise and organise printing and lamination for presentation at the GM

- Cost will be approx. \$4 per certificate, around \$128 to print all 32 certificates.



- **Proposed** to approve printing expenditure: Baker, **Seconded:** Kurt

- Tofua'a Tonga Fund

Vava'u Tourist Association
Email: vtavavau@yahoo.com
Ph: 70115 (TVB)
www.vavau.to/vta

- Janine reported that the TTF education campaign was underway this week in schools around Vava'u and included information on environmental conservation and marine life protection, as well as a tidy schools competition.

4. Correspondence

- Chathams Pacific and Galileo Program



- Letter to Chathams was approved via email, Emma to send to Russel Jenkins this week. Janine to provide email address.

5. General Meeting

- General Meeting will be held **Saturday 13th June, 2 pm at La Vela**

- Agenda was discussed and some items altered



- Janine to ask Allan if he will give a report on the Tofua'a Tonga Fund at Saturday's meeting.



- Emma to send out invites to Ministry representatives to invite them to Saturday's meeting.



- Emma to ask Sapate if we could borrow Langafonua's chairs and tables for Saturday
- All Exec Committee members to meet at 1.30pm to prepare for 2pm meeting.

6. Other Matters

- VTA Moorings

- Baker reported he had discussed the cost of deploying the moorings on land with Owen of Marnus. Owen has offered this service the last few years but VTA has not acted on it.
- He reported the cost to deploy 7 moorings would be a flat rate of \$2000 plus cost of skiploader on land (around \$300/hr). Overall cost for all 7 moorings would be around \$5000, a considerable proportion of VTA's current bank balance.
- It was discussed that VTA has had these moorings far too long. Now is the time to either spend the money and get them in the water, or another option is to sell them off to someone who will get it done. Either way, it is best to get the moorings out there for their original purpose of coral protection and providing a service to visitors.

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- ▲ - Baker will talk about these options at Saturday's General Meeting to let the members comment.

- Correspondence Hon Minister Paul Karalus
- Kurt raised the issue of correspondence sent by the Executive Committee to the Minister of Transport regarding the Small Boats Marina, in response to the Minister's call for comments after the meeting held 25/05/09.
- The correspondence was circulated to committee members and some comments received approving the letter. Letter was sent 05/06/09.
- The committee was worried about the last point on 'concerns' regarding the small boats marina that recommended the closure of the temporary bar.
- It was discussed and the committee members present agreed this statement was overstepping our responsibilities and had not been thoroughly considered at the time of sending out correspondence. As a larger representative group this comment was out of line. The committee has caused offense to the owner of that bar and needs to try and rectify the situation.

- ▲ - Committee agreed that we should write a letter of apology to Salesi Paea, cc'ing in Minister of Transport; as well as a letter to the Minister asking that our last comment regarding the closure of the bar be withdrawn; cc'ing in Salesi Paea.

- ▲ - It was also agreed that Kurt will call Hon Minister Karalus to discuss the situation.

- ▲ - Wording of letters was agreed on in the meeting, Emma to type up and circulate to committee members. Will need a good response from all committee members before sending out.

Next meeting: General Meeting Saturday 13th June, 2pm, La Vela.

Meeting Closed: 4pm
