



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 1 June 2009 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(Chairperson/Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
(Vice-Chairperson)	Egyptian Coptic Church
(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
(Publicity Officer)	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)
	ISOMER
	Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
	Temple Society Australia
	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
	St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave
	Boronia Church of Christ
	Uniting Church, FTG

GUESTS:

Cr John Mortimore	Knox City Council, Chandler Ward
Cr Joe Cossari	Knox City Council, Collier Ward

APOLOGIES:

Lisette Pine	Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer
	ISOMER
	ISOMER
	Uniting Church, FTG

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:

Peter opened the meeting at 7:30pm and provided the opening prayer.

1. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

- 1.1 Minutes of meeting of 6 April 2009: Moved for acceptance by Rowland, seconded by Mark – passed.
- 1.2 Eastern Region Councils on Interfaith Networks
The meeting planned for 20 May 2009 was postponed to a date to be set.
- 1.3 Parliament of the World's Religions – 3-9 December 2009
Network members can attend if they register and pay. Funding might be available from the Victorian Multicultural Commission or the Knox Community Development Fund, which closes in late July. All Network members are invited to look at attending various events.
Any further information to be sent to Peter at: secretary.kin@knoxinterfaith.org.au for Peter to distribute to other members.

1.4 Communication with Potential Network Members

Peter had sent an email to all people on the extended mailing list – a few people had responded, mostly asking to be taken off the list. Gwenda had made contact with the Sikh community and passed one potential contact to the Secretary to include in the mailing list.

1.5 Incorporation Discussion

Mark had provided inputs on this related to a draft re-write of the Model Rules, accompanied by the Model Rules, distributed prior to the meeting.

Rowland had commented by email, with particular reference to clauses 10(5) (suggesting we adopt 30% rather than 5%), 13(2) (noting Member organisations are represented by a nominated person) and 35 (regarding greater detail on the allocation of assets in the case of winding up the Incorporated Organisation).

A lively discussion was held at the meeting, with points raised including:

- Should all regular bi-monthly meetings be considered as Special General Meetings?
- Whether a separate President and (meeting) Chairperson was recommended. Different speakers spoke for and against this.
- Whether the full body of Network Members should be considered to form the Committee, or whether this should be limited solely to the Executive. Again, different speakers spoke for and against this.
- Contacting the Ballarat Interfaith Network, that has recently become incorporated.
- Whether our financial year should be the calendar year or normal Australian financial year.

Rowland foreshadowed a motion proposing a move to incorporation. This was not seconded as several Members stated they were not yet ready to vote.

An alternative motion was then moved:

Motion that the Knox Inter-faith Network agree in principle to incorporate under the Associations Incorporation Act, and request any suggested amendments to the draft rules and statement of purposes be submitted to the Executive by 30 June 2009 in order that a proposal with a view to adoption may be circulated at least 7 days prior to the August meeting.

- moved Rowland, seconded Gwenda – passed unanimously (by 9 voting members).

1.6 Schools Program

Riad noted that the subcommittee (Riad, Lisette, Pat + Maher and Cr John as volunteers) had been unable to meet – action carried over.

1.7 Treasurer's report

Rolf advised there was no change in finances since the last meeting. The current Network account balance was \$XXXX plus interest, plus one \$20 membership paid at the meeting.

1.8 Event Reports

1.8.1 *City of Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network Web-site Launch, 6 May 2009.*

The web-site was launched successfully with about 30 people present.

Put a link to the City of Greater Interfaith Network Web-site on the Knox Inter-faith Network web-site. (**Action** Peter)

1.9 Future items of interest

1.9.1 *Knox Council Session on Incorporation, 17 June (7-9pm)*

Mark recommended this session, having been to previous Knox Council information sessions. Mark and Maher agreed to try to attend.

2. PLANS FOR 2009

- 2.1 End of Year meeting – proposal to combine with Knox Multicultural Advisory Group
Members were not opposed to having a combined meeting, but wanted to confirm the purpose of the meeting before formal agreement.
- 2.2 Possible Presentation on Aboriginal Spirituality
This was discussed with various issues raised:
- Who would be seen as their representative by their own community?
 - Could we seek multiple speakers – including someone from the Inter-council Aboriginal Consultative Committee?
 - What is the Aboriginal population in the Knox Council area?
 - Knox Council has recently approved an Aboriginal healing centre in its boundaries, but this is currently under appeal. **Action** Cr John will follow up with possible speakers from this group at an appropriate time.
 - **Action** Other Network Members to follow up possible speakers.
- 2.3 Other Meeting Topics
Cr John mentioned a Bishop from Northern Israel as a possible speaker, along with a discussion on related topics.
Others suggested a continuation of the meetings where different speakers from different faiths talk briefly (5-7 minutes) on a specific topic, followed by a group discussion. Topics suggested were:
- After-life / Life to come – agreed as the topic for October, with Rowland plus three other speakers to present.
 - Marriage
 - Rituals

3. OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

Riad mentioned the JCMA Statement on Gaza, to which he is a signatory.
Action Peter to distribute the Statement – written comments are welcome.

4. NEXT MEETING

Monday 3 August 2009.

Sr Moya noted she would be unable to attend this meeting and registered an apology.

The meeting was closed at 9:10 pm.