



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 4 October 2010 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(Chairperson)	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
(Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
(Publicity Officer)	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
	Egyptian Coptic Church
	Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
	Uniting Church, FTG
	Uniting Church, FTG
Belinda Jordan	Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer

GUESTS:

Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church
Bayswater Uniting Church

APOLOGIES:

Temple Society Australia
Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region
(ISOMER)
ISOMER
ISOMER
ISOMER

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

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:

Peter (as Acting Chair) opened the meeting at 7:40pm and provided the opening prayer.

1. GUEST SPEAKER: RABBI AVIVA KIPEN, (PRESENTING ON BEHALF OF THE BUILDING CITIES OF HARMONY, INC.)

Peter introduced Rabbi Aviva Kipen. Members then introduced themselves to Rabbi Aviva.

Rabbi Aviva started with an exercise to have the Members and Guests present put themselves on a spectrum from progressive to conservative. This emphasised the need to recognise and respect that each of the major religious groupings has their own range of interpretations, beliefs and practices.

Rabbi Aviva provided some of her background and faith journey to highlight the importance of not judging people or relying on a simple label to put people in a box.

Rabbi Aviva then delivered a presentation on the Building Cities of Harmony, Inc. She explained how they were set up as a lead up to the Parliament of World Religions. They have developed a model to enable them to have a dialogue with Victorian Local Government Authorities, which they see as key partners in enabling the creation of a viable inter-faith/multi-faith environment. Their symbol is of a three-legged stool representing three groups – councillors (as elected officials), community (the members of the council area) and the council officers (employees).

The organisation will be running a workshop on a working day in March 2011. The goal is to encourage a balanced model across the three stakeholder groups to ensure that the process of interfaith dialogue and community formation moves the cities involved forward with all stakeholder groups involved. The event will be advertised through the VLGA (Victorian Local Governance Association) web-site.

2. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

- 2.1 The Network discussed the situation faced by the former Member representing the Boronia Church of Christ, whose community was broken into and equipment stolen.
ACTION: Peter to write to Rod on behalf of the Network conveying that our thoughts are with him and his community.
- 2.2 Minutes of meeting of 2 August 2010:
No change. Minutes moved for acceptance: Mark; Seconded: Gwenda. Approved.
- 2.3 VMC Schools Program
Gwenda reported that VMC decided to fund JCMA directly and not KIN. However, they may consider providing some funding to KIN – they are considering this.
- 2.4 Knox Festival
Mark and Gwenda have had various discussions with Council. Peter distributed the information prepared by Mark for review at the meeting. Mark discussed the information, emphasising that it will only work if there is significant support by the communities represented by Members of the Network. He described the purpose of the banner, which would require funding.
DECISION: The Network will seek to participate – Members to explore participation with their own community. We will seek to do this for one day only – being the Saturday.
DECISION: We will seek to use the Temple Society's marquee if it is available and suitable. We will seek one 10 Amp, single phase electricity outlet and chairs.
DECISION: We will seek funding for the banner, but not procure it without obtaining external funding.
ACTIONS:
1. Mark to complete and submit Expression of Interest, including the decisions above and asking for inclusion of the Council's Public Liability Insurance cover.
2. All Network Members to check whether their respective community is interested in participating and respond to Mark as soon as possible.
3. Network Members can also seek to approach other members.
- 2.5 Forum on Middle East
Peter noted that the discussion had continued on email and that there was a range of views on whether to proceed. Riad has organised for a meeting with Professor Joe Camilleri to discuss the possible event on either Tuesday, 26 October (1pm) or

Thursday, 28 October (5:30 or 6:00pm). Tuesday is difficult as it is a Council meeting. Rowland and Mark can attend the session on Thursday.

ACTION: Peter to inform Riad of this decision; Riad to confirm. KIN Executive to progress this further based on the feedback from the meeting, as the VMC funding round closes in December.

- 2.6 Mark and Gwenda noted that Rolf did receive a VMC Award in the 2010 round. Network Members present congratulated Rolf on the award.
- 2.7 Treasurer's Report: Mark reported the current balance is \$XXX. Mark reported on the (slow) progress to KIN obtaining income tax exempt status.
ACTION: Mark to confirm that the reconciliation for the Community Development funding relating to the brochure has finally been completed.

3. EVENT REPORTS

- Mark reported on the VMC Multi-faith Day – InterAction is a young adults' group acting in the interfaith area. (Refer www.InterAction.org.au)

4. FUTURE ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Multi-faith Disability Inclusion Project, 19 Oct – Belinda hoping to go
- City of Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network's Annual Gathering, 20 Oct – Noone was able to commit to going – one ticket provided to Belinda in case she can attend.
- Buddhist Council of Victoria's Winter Solstice Festival, 4 Dec – Gwenda to attend.
- Multifaith Future Leaders Program, 21-23 Feb 2011 – Recommended for Network Members to discuss with their community.

5. CONCRETE PLANS FOR 2010 / 2011

- The joint meeting of KIN and the Knox Multicultural Advisory Group will be on Monday 29 November, starting at 7pm for dinner; with meeting 7:30-8:30pm. Network Members are asked to consider what topics they might want raised and inform Belinda Jordan by email. KIN will meet after the joint meeting for an hour.
- AGM – 7 February – agree program for the year; canvas ideas beforehand by email.

6. MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST

- Eastern Metropolitan Region Interfaith Forum Questionnaire - Peter to complete; Belinda to send minutes from last EMR Interfaith Forum meeting.
- Belinda showed the award won by the Knox Council from VMC for Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria – Organisations, presented for the Knox Festival. Network Members congratulated Council and all involved for the award.
- Gwenda mentioned a query from Alexandra White from The Leader on multi-faith trends. Gwenda to respond.
- Publicity will also be possible in the *Bayswater Buzz*.

7. NEXT MEETINGS

Joint meeting of KIN and KMAC – 29 November

Meeting closed at 10:00pm.