

Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Tenants and Site Development Committee (TSDC) Meeting

Tuesday 1 February 2011 at 12.30, Community Room

Present: Charlotte Allen (Chair), Daina Biezaitis, Anthony Cullen, Robyn DeVries (RV), Toulia Karayannis, Rick Matear, Helen Punton, Prem Reghunath, Arnie Salinas, Mike Smith(MS), Ilona Toplcsanyi, Elle Watson, Steve Miller joined at 1.10pm and read short statement (see below), Steve Johnson joined at 1.25pm

Apologies: Maggie Maguire

Vision/Mission: Two written responses to the vision statement draft were received. RV's suggestion to include the term 'lively' was noted. MS will revise draft.

The concept of the Convent being an 'incubator' was discussed and there was general agreement this term should not be included in the vision statement.

Draft vision currently covers 'people', 'finance', 'governance' and 'heritage'. It was suggested it should have a fifth statement to cover 'culture'.

ACTION: MS to redraft vision statement to include 'lively' and 'welcoming' and a fifth 'prong' around culture

ACTION: New words to be circulated to tenants and discussed at the Board meeting on February 14^t

Governance: It was agreed that tenants will continue to have the option to make a submission to the Governance committee but in the meantime the TSDC will continue to provide an avenue for direct dialogue with Board.

The ACF Board will issue a communication to all tenants after the quarterly formal Board meetings.

There was a discussion about the Board member selection process, the skills matrix that helps identify any gaps in skills, recruitment to fill those gaps.

The recruitment process of Board members employs ALL networks including the TSDC and external recruiters. Only members of the Governance Committee can approach potential new Board members. The Governance Committee also looks to address balance in ethnicity, sex and age of members of the Board.

Thoughtful suggestions for new Board members can be emailed to the Chair of the Governance committee, Sally Romanes via info@abbotsfordconvent.com.au

ACTION: Matrix of Board skills to be provided to TSDC

Other Business: There was a general discussion about the Convent's relationship with the new State Government (invitations sent to all new members as well as the Premier). It was suggested that an event could be organised around a visit, this was referred back to the ACF office.

Steve Miller said he had heard from a friend at *The Age* that an article in A2 this weekend would quote an internationally successful Australian musician as stating the Abbotsford Convent was run by people who thought they understood the arts but in fact had no idea. Steve said the Board and management should "pull their finger out". He then left the meeting abruptly before the matter could be discussed in his presence. Steve's visit led to a discussion about the wide range of views about the convent because of the nature of the facility and its communities, the importance of listening to all views and acting in the best interests of the whole community.

There was also a discussion about the role of the TSDC as forum for suggestions from the wider tenant community and the expectation that provocative and creative views will be shared. It was noted that all tenants are welcome to join the TSDC to add comment but it was suggested that those wanting to attend, bring themselves up-to-date with past meetings via the website.

Timing of meetings: Following a brief discussion about the timing of the TSDC meeting it was agreed to leave this at 12.30pm.

Meeting concluded at approx 1.40 pm

Next meeting Wednesday April 27 at 12.30 pm. (Arnie's offer to provide lunch was accepted with appreciation)

Addendum: *Michael Smith and Anthony Cullen visited Steve Miller two days after the meeting to discuss his concerns. Steve said the comments he read were not made about the Abbotsford Convent Foundation, but were made about another arts organisation in an article that had already been published.*