

Minutes from the Futures Committee Meeting

held in the Viking Hall 07.03.1994

Present: John Rasmussen, Bob Scott, Finn Nielsen, Kurt & Grethe Rasmussen, Knud Kristensen, Viggo & Mona Andersen, Lise & Bjarne Elowsson, Jesper & Inger Nielsen, Lars Kristensen, Christine Rasmussen, Rita & Niels Jaegersborg, Cris Hammond, Jorgen Holgersen, Visse Hopley, Karen Rattenbury, Lene Scott.

Apologies: Svend & Christina Jensen, Carsten Dansted, Grete & Edmund Rendtslev.

The President Rita Jaegersborg welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.45pm. John Rasmussen, Chairperson of the Futures Subcommittee then took the floor and after welcoming everyone present, asked the meetings' permission to remain as Chairperson for the evening.

John outlined the reasons for the recent survey - to gather information from the members as to what direction they wished the club to take. 400 surveys were sent out and 125 were returned. The main intention of the survey was to encourage comment on the direction for long term planning and for the continued growth of the Society. It was not meant to imply that Parnell and Valhalla be sold. It was felt however that the majority of the members are happy with the direction that the present committee and the club were heading.

PARNELL PROPERTY:

John said that the Sub-Committee needs to be aware of what the members want - hence the survey - and how the Society has changed. Also what the members want to use the Function rooms for now and in the future. There definitely seems to be a need for split function rooms and improved parking.

Burgundys has a 3 + 3 year lease and the Club needs to use this time to decide on what the members want to do with Parnell.

Regarding the parking, the Sub-committee need to check with the Catholic Church to see if the Club can use their parking or alternatively try to come to an arrangement for access to the Parking Building across the road.

Suggestion was made that long term Club activities could be moved back upstairs and convert the Viking Hall into shops or a restaurant. The Club needs some income to enable the club to function along its current lines. Any alterations to our building needs to be checked especially with regard to the Building Codes and compliance with the Fire Regulations. The rent from 3 to 4 shops at present would easily replace the income from Burgundys. The Club needs to be careful about putting all their eggs in one basket. The future of retail in Parnell is uncertain.

The other alternative suggested was to move to new premises, allowing for easy access (close to Motorway), safer and easier parking, green outdoor area. The area to consider would be between Parnell, Newmarket and the Bridge. Any shift though would probably have to be financed through income from Parnell.

A suggestion from the floor was to check with the Council as they often have facilities available for long term lease at reasonable rates for Cultural or Social Clubs.

CONCLUSION:

Investigate - a) Better utilisation of Parnell property with club usage in mind especially with regard to better parking.
b) Alternative Club Room Venue.
c) Alternate Income.

VALHALLA:

The general opinion from the Survey was that most members were against selling Valhalla, and were keen to improve the property. Suggestions were made for private units and a Games Room.

The Games Room could come out of the Annual Expense at Valhalla and will be left over to the Valhalla Sub-committee.

Valhalla is gaining in popularity and over the summer months especially is quite heavily booked. It was felt that the addition of separate units would spoil the special atmosphere that the shared facilities create. However it would make things more comfortable, especially for our older members if some of the rooms could have ensuite facilities.

Another suggestion was for a second holiday place, support was shown for this in the survey, perhaps Skotel type accommodation, where we could negotiate renting units for our members, perhaps at Taupo or Coromandel.

CONCLUSION:

In the immediate future there is a need to check on the cost of building on units with ensuite facilities and compare this with feasible income. To upgrade the Ladies Shower and Toilet Area. To check with the Rodney City Council as to what can and cannot be done with regard to sub-dividing and/or adding other units, especially with consideration to sewage and the Access Road. Check on feasibility of second holiday property whether as to purchase or Skotel.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Grete and Edmund suggested that the Society investigate acquiring a Rest Home-Hospital-Care Giving place for elderly and needy Danes. General feeling from the meeting was that a project such as this would tie up a lot of our funds for few members, whereas our money should be used for as many members as possible. An alternative would be to negotiate units in an existing retirement home where there would then be special facilities provided e.g Danish Food. This subject has had a lot of discussion in the past and at the time received very little support and the meeting was against the proposal. Comment was made that the Club should remember to look after the younger members as well. They are the future of the Club.

Bjarne asked that all matters looked at be closely evaluated on paper especially with regard to by-laws and any financial consequences especially tax etc.

In closing John thanked the members for their informative input and promised that the items discussed will be investigated in the coming 12 - 18 months.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm followed by Kaffe and Wienerbrod.