



Minutes: VTA Meeting #10 2009

Tuesday, 21st July 2pm, TVB

▲ = Action

▲ = Motion

Present: Janine Le Strange, Doug McNally, Baker Hardin, Kurt Carlson, Gordon Allison, Lucy Fa'anunu, Selu Fukofuka, Emma Shepherdson

Apologies: Bruno Toke

1. Preliminary Matters

- Due to exec committee members' time restraints meetings will be held every two weeks from now on

2. Minutes

- Minutes from Executive Committee meeting #09 accepted, Emma to email out to members.



- **Proposed:** Baker, **Seconded:** Doug

3. Treasurer's Report

- Baker reported that VTA has a total of 32 members and a current bank balance of \$6,189.87

4. Matters Arising

- Environment Week Donation
- VTA had discussed donating a bin to Environment Week but did not decide before the event, we could still donate a bin for rubbish collection in town if we wished
- Baker to contact Pino to ensure it will be collected if we do donate but the committee agreed to leave the donation for this year

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5. VTA Moorings

- Kurt tabled an assessment report from Riki regarding the VTA moorings
- There are 6 moorings blocks still in place (including the one not originally placed at Maninita) that have not been dragged off into deeper water, all of which need maintenance
- Baker suggested using The Moorings/VTA moorings set-ups(ropes, chain etc) that are spare in order to get these moorings operational again later this year



- Kurt to ask Riki for an invoice for the works undertaken



- Emma to email Beluga to clarify location of the 10th mooring

- Baker reported that 7 moorings have been laid since the last meeting – 4 in Port Maurelle and 3 in Vaka'eitu. Baker inspected these yesterday and there were 4 boats using them but the paint has already rubbed off the buoys so people don't know where to pay.

- Shane Walker has reported that The Moorings no longer want to collect revenue for VTA due to staffing commitments. They will continue to look after the collection from their own boats.

- VTA has already decided they did not wish to manage these moorings and will approach members if they are interested in putting forward management proposals to VTA

- In the meantime, it is important to collect money from boats using the moorings now.



- Baker to find out a way to mark buoys with number and VHF Channel and who is responsible



- Once identifiable, Baker will begin a round-up on the net each morning, and money can be paid to Emma at TVB Office



- **Proposed** Baker continue to get moorings rentals underway temporarily: Janine, **Seconded:** Kurt

6. Tourism Tonga

- Janine reported that Lole resigned from TT, and Janine was invited by the President to step in

- A meeting was held on Thursday and outlined a number of priorities for TT:

- Air NZ was considering pulling the LA – Samoa – Tonga flight. NZ Government has agreed to underwrite any loss with the condition that Samoa and Tonga actively market and promote tourism in their country. Samoa is already organised but Tonga is yet to

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work on this, TT has sourced funding now and is working on developing a strategic plan and marketing campaign.

- NZAid also looking to fund a CEO for Ministry of Tourism to assist the ministry

- ▲ - Tin Can News – VTA can provide a ‘What’s new in VTA’ section in TT’s Tin Can Newsletter. Emma to email members for info about new businesses, renovations and happenings in town to include in the short update

7. Ministry of Tourism Australian Roadshow

- VTA has nominated Emma to attend the Australian Roadshow as their representative in August

- ▲ - Emma to update presentation and slideshow for the Roadshow

- An allowance for food and expenses at AUD\$50/day was decided on for 4 days

- ▲ - **Proposed:** Baker, **Seconded:** Gordon

- The Ministry has asked for VTA members to put together packages that can be promoted at the roadshow and also for donations of prizes (including accommodation or meals etc) for raffles at the roadshows.

- ▲ - Emma to email members this week to get their packages/ prizes together for August.

8. VTA Office

- Computer needs to be connected to internet, require cable.

- ▲ - Baker to find cable for us, Kurt to install

- Signage for the office with the logo, email and slogan of ‘Tourism is Everyone’s Business’ needs to be ordered from Fab Signs.

- Would like to display the large whale info boards at the TVB compound on an outer wall.

- ▲ - Emma to ask Bruno/Sapate if it would be possible to bolt the display onto a wall.

- IFAW Inventory tabled, items currently stored in TVB Office.

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9. Digicel Sponsorship

- Digicel has offered to replace our VTA vinyl sign at the airport, currently in disrepair, if they can include a Digicel logo in the corner



- **Proposed** to accept proposal: Gordon, **Seconded**: Doug



- Janine to discuss with Lole

10. Other Matters

- Strategy

- V TA Strategy should fit into TT Strategy they are developing in Tonga

- Meeting with Parliamentary Representatives

- Meeting will be held this Friday, 24th July at 5pm at the Governor's Office with 6 Australian Officials and 3 Tongan Parliamentary Representatives
- The meeting is being held to discuss tourism in Tonga and all operators are invited. Emma to email info to all members

- Hosting Visitors

- Lucy raised the issue that it would be good for VTA to have a standard agreement when it comes to hosting visitors, representatives, wholesalers and travel writer etc. This would not only help TVB it would bring a better return for FOC offers from members.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 4th August 2pm, La Vela.

Meeting Closed: 3.35pm
