**Arirrki Aboriginal Corporation ICN:4637** 

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**PO Box 645** 

Alyangula NT 0885

Trading as
Spectacular Jumping Crocodile Cruises
Groote Eylandt Car Rentals

General Board Meeting Groote Eylandt Lodge Meeting room Alyangula.NT 8th January 2020

# **Meeting Agenda**

<u>Open Meeting</u> - opened by Russell (stand in, agreed by all) 6:42pm Phillip via phone from Darwin (message on voice mail to join at 6;45pm. No response) Vince - AWOL - Gregson Lalara (proxy)

Accept minutes from previous meeting

Accept previous minutes

Signed

Gregson, asked about Bruce's unapproved purchases from the previous minutes. It was explained that we will look to take it to ORIC after Emma goes through the expenditure versus Board approvals. The discussion went off topic and talk was directed toward gaining additionally funding. There was then a long discussion about obtaining funding via the ALC and GEAT. Willy will introduce the CEO to GEAT management. Gregson suggested talking to ALC about OTL funding. He thought there was about \$100K available to Arirrki?

Minutes accepted

Motion Russell

Second Willy

**Business arising** 

Election of new chairman.

Arirrki elects the Chairman for two years for each family. Hamilton represented his group for 18 months, Phillip finished the term for the past 6 months. The rule book states that the first meeting after the AGM the Board will elect a new chairman.

It has been suggested that Vince will be unreliable by Gregson and that is likely to be heading to Goal in the near future, and being on Bickerton makes him hard to get hold of. Gregson has suggested as Vince's proxy, that we skip Vince's family due to internal issues with the family, and move forward to Russell. We would then come back to Vince's family in two years, ensuring that all families have had equal chance to chair the Board meetings. There was was limited discussion as everyone felt that this seemed reasonable. Gregson explained the process to Abel in Language. Abel then agreed that this process was fair and just.

It was reminded that the Chairmans position is only to chair a meeting. All Directors have equal power. With information being sent to all directors, everyone has equal say. The CEO is looking to have a cheap mobile phone purchased for Freda Wurramarrba and have it set up with an email address for Abel's benefit. She will then ensure that he gets to see and understand all the actions and communications of the Board. Gregson will be sent future correspondence for the time being for Vince's group.

The Board Thanks Hamilton Lalara and Phillip Kennell for their time as chairman.

The Board unanimously agreed to support the motion to pass the chairmanship to Russell.

Motion Willy

Seconded Abel/ Gregson

#### CEO update

SJCC/GECR/Community fund

SJCC toilet block funding is in discussion with several sources. The last cupboards should go into the building next week and the process of final moving will occur.

GECR?. Philip is in Darwin with Therese. Emails are being forwarded to the CEO for bookings. The new printer arrived at Sea Swift Groote on Christmas Eve and is still waiting for pick up. Willy will arrange to get this to the office.

Assets disposal Bruce's Hyundai, SJCC old office and SJCC Bus. There is a buyer for the Hyundai for \$7000. This sale should occur shortly. Approved by the Board. The Bus will be sold in the near future, as will be the office. These should offset some of the additional costs on the new building. As Willys car still isn't fixed, and the condition of the car he is driving is very ordinary, it was agreed that Arirrki would make a gift of it to Willy for his work. When funds are available a cheap (under \$5000) car maybe purchased for Abel to use for Arirrki work.

Potential for GECR fleet reduction? Suggested reducing the GECR fleet down to around 15 more commonly used vehicles and sell older less used cars. The money will be held for potential replacements in the future, not returned to general revenue. Vehicles will be set for sale based on average market value, plus:/minus the cost of return to Darwin. The Board will approve each round of sell offs. This will reduce running costs for registration and insurance and mean that cars will be used more frequently, this ensuring greater return on investment. This is the first major step toward trying top make GECR more profitable.

Motion Russell

Second Arnold.

The community fund spending as been out of hand, with almost half of the years budget spent in just six weeks. It was agreed that all future requests for support should be judged critically and members should be encouraged to seek assistance from other sources first. All Directors in agreement.

Art Gallery update.

The plans are being final costed by the builders, and will include solar upgrades. The final sign off on the septic system for lands and planning is to be done tonight, which will allow the boundary issues to then be sorted prior to building. This has been a hold up for over a month. The CEO is hoping to have the final draft emailed to the ALC of the proposal before the last week of January.

Code of conduct for all Directors? Should directors have a written code of conduct regarding behaviour and expectations? It was agreed that Directors behaviour should be governed and expectations met. Like the CEO and employees, if Directors don't meet expectations, or behave in a way that benefits Arirrki, they should be fined or asked to stand down. This will be introduced with the upgrade to the rule book and bylaws. This will occur over the next few months. The members will be asked for input.

Actioned to be completed March/April 2020

CEO looking for leave end of March 2020 for personal development seminar in Brisbane. Wes will make sure that proper communications are in place for when this happens.

### Financial report -

Emailed out late December to directors.

### <u>Correspondence</u>

New Community support forms. To be distributed to all directors. Ask Freda to translate for Language version. All Directors given copies of the new forms. These will be copied and members can then go to the directors for forms. Abel will get Freda to translate the forms into language to make sure as many people as possible will understand it. Gregson has suggested that Directors should make sure their families understand the forms. The CEO has offered to set limits if family members are getting upset about the approval process.

Motion Russell

Second Arnold

Consent of interest holders form. From Department of lands and planning. This will give final approval for the new septic system at SJCC and allow the boundaries issues with crown land and NT land corp to be dealt with for the new art gallery site.

This will be signed by Willy and Russell before the CEO returns to Darwin tomorrow

CEO expenses.

Agreed that this would be emailed to all directors for approval. These have been waiting for almost a month by Phillip. Agreed that this should be approved asap.

Motion Willy

Second Arnold

Contract to re-engage Dynamic Financial Services for 2020? Or sign up for more expensive month by month and find other options?

A long discussion led by Gregson. The cost benefits of splitting the role or looking for another accountant was weighed up and pros and cons were discussed. It was decided that any major cost saving by splitting the role would most likely result in additional costs during the audit. It was agreed that any allegation of any wrong doing would have been picked up the auditor. It was decided that Emma is actually giving us value for money. The contact offer to extend her services for January until a decision has been made, has not been signed due to objections by Phillip. Technically Arirrki has no accounting services at the moment. Unanimously agreed to continue with Dynamic Financial Services for 2020. A letter of engagement to be signed and

sent tomorrow before the CEO returns to Darwin. Arirrki management will review the contracted position toward the end of August 2020.

**Approved Willy** 

Seconded Arnold.

Email from Phillip regarding the conducting of this meeting. (Received 8th January 2020) Should this meeting happen. Is the CEO brainwashing the Board?

There was a short discussion on this topic. The Board agreed that they generally understood governance better than Phillip as they all have a longer history with Arirrki or other Boards. No one agreed that their opinions have in anyway been swayed by the CEO, it was generally agreed by all directors that Arirrki is bigger than one person and that business needs to be dealt with regardless of Directors movements. It was also agreed that the CEO should be allowed to run the businesses without interference from Board individuals.

## Open business - from floor.

Gregson wanted to know when the CEO's contract would be available to sign tonight? He said that he felt it should be signed as soon as possible to lock in the CEO's term. The CEO said it would be followed up with All Aspect HR and emailed to the directors asap for negotiation, and hopefully signed at the next, meeting.

Set date for next meeting Possibly early February

Everyone thanked for attendance.

Close meeting by Russell at 8:45pm