
strengthening our community

Mr Jason Allen
Chief Executive
South Australian Motor Sport Board
PO Box V8
Kent Town 5071

5 August, 2009

Dear Mr Allen,

Thank you for meeting members of the SECRA Committee on July 24th.

We welcomed the opportunity at that meeting to discuss opportunities for the South Australian Motor Board to work with residents to ameliorate some of the negative aspects of the Clipsal 500 on those residents and on the Park Lands.

What follows is a summary of what we believe to have been an amicable and fruitful discussion.

- **The future location of the Constructors Camp**

While the SAMSB agreed with desirability of SECRA's proposal to relocate the Constructors Camp to the site of the now-removed SAJC stables (near Wakefield Street) it was noted that resolution of issues to do with sewage, water and power connections and site contamination need to be resolved for this to occur.

The SAMSB is discussing these issues with the Adelaide City Council and with the State Government. The SAMSB needs a decision on who would pay for reconnection of this infrastructure by September for there to be any effect on set up for the 2010 race.

SECRA believes that the costs for this relocation should not be born by ACC ratepayers but by the State Government.

SECRA will be writing to Mr Foley on this matter.

It was not discussed but SECRA assumes that if the contractors camp leaves its current position near East Terrace, for reasons of safety and aesthetics the SAMSB would not erect something else there in its place.

- **Protection of the mature River Red Gums** lining the Park Lands Trail (parallel to East Terrace between Halifax and Angas Streets)

The SAMSB shares SECRA's concerns about the trees in Victoria Park. In 2009 the SAMSB moved car parking away from under the trees onto the old horse racing track.

While SECRA welcomes this move, it retains some concern about root compaction resulting from “dongas” (such as the First Aid Centre) being put under the trees.

- **Reduction of traffic within Victoria Park during the "declared period"**

There was agreement that if the contractors camp were to be relocated, there would be a reduction in traffic movement within the park during the set-up and take-down periods.

It was noted that contractors do not always follow the detailed instructions given to them by the SAMSB with regard to traffic movements across the Park. The SAMSB will continue to monitor this and address it where infringements have occurred.

SECRA welcomed the introduction of golf carts and electric bicycles for use by SAMSB workers to minimise damage to the turf.

- **Expansion of public transport options** during the race in collaboration with ACC and the State Government.

Both SECRA and the SAMSB see the advantage of increased use of public transport and shuttle buses to get patrons to Victoria Park. Currently around 3000 car parks are provided on site and SECRA would like reduction in this onsite parking to be a key performance indicator for the environmentally friendly operation of future races.

- **Pedestrian safety on Wakefield Street and Bartels Road**

Concern was expressed by SECRA that in 2009 the pedestrian refuge on Bartel’s Road (part of the Park Lands Trail) was removed in mid January, before the Tour Down Under and not replaced until after the Clipsal 500 in March.

It was agreed that in 2010 it will be replaced following the Tour Down Under and not removed again until just before the car race.

- **Flight patterns for helicopter joy rides**

SECRA reported that many residents find the noise of helicopters directly over their homes one of the most intrusive elements of the race.

While it was noted that the number of these joy flights is likely to decrease over time, the SAMSB has agreed to request a change in flight path to incorporate less of the south east corner of the city by extending further towards Malvern. This compromise seems fair as it is the residents of the south east corner of the city who bear the brunt of the noise associated with the race and concerts.

The SAMSB believe that the only helicopter that hovers over houses near the track is the V8 Supercar helicopter taking television footage and there was little which could be done to ameliorate the impact of this on residents. SECRA is concerned about a situation continuing that causes such unnecessary disturbance and requests that the SAMSB request that such footage be shot from a hovering pattern over the Park Lands rather than over residences.

- **Communication strategies with residents including concert dates and times**

In 2010 the SAMSB will publish the starting and finishing times for the four evening concerts times.

Jane McDonough will be the person to liaise between the SAMSB and SECRA (and residents) relating to any concerns regarding adherence to the notified times.

- **Work schedule for 2010 race**

It was agreed that the SAMSB would provide a summary of the work schedule to SECRA.

The set-up for the 2010 race will begin in mid December. The point was made in discussions that many contractors do not work over the Christmas/January period. However, SECRA noted that some contractors do work during this period and often early on Sunday mornings.

- **Set-up and take-down periods**

SECRA noted the perception among many that it takes longer to take-down than set-up. This was disputed by Mr Allen who noted the increased safety issues implied by faster take-down times.

SECRA noted that sometimes there are only a few people working on the take-down and this created the perception that returning the park to the people of SA was not a priority.

SECRA suggested that it might be preferable and safer to have a 2-3 week period of denying other park users access to the site rather than up to 6 months of reduced amenity in the park - a situation that currently exists and which benefits neither park users and residents, nor the SAMSB.

- **Other issues**

SECRA reported that some residents plan to be away during the car race and would like early notification of race dates. Mr Allen reported that the dates of the Clipsal 500 cannot be finalised until the dates of the Melbourne Grand Prix are finalised.

It was noted that there have been examples of race patrons abusing residents and residents/park users abusing contractors. Both SECRA and SAMSB deplore the personal nature of such attacks and would like work together to reduce that conflict.

I trust the above precis accords with your understanding of the content and outcomes of our discussion and thank you again for meeting with us. We also appreciate the presence of Mr Brian Gleeson, Events Manager at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Anne Melrose
Chairperson

South East City Residents Association (SECRA)

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