

*FRIENDS OF THE  
CITY OF UNLEY  
SOCIETY INC.  
(FOCUS) RULES*

## Table of Contents

1.	<b>Name</b> .....	2
2.	<b>Preamble</b> .....	2
3.	<b>Objects or purposes of the association</b> .....	2
4.	<b>Definitions</b> .....	3
5.	<b>Powers of the association</b> .....	3
6.	<b>Membership</b> .....	3
7.	<b>The committee</b> .....	6
8.	<b>The seal</b> .....	8
9.	<b>General meetings</b> .....	9
10.	<b>Minutes</b> .....	12
11.	<b>Dispute resolution</b> .....	13
12.	<b>Financial reporting</b> .....	14
13.	<b>Prohibition against securing profits for members</b> .....	15
14.	<b>Winding up</b> .....	15
15.	<b>Application of surplus assets</b> .....	15
16.	<b>Rules</b> .....	15

1. **Name**

The name of the incorporated association is Friends of the City of Unley Society, (FOCUS), referred to herein as 'the association'.

2. **Preamble**

- The City of Unley contains some of the oldest inner suburbs in Adelaide.
- Within these suburbs is an extensive range of early uniquely South Australian architecture including settlers' cottages, row single and double fronted cottages, Victorian and Federation villas, bungalows, art deco and Tudor homes.
- These buildings represent a living testimony to the evolution of the history of South Australia and therefore constitute a precious and irreplaceable heritage that we believe must be protected for future generations.
- FOCUS is concerned that, under the present and proposed planning legislation in South Australia, no character house or garden, corner allotment, large allotment or established tree is safe from destruction.
- We promote the retention of character homes, readaptation of heritage houses and public buildings, and support planning policies and design guidelines that enable development while retaining the existing character, amenity, open space and vegetation of the City of Unley.

3. **Objects or purposes of the association**

The objects of the association are:

- 3.1. Promote planning policies that ensure retention of existing amenity: character, heritage houses and public buildings, gardens, open space, and trees throughout the City of Unley.
- 3.2. Influence development application assessment that insists on rigorous criteria to ensure only high quality and sympathetic development proceeds in the City of Unley.
- 3.3. Seek Council control over demolition of buildings built prior to WWII and significant trees with consultative, transparent, and accountable decision-making processes.

- 3.4. Establish and maintain the Society as a community group that asserts its views at every opportunity to all levels of Government that regulate development in the Unley area.
- 3.5. Such other matters incidental to the above objects as may be determined by the committee from time to time.

#### 4. **Definitions**

The terms and phrases used in these rules are as follows:

- 'Committee' means the committee of management of the association
- 'General meeting' means a general meeting of members of the association convened in accordance with these rules.
- 'Member', a member may be a natural person, a corporation or a community organisation.
- 'Month' shall mean a calendar month.
- 'The Act' means the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985*
- 'Special resolution' means a special resolution defined in the Act.

#### 5. **Powers of the association**

The association shall have all the powers conferred by section 25 of the Act.

#### 6. **Membership**

##### 6.1. **Types**

Any person who supports the objects of the association and agrees to be bound by its rules. The application for membership shall be made in writing and signed by the applicant. Upon the acceptance of the application by the committee and upon payment of the first annual subscription, the applicant shall be a member of the association.

##### 6.2. **Subscriptions**

- 6.2.1. The subscription fees for membership shall be such sum (if any) as the members shall determine from time to time in general meeting with the initial subscription fee set by these rules from incorporation to 1 July next following, at \$20 per member.
- 6.2.2. The subscription fees shall be payable annually on 1 July or at a time that the committee determines.
- 6.2.3. The subscription fee can be extended by a maximum of 3 months to new members who paid the annual fee between 1 April – 30 June. Members who were accepted and paid the annual fee prior to 31 March are required to paid the annual fee in full for the following year starting 1 July.
- 6.2.4. Any member whose subscription is outstanding for more than three months after the due date for payment shall cease to be a member of the association, provided always that the committee may reinstate such a person's membership on such terms as it thinks fit.

### 6.3. **Resignations**

A member may resign from membership of the association by giving written notice to the secretary or public officer of the association.

### 6.4. **Expulsion of a member**

- 6.4.1. Subject to giving a member an opportunity to be heard or to make a written submission, the committee may resolve to expel a member upon a charge of misconduct detrimental to the interests of the association.
- 6.4.2. Particulars of the charge shall be communicated to the member in writing at least one month before the meeting of the committee at which the matter will be determined.

- 6.4.3. The determination of the committee shall be communicated to the member in writing, and in the event of an adverse determination the member shall, (subject to 6.4.4 below), cease to be a member 14 days after the committee has communicated its determination to the member.
- 6.4.4. It shall be open to a member to appeal the expulsion to the association at a general meeting. The intention to appeal shall be communicated to the secretary or public officer of the association in writing within 14 days after the determination of the committee has been communicated to the member.
- 6.4.5. In the event of an appeal under 6.4.4 above, the appellant's membership of the association shall not be terminated unless the determination of the committee to expel the member is upheld by the members of the association in general meeting after the appellant has been heard by the members of the association, and in such event membership will be terminated at the date of the general meeting at which the determination of the committee is upheld.

## 6.5. **Register of members**

A register of members must be kept by the Secretary and shall contain:

- 6.5.1. The name, address and email of each member.
- 6.5.2. The date on which each member was admitted to the association; and
- 6.5.3. If applicable, the date of and reason(s) for termination of membership.

## 7. **The committee**

### 7.1. **Powers and duties**

7.1.1. The affairs of the association shall be managed and controlled by a committee which, in addition to any powers and authorities conferred by these rules, may exercise all such powers and do all such things as are within the objects of the association, and are not by the Act or by these rules required to be done by the association in general meeting.

7.1.2. The committee has the management and control of the funds and other property of the association and may authorise the chairperson and the treasurer or such other persons nominated in writing to act as signatories on behalf of the committee to any bank accounts.

7.1.3. The committee shall have the authority to authorise a member of the committee or such other persons as the committee may determine in writing to represent the association in relation to its affairs.

7.1.4. The committee shall have authority to interpret the meaning of these rules and any other matter relating to the affairs of the association on which these rules are silent.

7.1.5. The committee shall appoint a public officer as required by the Act.

### 7.2. **Appointment**

7.2.1. The committee shall be comprised of a President (chairperson), Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to six committee members and such other persons from time to time (not exceeding three non-voting persons at any one time)

who may be appointed or reappointed by the committee for a fixed period by reason of their particular training or skills.

- 7.2.2. A committee member shall be a natural person.
- 7.2.3. No other person shall be eligible to stand for election unless a member of the association has nominated that person at least 14 days before the meeting by delivering the nomination of that person to the secretary of the association. The nomination shall be signed by the proposer and by the nominee.
- 7.2.4. Notice of all persons seeking election to the committee shall be given to all members of the association with the notice calling the meeting at which the election is to take place.
- 7.2.5. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall all retire at the Annual General Meeting, but are eligible to be nominated for election to the same or a different position on the committee at that time.
- 7.2.6. The committee may appoint a person to fill a casual vacancy, and such a committee member shall hold office until the next annual general meeting of the association and shall be eligible for election to the committee.

### 7.3. **Proceedings of committee**

- 7.3.1. The committee shall meet together for the dispatch of business at least quarterly or at such other times as are regarded as necessary by the committee.
- 7.3.2. Questions arising at any meeting of the committee shall be decided by a majority of votes, and in the event of equality of votes the chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.

- 7.3.3. A quorum for a meeting of the committee shall be one half of the members of the committee and if less than a whole number, adjusted upwards to the next whole number of members.

#### 7.4. **Vacancies of committee member positions**

The office of a committee member shall become vacant if a committee member is:

- 7.4.1. Disqualified from being a committee member by the Act.
- 7.4.2. Expelled as a member under these rules.
- 7.4.3. Permanently incapacitated by ill health.
- 7.4.4. Absent without apology from more than four meetings in a financial year.
- 7.4.5. No longer the duly appointed representative of a corporate member.

#### 8. **The seal**

The association shall have a common seal upon which its corporate name shall appear in legible characters.

The seal shall not be used without the express authorisation of the committee, and every use of the seal shall be recorded in the minute book of the association. The affixing of the seal shall be witnessed by the chairperson and the secretary or such other persons as may be authorised in writing by the committee.

## 9. **General meetings**

### 9.1. **Annual general meetings**

9.1.1. The committee established under 7.2.3 shall call an annual general meeting in accordance with the Act and these rules.

9.1.2. The first annual general meeting shall be held within 3 months of incorporation of the association, and thereafter within five months after the end of its financial year.

9.1.3. The order of the business at the meeting shall be:

9.1.3.1. The confirmation of the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since that meeting.

9.1.3.2. The consideration of the accounts and reports of the committee and the auditor's report (if an auditor's report is required by the Act).

9.1.3.3. The election of committee members.

9.1.3.4. The appointment of auditors (if required by the Act).

9.1.3.5. Any other business requiring consideration by the association in general meeting.

### 9.2. **Special general meeting**

9.2.1. The committee may call a special general meeting of the association at any time.

9.2.2. Upon a requisition in writing of not less than 25% of the total number of members of the association, the committee shall, within one month of the receipt of the requisition, convene a special general meeting for the purpose specified in the requisition.

- 9.2.3. Every requisition for a special general meeting shall be signed by the relevant members and shall state the purpose of the meeting.
- 9.2.4. If a special general meeting is not convened within one month, as required by 9.2.2 above, the requisitionists, or at least 50% of their number, may convene a special general meeting. Such a meeting shall be convened in the same manner as nearly as practical as a meeting convened by the committee, and for this purpose the committee shall ensure that the requisitionists are supplied free of charge with particulars of the members entitled to receive a notice of meeting. The reasonable expenses of convening and conducting such a meeting shall be borne by the association.

### 9.3. **Notice of general meetings**

- 9.3.1. Subject to 9.3.2, at least 14 days' notice of any general meeting shall be given to members. The notice shall set out where and when the meeting will be held, and particulars of the nature and order of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- 9.3.2. Notice of a meeting at which a special resolution is to be proposed shall be given at least 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 9.3.3. A notice may be given by the association to any member by serving the member with the notice personally, by email as permitted by the *Electronic Transactions Act* or by post-delivery to the address appearing in the register of members allowing at least 2 additional business days to allow for delivery.

#### 9.4. **Proceedings at general meetings**

- 9.4.1. Five members or one half of the membership whichever is the greater present personally or by proxy shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any general meeting.
- 9.4.2. If within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting a quorum of members is not present, a meeting convened upon the requisition of members shall lapse. In any other case, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the time appointed for the meeting the members present shall form a quorum.
- 9.4.3. Subject to 8.4.4, the chairperson shall preside as chairperson at a general meeting of the association.
- 9.4.4. If the chairperson is not present within five minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, or he or she is present but declines to take or retires from the chair, the members may choose a committee member or one of their own number to be the chairperson of that meeting.

#### 9.5. **Voting at general meetings**

- 9.5.1. Subject to these rules, every member of the association has only one vote at a meeting of the association.
- 9.5.2. Subject to these rules, a question for decision at a general meeting, other than a special resolution, must be determined by a majority of members who vote in person or, where proxies are allowed, by proxy, at that meeting.
- 9.5.3. Unless a poll is demanded by at least five members, a question for decision at a general meeting must be determined by a show of hands.

9.5.4. A member being a body corporate shall be entitled to appoint one person, who shall not be a member of the association, to represent it at a particular general meeting or at all general meetings of the association.

**9.6. Poll at general meetings**

9.6.1. If a poll is demanded by at least five members, it must be conducted in a manner specified by the person presiding and the result of the poll is the resolution of the meeting on that question.

9.6.2. A poll demanded for the election of a person presiding or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately, but any other poll may be conducted at any time before the close of the meeting.

**9.7. Special and ordinary resolutions**

9.7.1. A special resolution as defined in the Act.

9.7.2. An ordinary resolution is a resolution passed by a simple majority at a general meeting.

**9.8. Proxies**

A member shall be entitled to appoint in writing a natural person who is also a member of the association to be their proxy, and attend and vote at any general meeting of the association. A body corporate member is appointed under 9.5.4.

**10. Minutes**

10.1. Proper minutes of all proceedings of general meetings of the association and of meetings of the committee, shall be entered within one month after the relevant meeting in minute books kept for the purpose.

- 10.2. The minutes kept pursuant to this rule must be confirmed by the members of the association or the members of the committee (as relevant) at a subsequent meeting.
- 10.3. The minutes kept pursuant to this rule shall be signed by the chairperson of the meeting at which the proceedings took place or by the chairperson of the next succeeding meeting at which the minutes are confirmed.
- 10.4. Where minutes are entered and signed they shall, until the contrary is proved, be evidence that the meeting was convened and duly held, that all proceedings held at the meeting shall be deemed to have been duly held, and that all appointments made at a meeting shall be deemed to be valid.

## **11. Dispute resolution**

- 11.1. The dispute resolution procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these Rules between:
  - 11.1.1. A member and another member.
  - 11.1.2. A member and the association.
- 11.2. The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute and, if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all of the parties.
- 11.3. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting the parties may choose to meet and discuss the dispute before an independent third person agreed to by the parties.
- 11.4. In this rule 'member' includes any person who was a member not more than six months before the dispute occurred.

## 12. **Financial reporting**

### 12.1. **Financial year**

The first financial year of the association shall be the period ending on the next 30 June following incorporation, and thereafter a period of 12 months commencing on 1 July and ending on 30 June each year.

### 12.2. **Accounts to be kept**

The association shall keep and retain such accounting records as are necessary to correctly record and explain the financial transactions and financial position of the association in accordance with the Act.

### 12.3. **Accounts and reports to be laid before members**

The accounts, together with the auditor's report (if any) on the accounts, the committee's statement and the committee's report, shall be laid before members at the annual general meeting.

### 12.4. **Annual returns**

The annual (periodic) return shall be lodged (if required) with the Consumer and Business Services, within six months after the end of each financial year. It must be accompanied by a copy of the accounts, the auditor's report, the committee's statement, and the committee's report (if required by the Act).

### 12.5. **Appointment of auditor**

12.5.1. At each annual general meeting, the members shall appoint a person to be auditor of the association (if required by the Act).

12.5.2. The auditor shall hold office until the next annual general meeting and is eligible for re-appointment.

12.5.3. If an appointment is not made at an annual general meeting, the committee shall appoint an auditor for the current financial year.

13. **Prohibition against securing profits for members**

The income and capital of the association shall be applied exclusively to the promotion of its objects and no portion shall be paid or distributed directly or indirectly to members or their associates except as bona fide remuneration of a member for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the association.

14. **Winding up**

The association may be wound up in the manner provided for in the Act.

15. **Application of surplus assets**

15.1. If after the winding up of the association there remains 'surplus assets' as defined in the Act, such surplus assets shall be distributed to any organisation which has similar objects and has rules which prohibit the distribution of its assets and income to its members.

15.2. Such organisation or organisations shall be identified and determined by a resolution of members in general meeting.

16. **Rules**

These rules may be altered (including an alteration to the association's name) by special resolution of the members of the association. This includes rescission or replacement by substitute rules.

The registered rules shall bind the association and every member to the same extent as if they have respectively signed and sealed them, and agreed to be bound by all of the provisions thereof.