Cupertino Gazette

Issued 24 January 2022

166th session

American Session
22 January 2022
Speaker: Larry Martin
Agenda: 166th Session Agenda

Delegations in Attendance:

1. Waterside Park
2. Bushistan
3. Atiera
4. Berry Empire
5. Englica
6. Ponderosa Hills
7. Surdam
8. Vurmond
9. West Sayville
10. Kerban
11. Aenopia
12. Lurdentania
13. Blazdonia

Discussions and Proposals:

First discussion: Nonprofit Act
Majority NOT in support of the act.

Member reports:

Waterside Park plans to open a government website and digital legislation library in the coming weeks.

The Avalon Institute is currently looking for senior staffers, journalists, and content directors.

Ponderosa Hills has been doing some work lately. I've opened up an Instagram page, to try to gain more in-person citizens, and we hope to start some sort of fundraising soon.

Blazdonia is set to start elections for Federal parliament in the next fortnight

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Discord: https://discord.gg/dE5MydTX6z

Site: https://cupertinoalliance.ca/

Issued 24 January 2022 by the Chair of the Cupertino Alliance.
Report any mistakes to Tyler Mullins (Darkstar1592#1047)

Session transcript:

[5:08 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: @Members @Provisional Members @Observers The 166th Session is starting, please state your presence.
[5:08 PM] Aidan Pierce- Bushistan: Bushistan is Present
[5:08 PM] Cameron - Atiera: Atiera is present.
[5:08 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Waterside Park is present.
[5:08 PM] Redberry - Berry Empire: Berry Empire is present.
[5:08 PM] Max I - Englica: Englica is present
[5:08 PM] Leon Montan - Ponderosa Hills: Ponderosa Hills is present
[5:09 PM] L. Caldwell - Republic of Surdam: Surdam is present.
[5:09 PM] Narodnaya Volya - Vurmond: Vurmond is present.
[5:09 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: West Sayville is present.
[5:10 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Today's session will be a short one, the agenda can be found here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UeEOd0UBI1Jre88qvKemgirVcyLN9su4
5:10 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: First up, the Nonprofit Act
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W-77vaOB9waD3mpGAwn5uiMovk3nf_7a
[5:10 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: The floor is open.
[5:10 PM] Cameron - Atiera: I urge all members to read my greviances and disaproval of this act here:
https://discord.com/channels/554799257643647005/554799257643647009/934542909582213160
[5:10 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: I absolutely disapprove of this act.
[5:11 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: It's worth noting that Tyler is planning to redraft this act based on Cameron's grievances.
[5:11 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: As do I. This alliance has no place being a non profit organization
[5:11 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: I concur heavily with the points raised by the delegate of Atiera.

[5:11 PM] Redberry - Berry Empire: I fully support this act.
[5:11 PM] Peter Stefanik - Kerban: I'm sorry but I kinda don't get it... What's the act?
[5:11 PM] Max I - Englica: I approve of the act
[5:11 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: Additionally, this is the wrong time to be making such a huge step. We are in the middle of an ongoing election.

This decision should be left up to the next administration.
[5:11 PM] Redberry - Berry Empire: Decorum.
[5:11 PM] Narodnaya Volya - Vurmond: I disapprove of this act
[5:11 PM] Cameron - Atiera: They didn't break decorum.
[5:12 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: There's a clear divide between the alliance but it is my wish that delegates vote against it.
[5:12 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: It can be found above, I think it's worth reading through.
[5:12 PM] Aidan Pierce- Bushistan: To me, if we have profit, people can do Micronationalism for a living
[5:12 PM] Aidan Pierce- Bushistan: And focus more on it
[5:12 PM] Logan Medlin - Aenopia: Aenopia is present.
[5:12 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Noted.
[5:12 PM] Cameron - Atiera: It proposes to turn the CA into an non-profit organization registered in Georgia
[5:12 PM] Redberry - Berry Empire: Seriously?
[5:12 PM] Narodnaya Volya - Vurmond: Is that really the point however?
[5:12 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: The state, not the country.
[5:12 PM] L. Caldwell - Republic of Surdam: I agree with the points made by the delegate for Atiera, I am not in approval of this act at the moment.
[5:13 PM] Leon Montan - Ponderosa Hills: I cannot bring myself to support this act. On paper, it would be a good idea, but there are far too many limitations on what we could do if this was enacted.
[5:13 PM] Redberry - Berry Empire: Could you elaborate @L. Caldwell - Republic of Surdam ?

I believe this act can bring many benefits.
[5:13 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: Mr Lieutenant Chair, this conversation is getting hard to follow, could we please get a little order.
[5:13 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Sorry.
[5:13 PM] Cameron - Atiera: Why does he need to elaborate? He was agreeing with me?
[5:13 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: Additionally, we do not benefit from this at all.

We are spending nearly ten times our highest recorded quarterly budget, for "benefits" that are of little to no use to us.

This is a... I believe the phrase is a 'white elephant'. Looks great on paper, but is of little to no use and is very expensive.
[5:13 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: Hear hear.
[5:14 PM] Leon Montan - Ponderosa Hills: I concur.
[5:14 PM] Redberry - Berry Empire: I'd like to know their opinion. Is it a problem, Cameron?
[5:14 PM] Cameron - Atiera: They have already given their opinion.
[5:14 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: It's been stated in formal, Cameron linked to it above.

[5:14 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park:
https://discord.com/channels/554799257643647005/554799257643647009/934542909582213160
[5:15 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: For clarity,

I doubt anyone here knows about the MicroWiki Foundation, but it was a confidential plan to turn MicroWiki into an NPO. I was involved in the planning, and thank god it didn't go through... It had several issues with it inherent from the beginning. This act purports majority of the same issues, which are but are not limited to—

a. an international organization (such as the CA) would require the NPO to be registered in each country it would apply to (i.e the website is registered in Canada). This makes us required to follow their laws on top of the American ones, making it more complex to comply with policies, and even moreover financial records.

b. "The club must not claim to provide goods or services to the general public." - we do exactly this. The CA is "committed to the development and improvement of member nations." We also include the abilities that a non-delegate/observer doesn't have, such as voting on applicants, acts, etc.

c. We are a micronational organization. Should we really be establishing ourselves in a macronation just to seem "legit"? It seems entirely redundant if the point is to be independent from these countries...

d. 501 c(7) requires someone to maintain financial and administrative records. While I'm sure someone would be willing, I am incredibly fearful and doubtful that they would do it properly. I'd margin that a strong majority of us in this org. are younger than 18 - the ones who are 18 have to live in the US or Canada, understand complex tax forms, and maintain an ongoing compliance with the departments.
[5:15 PM] Redberry - Berry Empire: I believe I can politely ask for a more specific details.
[5:15 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville:
e. Every NPO needs a board of directors. While the CA already has this, the issue with it is that all the directors on the board have to be 18 or older; this creates excessive bureaucracy and a way to have more infighting, basically disinheriting the position of Chair, Vice-Chair, Superior Judge, and the latter offices. I definitely do not want to be accountable to 18-year-olds who are running a NPO which is masked by an micronational org.

Making us an NPO just to serve the purpose of seeming professional and to be credible is entirely pointless-the benefits are heavily outweighed by the disbenefits, and I don't personally think it is the correct move to take within an organization. I have always maintained this position since the MicroWiki Foundation.
[5:16 PM] Rory - Lurdentania: Lurdentania is present
[5:16 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Regarding point b:
This is a bit of an interesting one. Any member of the general public can apply, but at current, only members would receive these services.
[5:16 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: I urge delegates to read my honourable colleagues statement in full.
[5:16 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Noted.
[5:16 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: So does point b necessarily stand?

[5:16 PM] Cameron - Atiera: As a social club, the members of it would be considered the general public
[5:17 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: How so?
[5:17 PM] Cameron - Atiera: How would they not be?
[5:17 PM] Kevin “Big Kev” Doan - Blazdonia: Blazdonia is present
[5:17 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: It is very clear that contrary to what some have stated.. we do not benefit from this at all. If anything, we lose out.

We are throwing away money, to lose a great deal of control over what the alliance can do. Its utterly bonkers.
[5:17 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Considering members can't instantly join, they need to go through a whole system and get voted in.
[5:17 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: This money could be better spent.
[5:17 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: We don't hand out our services to random, unrelated nations.
[5:17 PM] Cameron - Atiera: OK, Larry. Point B doesn't stand. Does that mean we should still go along with this idea?
[5:18 PM] Leon Montan - Ponderosa Hills: It really can be.
[5:18 PM] Cameron - Atiera: I listed 5 points.
[5:18 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: I concur with Mr. Alexander to a reasonable extent.
[5:18 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: Absolutely!

If we spent the money directly on our projects, as opposed to throwing it towards a white elephant.. the alliance would be leaps and bounds ahead.

I'd rather see practical outcomes, than see a fancy label that does nothing for our member states.
[5:18 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: D has already been sorted within the act itself, has it not?
[5:18 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: I'd argue that the Treasurer would need to know.
[5:19 PM] Cameron - Atiera: It does not matter if it has. I don't want the rest of the "organization" to be accountable to them.
[5:19 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Tyler already does this for other NPOs, and has stated he'd be willing to train any future treasurers.
[5:19 PM] Cameron - Atiera: It's a tax form.
[5:19 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: I concur with Cameron.
[5:19 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: Who would be the treasurer? We struggle to even find a safeguarding officer due to the limited pool of trustworthy adults.
[5:19 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: Indeed.
[5:19 PM] Cameron - Atiera: It is a tax form for a micronational organization.
[5:19 PM] Cameron - Atiera: Think about it.
[5:20 PM] Cameron - Atiera: Tax form and micronational do not mix.
[5:20 PM] Cameron - Atiera: Just like the rest of the act
[5:20 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Look, I didn't write the act, I'm merely a spectator on this issue, but as far as I can tell, Tyler would be the treasurer.
[5:20 PM] Peter Stefanik - Kerban: I agree with the non profit organization act
[5:20 PM] Cameron - Atiera: I know you didn't write the act, but when you defend it, I start to get annoyed.
[5:20 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: It’s quite honestly an insult to the spirit of micronationalism that we, self proclaimed nations, are being taxed by the damn United States!
[5:21 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: Aren't we a Canadian organisation?

[5:21 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: Yes. We are de-jure headquartered in Canada.
[5:21 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: The Cupertino Alliance is not a nation, though?
[5:21 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: Or Aenderia.
[5:21 PM] Leon Montan - Ponderosa Hills: I mean, maybe?
[5:21 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: It's... odd.
[5:21 PM] Cameron - Atiera: This argument creates obfuscation on obfuscation. This act creates a solution to a problem that does not exist.
[5:21 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: Hear hear.
[5:22 PM] Kevin “Big Kev” Doan - Blazdonia: I concur
[5:22 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: Though the term 'solution' is a bit of a falsehood.
[5:22 PM] Leon Montan - Ponderosa Hills: We have a .ca domain, and our titular headquarters are in effect Canadian, but there's not really anything more than that.
[5:22 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: The members of this alliance are the nations. We do not need to be taxed.
[5:22 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: We (the alliance)
[5:22 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: And the member states wouldn't be taxed.
[5:22 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: For clarity.
[5:22 PM] Cameron - Atiera: That doesn't make any sense.
[5:23 PM] Cameron - Atiera: If we became an NPO, people are still getting taxed.
[5:23 PM] Cameron - Atiera: Funds to the organization wouldn't be taxed.
[5:23 PM] Cameron - Atiera: That's all that tax-exempt means.
[5:23 PM] Aidan Pierce- Bushistan: If you want low-taxes, register in Delaware
[5:23 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: No. Don’t register at all.
[5:24 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: A major point of this is the timing.

We are currently underway the voting period of an election, the new administration of which takes seat in around a week.

Such a major change prior to a change is ludicrous. In certain countries, its considered illegal due to violation of electoral purdah.

It is best this is postponed to at least the first week of the next administration, as this is a major step. The next administration could have a very different view of where they want to see the alliance.
[5:24 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Full disclosure, I do not know how the US taxing systems work. I am not even American, I will pass on these complaints to Tyler, and I will see that they get addressed, however.
[5:24 PM] Cameron - Atiera: Thanks.
[5:24 PM] Cameron - Atiera: This exactly
[5:25 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: I concur.
[5:25 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: FWIW a redraft appears to be on the way and thus would go through another 3 readings in a week or two.
[5:25 PM] Cameron - Atiera: Ghastly.
[5:25 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Do we have any further statements from delegates on the issue?
[5:25 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: None from I.
[5:26 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Sertor, I will allow you the floor for your motion.
[5:26 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Provided nothing else gets brought up before I move on.

[5:26 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: I wish to make clear I wish to address this session on two matters, one a complaint, and one a motion.
[5:26 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: Yeah. I can't bear to debate a "modified" version of this act again. This is stupid.
[5:26 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Alright.
[5:26 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Moving on.
[5:26 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Sertor, you have the floor.
[5:29 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: I would first like to lodge a complaint against the alliance, specifically the chair office and regional ministries for what I have coined 'triple session saturdays'.

The way the sessions have have held for the past few weeks have proved to be incredibly inconvenient, and I now struggle to attend sessions at all. I now resort to using the session allegedly for the American Sphere, as I cannot even use the European Sessions anymore.

With all three sessions on the same day, combined with the three-reading system, the debate often feels rushed and forced, and bears the risk of having potentially unsavoury legislation forced through Parliament with little to no time for debate to sink in.

I plead that this system ends, and sessions are once again spread throughout the week.
[5:30 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: The floor is open for discussion.
[5:30 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: I request the floor.
[5:30 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: It is yours.
[5:33 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: I must concur with my honourable friend. As many of you may know, both I and Mr. Valentinus work in the hospitality industry. Saturday is prime time for restaurants, making it very much so inconvenient for many. In addition, I think it would be beneficial to re-introduce (controversially and disliked) the session timing form on a bi-weekly or more basis.

I yield.
[5:33 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: The floor is again open for discussion.
[5:34 PM] Cameron - Atiera: I agree with both delegates.
[5:34 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: I concur with the honourable delegates for Atiera and West Sayville. For members of the Alliance, myself included, the sessions being held all on one day have meant that chances of representation can plummet from twice in one week to none in two.
[5:35 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: So then may I ask the honourable Lt. Chair a question?
[5:35 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Of course.
[5:36 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: Has anything been said internally within the cabinet to the Chair about these triple sessions? Complaints, comments, anything?
[5:36 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Let me check.
[5:36 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: Please.
[5:37 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: I can't share exact details, but these triple sessions haven't raised internal complaints, but the planning has raised some minor confusion at times.
[5:38 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: That has answered my question. Thank you.
[5:38 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Especially following the introduction of the new charter.
[5:38 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Although that's probably just down to adjustment pains.

[5:38 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: I do concur that sessions should be spread throughout the week.
[5:39 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: As do many of us.
[5:39 PM] James Murray - Avalonia: Sorry for the delay, I am present.
[5:39 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Noted.
[5:39 PM] James Murray - Avalonia: I liked the old session format better, because if issues came up during the week they could be discussed in a more timely manner.
[5:40 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: And I hope the next chair and their regional ministers who will soon take office, so fix this issue.
[5:40 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: I will now give the floor to Sertor.
[5:40 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: Why, thank you!
[5:47 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: Here is the ... controversial motion I have yammered on about.

I would presume that delegations are aware that following Vishwamitras second departure from the Cupertino Alliance, their potential return has been left open.
If such an event were to occur, I would like to make it paramount that for the good of the alliance, anmotion use the powers of the Individuals Veto Act be triggered against the former Chair of the Board, Dhrubajyoti Roy.

During their second stay, the former delegate harboured and maintained a culture of toxicity, of fear, and factionalism.. that nearly tore the alliance apart. It was not until the 'rainbow revolution' of late 2021 and the no confidence motion that the alliance began to see the light again.
It has also became clear that the former delegate was engaged in large-scale nepotist behaviour in the alliance, leading to refusals to punish infamous cases such as that of the 'maltan ambulance'– this behaviour has continued on, with several disgraced or suspended alliance members mysteriously making their way into the former delegates cabinet.

It is for this, that I believe as a future precaution, the former delegate should be excluded from all alliance affairs. This would allow Vishwamitra to engage as normal, bar the former delegate, as the nation itself is to be commended if anything.
[5:48 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: The floor is now open for discussion.
[5:48 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: I am in total support of this motion.
[5:48 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: It has nothing but my total support.
[5:49 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Anything else from other delegates?
[5:49 PM] Kevin “Big Kev” Doan - Blazdonia: No objections
[5:49 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: If that's all on this matter, I'll move on.
[5:49 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Finally, member reports and discussion for all issues raised today.
[5:50 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: The floor will be open for the next 5 minutes.
[5:50 PM] Sertor Valentinus - W. Sayville: I abstain from this proceeding.
[5:50 PM] Liam Alexander - Atiera: Same here. Thank you for a mostly productive session.
[5:53 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: Waterside Park plans to open a Government website and digital legislation library in the coming weeks.
[5:53 PM] James Murray - Avalonia: The Avalon Institute is currently looking for senior staffers, journalists, and content directors.
[5:54 PM] Leon Montan - Ponderosa Hills: Ponderosa Hills has been doing some work lately. I've opened up an Instagram page, to try to gain more in-person citizens, and we hope to start some sort of fundraising soon.

[5:54 PM] Kevin “Big Kev” Doan - Blazdonia: Blazdonia is set to start elections for Federal parliament in the next fortnight
[5:56 PM] Larry Martin - Waterside Park: That concludes the 166th session. Thanks to everyone who took part.