



NWMA General Meeting

19 February 2008

7:30 PM

Meeting Room 1

North Melbourne Library

66 Errol St North Melbourne

Type of meeting: General
Secretary: Madeleine Scully

Chair: Bill Cook
Timekeeper:

----- Minutes -----

1) Welcome & apologies

Present: Bill Cook, Steven Lindsay, Alan Ashley, Alba Gatto, Verena Argosti, Lorraine Siska, Patricia Patterson, Ray Cowling, Kevin Chamberlin, Madeleine Scully, Nan Nankervis, Michael Horscroft

Apology: Mary Kehoe

2) Correspondence

The Future Melbourne process is continuing.

A *Working Together with Melbourne Forum* will be held on 21st May at North Melbourne Town Hall from 6.00 – 7.30.

3) Committee Report

The Committee meets each Wednesday morning.

There is some joint action underway with the Coalition Of Residents' Associations, especially concerning democracy in the City of Melbourne. CORA membership met with Councillor David Wilson and key questions being followed up include:

- a) a possible community transition committee to oversee the reincorporation of parts of Kensington/Moonee Ponds into North Melbourne (*Councillor Clarke will also follow up – see Item 5 below*)
- b) distribution of Melbourne Times and Melbourne News
- c) a planning issue where a meeting was not held despite there being 21 objectors
- d) the Police Community Consultative Committee arrangements. There is an undertaking from Victoria Police to review arrangements in 18 months (when the Wreckyn St police station is completed).

4) Transition committee for bringing Kensington/North Melbourne back into Melbourne

Council has established a Committee, chaired jointly by Councillors David Wilson and Brian Shanahan, which will exist until the November election. A public forum is being planned to canvas issues including services, transfer of assets, staff matters, planning and ways of dealing with current transactions. Whilst there are no detailed Terms of Reference as yet, it is expected the Committee might include representatives from the NWMA and the Kensington Association.

Action: NWMA to email Councillor Clarke about supporting resident association representation

5) Discussion with Councillor Peter Clarke

Councillor Clarke has been pursuing issues affecting international students, especially accommodation and compliance with Council's *Guide to residential accommodation for students*, as well as the responsibilities of the Federal Government and Universities for pastoral care in addition to academic progress. Similar considerations apply to students from interstate and from country regions of Victoria. Associated issues include future use of current student accommodation buildings, as student numbers plateau and decline, as well as questions about verification of residential status (for example, in the former Old Melbourne Motor Inn). This is not purely a planning matter; rather, a social issue of which planning is a significant component.

There are concerns about democracy on the Council and it is important that Councillors attend meetings with residents' groups and that all attend Council Committee meetings to understand the issues and ensure open and accountable government. Councillor Clarke would prefer that Council organise itself with each Councillor having specific responsibilities for particular areas and focussing on the detail in "their" region. That proposal was voted down along with attendance voting. It is important that Councillors be diligent and respond to local issues.

Key issues:

- a) Open and accountable government
- b) Safeguarding democracy
- c) Funding local works as distinct from State works (such as the Convention Centre)

The Council election in November may well see significant changes to the Council. Residents' associations should be collecting questions for candidates, which might include seeking their position on:

- attendance voting
- representation to State Government on wards
- (meantime) committing to each Councillor being responsible for a particular area
- Lord Mayoral candidates - attending Committee meetings
- financial commitments to State Government, including all possible delays on the Convention Centre (eg one study says pedestrian bridge not required until 2020)

An additional issue was raised about responding to ratepayers' issues/inquiries/complaints in a timely manner - members have found they need to follow up several times with Council officers. There are protocols around responses and response times, which can be provided. Also email Councillor Clarke with any problems and he will follow up.

Actions:

- *Councillor Clarke to provide protocols on response times for inquiries/issues through the Chair – also undertook to follow up any problems on behalf of members*
- *NWMA to email Councillor Clarke to follow up re charges for organising "Meet the Candidates" prior to election (\$400 in 2004 – charges in 2008?)*

6) Submission on licensing planning laws

The Association provided a submission – special thanks to those who contributed – which is available on the website.

A full consultation process is now being planned, to take place over the next two months. The NWMA will provide an updated submission.

Action: NWMA to develop updated submission on licensing planning laws.

7) Constitutional review

The NWMA constitution was originally developed in an environment where we had Ward Councillors. Proposed changes will be put to the Annual General Meeting about involvement in Council elections and speaking rights at meetings.

Action: Ray Cowling to refine wording for consideration at AGM

8) Residential parking permits

There is anecdotal evidence of misuse, including residents selling their multi-use permits and people applying for the second permit for an address at which they do not live.

From 2009 North Melbourne will follow the Carlton approach, which has reduced fraud significantly by checking all details thoroughly, including requiring registration papers with the correct address.

Action:

- *Councillor Clarke to follow up at Council*
- *Individuals to pursue particular instances with Council if they have details/evidence*

9) Heritage at the Queen Victoria Market

A second-generation, atmospheric, well stocked kitchen shop in F shed has been told that to renew the lease they must “smarten up” (including a plasterboard ceiling, new signage, a merchandising consultant) and develop a detailed merchandising and business plan, in apparent contradiction of the Master Plan for the Market. As a result this shop will close in April.

This appears symptomatic of the general attitude of management to the traders. Board of Management incumbents were reappointed two years ago; however, Council is now taking the opportunity to review membership and ensure it is appropriate and has people with experience in running markets. There is also a need to restructure how the Board functions; it requires a new corporate structure and approach to business planning and budgeting, as well as to the issue of capital injections from Council. Councillor Clarke has sought a report back on this particular issue which is expected by 22 February and action is underway to review corporate governance, business planning and budgeting.

10) Work Group Reports

a) Heritage

- Flagstaff Gardens steps – were to use sawn bluestone and are now pouring concrete; also have changed form of stairs for safety reasons
- New floor in North Melbourne Town Hall – the red ironbark with flat polyurethane finish is an excellent result; old flooring will be reused at Victoria Market

b) Environment

Clean up: Moonee Ponds Creek opp. Macaulay Station, Sunday 2 March, 10am - noon

c) Business

As of today NWMA funds total over \$8,000, less \$2,000 for archiving

d) Planning - Ukrainian Church childcare proposal

- Surrounding residents are highly active. The church is running a Saturday language school and wanting childcare for 60 children. Were also running a printing business.
- Peel Street – additional floor on top was approved on strict conditions that have been breached – NWMA should ask for an enforcement of the approved design
- Adshell advertising still appears on Flagstaff Gardens shelter – seek an enforcement that they be removed (they were refused permission)

11) General Business

From the floor

a) Meeting on library policy

NWMA not represented

b) Meeting on International Students in Melbourne on 21 February

Will consider issues of transition, exploring, settling in and especially accommodation (appropriateness and amenity) at 9.30am Yarra Room, Town Hall (Alba and Ray might go)

c) Flyer

Some issues with wording, but timeline is tight.

Action: wording to be revised, then source local printer and if possible a local distributor – though could go with NWM News

d) Archiving

Need to collect material from its various repositories and consolidate by end March.

Actions:

- *Members with material for archives to email Steven Lindsay*
- *Steven Lindsay and Michael Horscroft to organize storage facility and move material*
- *Once space requirements clear, NWMA to email Councillor Clarke to canvass options for Council storage space*

12) Meeting close – 9.50