



NWMA General Meeting

16th September 2008
7:30 PM
Meeting Room 1
North Melbourne Town Hall
521 Queensberry Street
North Melbourne

Type of meeting: General
Secretary: Alba Gatto

Chair: Bill Cook
Timekeeper:

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1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Bill Cook, Alba Gatto, Alan Ashley, Dick Standish, Nicholas Witte, Janet Graham, Verena Argosti, Patricia Patterson, Ian Williams, Kevin Chamberlin, Madeleine Scully, Michael Horscroft, Denys Harraway, Connie Yu

Apologies: Nan Nankervis, Lorraine Siska, Ingrid Hardie, Beth Bennett, Conrad Cunningham, Gabrielle Stannus, Liz English and Maureen Peck

Business Arising from previous Minutes:

Conrad Cunningham and Bill Cook have met and discussed a range of matters on which the two NWMA and Precinct Association might collaborate. Discussions are ongoing.

The Minutes were accepted as record of last meeting: moved Janet Graham, seconded Alba Gatto.

2. Committee report

The Committee meets Wednesday mornings and has been discussing the NWMA website and particularly how to make it more interactive. Committee is also keen for volunteers to write articles for the site to convey a real sense of what the NWMA is and does.

Ongoing issues with the delivery of the Melbourne News – the cost is around \$655,000 for printing and delivery each year.

3. Correspondence

In:
New member

Planning:

- NOD to refuse 593-597 Spencer Street, West Melbourne
- NOD to grant permit for catering business in Little Dryburgh Street North (238-240 Dryburgh St)
- Meeting re Three Crowns and kerbside café application

Email from George Tyler at Miami Hotel re problems encountered by his clients, primarily school children, in Errol Street

Invitation from Tim Todhunter of Parkville Gardens to meet to discuss proposed tunnel

Out:

Letter to Snr Sgt Beckers from Melbourne West police (more discussion under social issues)

Moved Kevin Chamberlin, seconded Michael Horscroft that NWMA meet with Parkville Association to determine further action.

4. Work Group Reports

Planning

Two private education centres proposed – one in Chetwynd Street and one on the corner of Lothian and Victoria Streets. 18 objections for Chetwynd Street and 7 for Lothian Street - these have gone to the developer and the Council planning officer will keep NWMA informed.

This raises the broader issue of what matters are considered in the planning process and, in particular, the need for some consideration of a social impact study forming part of the information on which a decision is based. This might include, for example, whether an education facility has the necessary approvals, and/or the view of the Homeless Action Group that an increase in the concentration of homeless services in the area is not desirable and it is preferable to work to improve the current facilities and services.

Social Issues

Elizabeth Street development being built by Grollo and auspiced by Council will be 11 floors, including 7 floors of studio apartments for single people, 3 floors of accommodation for families (accessed through a separate entrance) and cafes and other facilities on the ground floor. This New York model (Common Ground) appears more desirable than the proposal being mooted for 92 rooms in Arden Street.

The Homeless Action Group believes it is important that there be a strategic approach to planning accommodation and services and will consider this at their planning session later this month.

Environment

Successful planting along Moonee Ponds Creek on 24th August.
Community Planting Day in Royal Park Sunday 14th September.

Spring Fling

26th October – returning to Errol Street for the 30th Spring Fling. Shaping up well.

5. Update on transport issues

Tunnel update, Victorian Transport Summit 5/9/08, Infrastructure Australia (Sir Rod Eddington Chair) call for submissions by 15th October

There have been various developments on the transport front:

- Meeting with Tim Pallas – constructive discussion of the issues, including fundamental longstanding matters such as freight. Rail option is too substantial but there is scope to control the roads used by freight vehicles
- Transport summit 5th September – many with expertise believe the situation in inner Melbourne is so serious it cannot be resolved by one road/tunnel and will require a significant public transport solution. There are concerns about whether the additional rail lines will proceed, although there is a degree of confidence about the road tunnel. Government Ministers focussed strongly on the impact of major infrastructure projects on the economy; ongoing activity and employment is seen as crucial. Influencing government will require a clear focus on the electoral impact of their decisions

It is becoming clear the campaign has had an impact and there will be a substantial public transport component in the government response to the Eddington report. An announcement is expected to be made in November.

6. CORBA – Coalition of Residents and Business Associations

CORBA have been discussing how best to approach the Council election. As outlined in this morning's Age, there is a dearth of information available on the candidates and teams.

The reform agenda has shifted away from issues which cannot be addressed prior to the election (attendance/postal voting, reinstatement of wards, Council review, etc). The group is now focussing on:

- Obtaining and disseminating information about the candidates and their policies and views
- Informing the community about the record of the current Council
- Considering options such as a USA model whereby community organisations can become incorporated and seek funding from State and federal Government to purchase sites and provide community services.

7. Graffiti

Further to Scott Hilditch addressing the July NWMA meeting, members discussed possible follow up action:

- City of Melbourne has a Graffiti Field Officer who works on the Graffiti Management Plan, which is being reviewed in light of the State Government's Graffiti Prevention Act – at present Council action to clean up graffiti seems to be limited
- Consider inviting Victoria Police/Melbourne City Council representatives to address NWMA on their policies and action
- Also consider writing to Victoria Police asking that they enforce the law and talk to the community about effective ways to report graffiti
- It is important that graffiti be reported – in the first instance to James Jardine at Council
- Is it possible to value some street art whilst condemning tagging?
- There is no value in rules that are impossible to comply with (eg requirement to remove graffiti on your property within 48 hours)

Members agreed to invite Victoria Police and Melbourne City Council representatives to attend an NWMA meeting to discuss policies and actions on graffiti.

8. LPAC meeting

On the whole the development is positive for the community. There are some unresolved issues:

- Accessibility of toilets etc during construction
- Responsibility for operating the facilities – will go out to tender by June 2009
- The challenge of ensuring appropriate community access – how much of the facility will be run by the football club?
- It appear some mature trees will be removed on the perimeter of Arden and Fogarty Streets to accommodate the building

9. North Melbourne Station redevelopment

Letters have now been written to three Ministers and the Lord Mayor about the Connex proposal to close off public access to the footbridge over the rails which connects West Melbourne and Docklands/ the Capital City Trail. The response from Bronwyn Pike's office has been very supportive; however, there is strong resistance from Connex to altering their proposal.

10. Other Business

Members raised matters of concern including:

- rising rates and expenses
- increasing security fears in the area
- the lack of bicycle racks in the area to encourage sustainable modes of transport.

Meeting closed 9.35pm.

Next meeting Tuesday 21 October 2008