



# NWMA General Meeting

October 21<sup>st</sup> 2008

7:30 PM

Meeting Room 1

North Melbourne Library

66 Errol St Street

North Melbourne 3051

**Type of meeting:** General

**Chair:** Bill Cook

**Secretary:** Alba Gatto

**Timekeeper:**

## ----- Minutes -----

### 1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Bill Cook, Alba Gatto, Alan Ashley, Richard Standish, Verena Augusti, Kevin Chamberlin, Michael Horscroft,, Connie Yu, Nan Nankervis, Lorraine Siska, Gabrielle Stannus, Maureen Peck, Kevin Wong Hoy.

Guest: Deb. Robertson from Melbourne West Police. She attended in place of Senior Sergeant Peter Beckers.

Apologies: Madeleine Scully, Denys Harraway, Mary Kehoe, Patricia Patterson, Elizabeth English, Julianne Bell

### Business Arising from previous Minutes:

- Amendment that Tim Todhunter is a member of The Parkville Association not Parkville Gardens.
- Transport Development Actions to be discussed later in year with Bill Cook and Kevin Chamberlin.

### 2. Committee report

- Award for Excellence. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> year of this award and there are 3 nominations. Committee will meet later this week to announce this year's recipient.

- Budget Report. Need to spend \$1,800 by end of December 2008. A suggestion by Kevin was to invest in a permanent Fabric Banner for display. ACTION: Lorraine & Alba. Web Site: Working Group meeting on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 11.00am at Alba's.

- Young People's Policy 2010-2014. Open to 12 to 25 year old people to have an involvement in shaping the City of Melbourne.

- November General Meeting. Invite Lord Mayoral Candidates & issue invitation to Council Candidates also. It was suggested that perhaps 15 candidates may come and to be given 3 minutes each to express their policies/positions. Victorian Electoral Commission will have addresses of finalised candidates.

- Loading Zone, Arts House. Five 15 minute parking zones in Queensberry St changed overnight to loading zones. This is believed to be at the request of the Arts House in order to have stage/production materials delivered easily without the danger of double-parking in a busy street. It was felt by members that the loss of five short-term parking (1/4 hour) spots was excessive and Councils procedure poor, in the fact that the public was unaware of the change, because it happened without warning and people have unreasonably been fined. Alba mentioned an idea put to her by a person who saw it in the USA, whereby Loading Zones were used for that purpose when signs were put out and then reverted to a general parking zone when not in use for delivery pickup purposes. Kevin suggested that a letter be written to Haig Poulson of

Traffic/Engineering Dept of MCC to justify why five general parking spaces needed to be taken and why there was so little advertisement of this change. It was also suggested that a list be sent of other locations where Loading Zones had replaced General Parking Spaces in the last 12 months and the abuse of these zones by businesses.

Action: Feedback required by members

It was also suggested that this is an instance that needs to be added to list of questions to be asked of the new MC Councillors at the Working together for Melbourne Forum (May 2009)

Action: Diaried (by Alba)

\* GUEST: Policewoman, Deb. Robertson, who is the Community Liaison Officer at Melbourne West is responsible for monthly "CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER."

Discussions with her centred around 'Begging' and recent efforts by police to prevent it in Errol St. Richard reported that there has been a lot of begging in Melrose St on Saturday afternoons and the police will look into this. She stressed that begging is illegal and community education is important to stem this practice. Maureen suggested that posters could be put up suggesting that people do not give money to beggars. Kevin W.H. thought that there was a type of 'routine' that beggars use and the same people could be seen in the city and in other suburbs.

Graffiti was another topic discussed and she suggested that as this was such a strong topic and problem everywhere, the public must ring 000 which is a police response number, when they see it happening (**no matter what time**)- if there is no report, the police cannot do anything about it!!

### 3. Correspondence

In:

- MCC Grant of \$5,000 to NWMA
- MCC Grant of \$5,000 to Sustainability Street.
- Notice of VCAT Hearing for 33-35 Arden St
- Notice of VCAT Hearing for 593-597 Spencer St; from objection of 2005.
- Letter from Martin Brennan asking for NWMA support for Transition Committee requests to MCC.
- Newsletter from Julianne Bell of RPPG, with a notification of a community rally on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008 re Protest: Sustainable Public Transport - No New Road Tunnels or Freeways to be held 'Under the Clocks at Flinders Street Station.'

Out:

- Kevin Chamberlin asked that NWMA send an endorsement of support for the Community Rally on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October, particularly as many members of NWMA will be unable to attend because of attendance at Spring Fling. Moved by Gabrielle Stannus. Seconded by Alan Ashley.

### 4. Work Group Report

*Planning*

- Arden Lodge. Planning Application for a two-storied building with 92 single rooms with en suites. Council have requested paperwork for evidence of 'existing use rights' before advertising. At present it caters for 55 persons with The *Starting Point Supported Services Pty Ltd* as managers. The original applicant was *KK Corporation Pty Ltd*, it is now *Priority Planning Pty Ltd* of 47 Bourke St, Melbourne. Proposal is detrimental to area – needs proper and orderly planning. Intensification of services in this area undesirable. Is there to be any direct support to individuals? Any co-linking of services – Outreach/Clinical Support?

Alba has plans and needs support in looking at them and sending in an objection. Any volunteers?

- 5-9 Curzon Place. 6 Town Houses of 4 stories (10.5 metres high).
- 33-35 Arden St. To go to VCAT, with NWMA members speaking. Discussion on Change of Plans – 'Material Change' Kevin suggested that VCAT seemed to see its role as one of trying to amend a poor plan rather than throw them out and start again. Parking/traffic is a strong issue in this proposed Office Block.

*Social Issues* Most issues already covered this meeting.

*Business* No Report

*Environment* Vigilance needed on watering of street trees and shrubs, particularly new plantings.

#### 5. Update on transport issues

- Summit Meeting. Freight and trucks. The trucking lobby clearly have the ear of Government- Rail plays a small part in freight movement.
- Talking about a big truck depot at Kal Kallo (beginning of the Hume Hwy). Rail freight in SE suburbs (Dandenong/Hastings) is not connected to the interstate network.
- Before 2050 the Port of Melbourne will be at capacity.
- Containers to get bigger and special trucks will be needed to move freight around the metro area.
- Social and financial costs for implementing the Eddington report were too great.
- Eddington report does not solve the traffic problems

#### 6. CORBA – Coalition of Residents and Business Associations

There are a few prospective Councillors aligning themselves with some CORBA members – on their ticket/running team.

#### 7. North Melbourne Station redevelopment

A letter of response was received from Lord Mayor John So regarding the retention of the Footbridge linking North Melbourne to the Docklands which suggested it would be considered after the station was developed. This response was seen way of perhaps disregarding the matter. Further follow up required with Department of Transport, State Transport Minister and future Melbourne City Council.

#### 8. Other Business

Connie Yu:

- 401 Bus – Felt it was a waste when 402 went same distance.
- Ethics of Telephone Company that has continued to take money from her account even though she has changed to another service provider. Suggested she go report back to the Ombudsman, that she had been to on a previous occasion, and also to contact Senator Conroy, Federal Office of Communication.

Nancy Nankervis:

- Australian Red Cross has plans to make their Australian Headquarters from their current North Melbourne Office. The development has an area of 5,000 square metres, from Harcourt Street to Villiers Street. The announcement was made in the property section of The Age newspaper. Need to find out more about this project which includes a conference centre built on the existing car park area. It is understood that Errol Street Primary School is opposed to this as are the nearby residents.
- Proposal to take and extend Errol Street Primary School over Courtney St, to construct a smaller Park and to make two roundabouts which will bring traffic closer to houses in Harcourt St & make it and Errol Street a one-way street. This will destroy the Boulevard look of the street and five people from the Advisory Group have opposed this happening. Councillor Shanahan has chaired the Group as is behind this and wants a resolution before Council elections. This has developed from the Heels & Wheels Project. Kevin suggested there should be a Planning Permit for this and MCC Engineering Group would need consulting.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Next meeting Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008