



NWMA General Meeting

15th April 2009
7:30 PM
Meeting Room 1
North Melbourne Library
66 Errol
North Melbourne

Type of meeting: General
Secretary: **Alba Gatto**

Chair: **Bill Cook**
Timekeeper:

----- Minutes -----

Attendance Bill Cook, Alba Gatto, Alan Ashley, Mary Kehoe, Denys Harroway, Verena Augusti, Dick Standish, Janet Graham, Roger Nairn and Virginia Nairn

Apologies Madeleine Scully, Michael Horscroft, Wendy Cook, Lorraine Siska, Patricia Patterson and Kevin Wong Hoy

2. Committee Report

- Toilets Nothing further to report.
- AGM Arrangements including matters of location, timing and guest speaker were covered. The important issue of the lack of nominations was raised and some responses to this were outlined and discussed. It was empathized that there was important work to be done e.g Coalition of Residents and Business Associations (CoRBA) and the new planning scheme that require us to be consulted. if we are to protect our patch and retain the character of our area.
- Website. Use of the website for the presentation of the AGM papers and other Association material was reported

3. Business arising

- Graffiti -Alba reported that she had been in touch with the Council officers in relation to the draft Council policy that was presented at COM .People and Creative Committee on 31st March and was advised that there is to be a community consultation. We will be advised of this on April 23.

Janet Graham indicated that the News (NWMNS) had reported on Graffiti and would probably do so again.

- Queensberry Street School site-Good news is that rear section facing onto Elm Street is not to be separated off and sold.

4. Correspondence

- Library Letter re increased rates and changes to the annual cycle of booking were noted
- Lord Mayor re NMRS Footbridge Letter has been sent to all Councillors and copies to Bronwyn Pike and Lynne Kosky, but little response so far.
- 127 Leveson Street-plans approved-heritage issues-Kevin Wong Hoy. Response to our letter was read and the lack of knowledge of the history of the process and issues among both Councillors and staff was noted.
- Supportive Housing Project Information Session (Grollo site/Common ground-660 Elizabeth Street)- A briefing meeting is to be held on April 21 at 7 at the Multi-cultural Hub
- Email from Julianne Bell re termination of Royal Park and Carlton Gardens consultative committees. Julianne's letter to the Lord Mayor and Councillors was noted and it was agreed that we should write a letter of support.
- Communication from Council re Swanston Street Redevelopment re briefings and having your say. Monday 5 pm SLV Experimedia Room ,
Wednesday 22 April at 12 noon SLV Experimedia Room

Saturday 25 April at 11 am Melb Visitor Centre, Federation Square

5. Work Group Reports

- **.Planning** Dick Standish reported on the proposed demolition of the 2 weatherboard houses in Erskine Street. Bill noted the importance again of the full review of the COM planning scheme proposed to be undertaken over the next two or more years
North Melbourne Recreation Reserve (NMRR) It was noted that a meeting of Landscape Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC) had been called for Monday 27 April.

There were no reports from the following work groups

- **.social**
- **.business**
- **.environment**
- **Sustainability Street**

6. CoRBA Report

Bill reported on the CoRBA presentation to the Council's Finance and Governance Committee last night. The matter under consideration was the VEC report to Council on the conduct of the election. Kevin entered into a major debate with the Lord Mayor as to who CoRBA expected to respond to the extensive list of questions and requests that were tabled in the CoRBA submission. Kevin's response was to argue that the VEC had been contracted by Council to run the election and that it was, therefore, appropriate for CoRBA to ask the Council for feedback on the issues that it had raised.

The CoRBA reps were disappointed by the lack of reading by many of the Councillor's of the report and their unwillingness to accept advice on other sensitive matters their response to the report. These included the nature of the Inquiry into the Council Structure; it should not be the same limited review which the other Victorian Councils are required to have every two election cycles. The position of some Councillor's on the VEC recommendation on deeming and their understanding of deeming left a lot to be desired.

7 Meeting with Police from Carlton and Melbourne West

Alba reported on the meeting convened by the NWMA and the two Senior Sergeants from Melbourne West and Carlton Police Stations in relation to the structure of the PCCCs. We were unable to convince the Police to set up another PCCC to be responsible for the North & West Melbourne area, however, they agreed to having reasonably frequent attendance, possibly by both stations, at our meetings so that a common response to our issues can be developed in a coordinated way. They also encouraged us to attend each of the PCCC meetings. This is probably as a good an outcome as we can hope for in the current environment.

8. Transport (Victorian Transport Plan)

- Review of last meeting (Public meeting 25th March)

There was a broad-ranging discussion of the matters raised at the last meeting relating to the newly adopted Victorian Transport Plan, including where the location of station would be in the Parkville University area and the potential dangers created by a river tunnel outlet for vehicular traffic between Dynon and Footscray Roads. Other matters such as the lack of participation from the Parkville Association and to a lesser extent Kensington in terms of stimulating attendance are matters that we do need to address

9 Meeting with B Pike 20th March 2009

Kevin and Alba represented the NWMA at the North Melbourne Stakeholders meeting about the effective provision of community services in our area.

- A copy of the minutes of this meeting is included below.

10. New Business- Nil

11. Meeting close 9.30.pm

19 Meeting with B Pike 20th March 2009

Minutes of Meeting: North Melbourne Stakeholders Friday 20th March 2009

Present:

Hon Bronwyn Pike, State Member for Melbourne;

Thea Bates, Director, The Centre;

Ann Wilkinson, Chair of Committee, The Centre;

Cr Brian Shanahan, Councillor, Melbourne City Council;

Sue Beal, Team Manager, Arts House;

Nadyne Eggleton, Manager, North Melbourne Library;

Sally Karlovic, Principal, North Melbourne Primary School;

Lita Hviid, Principal, St Michael's Catholic Primary School;

Rev J Smith, Minister, Mark the Evangelist;

Greg Hill, Asylum-Seeker Project, Hotham Hill;

Alba Gatto, Secretary, North and West Melbourne Association;

Kevin Chamberlin, Committee Member, North and West Melbourne Association;

Mei-Poh Lee, Manager, North Melbourne Legal Service;

Angela Wilson, Community Development Adviser, Office of Minister Batchelor;

Vivianne Chemali, North and West Metro Team, Dept. of Planning & Community Development;

Mark Noonan, North and West Metro Team, Dept. of Planning & Community Development;

David Wilson, Senior Consultant, Community Engagement Australia;

Davydd Griffiths, Adviser, Office of Bronwyn Pike MP;

Janet Williamson, Electorate Officer, Office of Bronwyn Pike MP;

Gabriella Aitken, Electorate Officer, Office of Bronwyn Pike MP.

Apologies:

Cr J Kanis, Councillor, Melbourne City Council

Linda Weatherson, Director Community & Culture, Melbourne City Council

Gary Heard, Pastor, Eighth Day - Baptist Community

Meeting Opening:

Bronwyn Pike opened the meeting and outlined that the purpose of meeting was to bring key service providers in North Melbourne (primarily the Errol Street precinct) together to discuss effective provision of community services in the area.

Bronwyn acknowledged that much of the discussion would relate to the future development of community infrastructure for the North and West Melbourne communities.

General Business:

Thea Bates stated that there is a lack of space at The Centre for staff and programs. She suggested that a co-location of the North Melbourne Legal Service, Arts House and the Library could remedy this problem.

Thea also said that the Legions Club (at the rear of the Errol Street shops) had been identified as a potential site but there has been no discussion with the Legions Club in recent years.

However, she acknowledged that such a proposal would only be possible if there was a good outcome for the Legions.

The Centre has also applied for an 'Emerging Needs Grant' through the City of Melbourne to engage a consultant. There is an intention to also seek funding through the Community Support Fund to consider more comprehensive planning.

Kevin Chamberlin queried whether the warehouse at the rear of The Centre (29-52 Little Errol Street) is effectively utilised and by whom.

Sue Beales stated that Ponch Hawkes (photographer) uses the top level of the warehouse as her studio. The ground floor is used by Ilbjerri Theatre and others who rehearse there, but only occasionally. The warehouse is otherwise generally under utilised.

Ms Beales further stated there is a lack of space too, for both staff and programs at Arts House.

Rev Smith outlined the Church's plans to redevelop its existing site. He said, the Church requires repairs and that the Hall will be used in the interim until works are completed. In their Master Plan, the Church would be the centre of the precinct.

Curzon Street Child Care Centre operates (rent free) from one of the Church's properties but it was acknowledged the facility was close to inadequate. This centre has a waiting list of 500 and is crucial to both the local community as well as commuters. The Church are of the view that if an alternative site was identified for the childcare centre, there would be opportunity to provide significant community space within the redevelopment of the site.

Potential locations for the childcare centre were discussed and questions arose about the number of enrolments at the Council run North Melbourne Children's Centre (28 Howard Street) and St Mary's Anglican Kindergarten (Cnr Queensberry and Howard Streets).

It was agreed that an overall approach to childcare in North Melbourne was necessary in order to provide effective services for the community. Cr Shanahan agreed to pursue this at a Council level.

Bronwyn stated that the Eighth Day Baptist Community is seeking to develop their site situated on the corner of King, Hawke and Curzon Streets. It was mentioned that childcare could be an option on this site. However, Curzon Street Child Care Centre does not have the capacity to pay rent.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) land at the rear of the Victorian Institute of Educational Leadership (VI EL) was also raised as a potential site for a

childcare centre. Bronwyn indicated that the land at the back of the VIEL site facing Elm Street is currently not available for sale as the DEECD is investigating the future expansion of the institute.

Kevin Chamberlin discussed the North Melbourne Community Centre and other facilities at Buncle St and whether any redevelopment had been discussed for that site. Cr Shanahan responded that whilst there are currently no plans to redevelop, Dousta Galla Community Health Services has identified the location as a potential site for the redevelopment of its Kensington site (in addition to having a presence in Kensington). It was agreed that this could offer an opportunity to revamp the community centre.

Sally Karlovic mentioned that North Melbourne Primary School is currently discussing the possibility of an early learning centre on its site (kindergarten to grade one). Bronwyn agreed to have further discussions with the school regarding this opportunity.

Ms Karlovic also mentioned that construction of the new school hall would be complete in June 2009 and there would be opportunity for community use.

Mei Poh stated that the lease for the North Melbourne Legal Service premises expired in January 2009 (1st Floor, 504 Victoria Street) as current premises are unsafe and in need of refurbishment. It is a two storey site with no lift. The landlord is currently not prepared to undertake any pro bono refurbishment of the site.

Lita Hviid stated that St Michael's Catholic Primary School is currently looking into development opportunities through the Commonwealth Government's economic stimulus package - Building Education Revolution funding. The school's first preference would be to construct a new library.

Ms Hviid expressed concerned about the implications of the proposed development on the boundary of the school (currently with VCAT).

Alba Gatto emphasised the importance of consultation with the North and West Melbourne communities in addition to discussions with community service providers.

Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) representatives indicated that if they were to approve a planning grant for the area, it would be on the basis that community consultation would occur. DPCD will continue to support those seeking to make an application and are happy to give advice and guidance to anyone seeking to undertake community consultation and planning. DPCD would tend to take its lead from City of Melbourne and community agencies on these matters.

The March 20, 2009 meeting was acknowledged as a preliminary meeting to engage and connect service providers in a specific precinct.

Key Issues/Next Steps:

It was acknowledged that the overall issue for most service providers is adequate space. The meeting brought stakeholders up to speed with each others needs and visions.

- Childcare - It was agreed that there needs to be an overall approach to childcare in North Melbourne (both council and independently run programs). Cr Shanahan volunteered to raise the matter with Council.
- Bronwyn will follow up opportunities for an early learning centre at North Melbourne Primary School factoring in the recently announced Commonwealth Government – Building Education Revolution funding.
- Council officers will investigate the Legions Club site and whether it is effectively utilised