



NWMA General Meeting

17th June 2009

7:30 PM

Meeting Room 1

North Melbourne Library

66 Errol

North Melbourne

Type of meeting: General

Chair:

Denys
Harraway

Secretary: Wendy Cook/ Alba Gatto

Timekeeper:

----- Minutes -----

Attendance Bill Cook, Denys Harraway, Lorraine Siska, Patricia Patterson, Nancy Nankervis, Gabrielle Stannus, Kevin Wong Hoy, Wendy Cook, Kevin Chamberlin, Michael Horscroft, Richard Standish, Geoff Leach.

Apologies Alba Gatto, Alan Ashley, Madeleine Scully, Valerie Gerrand, Mary Kehoe, Verena Augusti, Janet Graham, Pat Lightfoot, Conrad Cunningham, Margaret and Jacques Perrill.

Minutes of last General Meeting were accepted.

Committee Report

1. Treasurer's Report:

Bank Balance now <\$12,800

Due to get next 3-monthly bank statement within the next week or so.

Form for Council Grant submitted and acknowledged. **It was agreed to schedule a discussion of the general directions of the association as outlined in this form for the next General meeting, which Alba Gatto will chair.**

2. Eugene Arocca's address at the inaugural Community Breakfast: Plans to cater for children at the new Arden St location (language centre with computers and instructors, courtesy of Peter Scanlon) We need to know who will run this facility - answer is MCC. It was agreed that we need to be sure the facility will remain if the Football Club leaves. Bill Cook volunteered to investigate this.

3. Miles Lewis paper re Planning. Regarding Development Assessment Committees. undermining residents' involvement and rights. Meanwhile the State Upper House has rejected the legislation, and the Minister has responded even more dictatorially. Pressure to increase density and heights of housing.

Action: We should circulate the Lewis paper and list it for discussion at the next (August) General meeting.

Also refer it to CoRBA for action eg convene meeting and invite Lewis to speak.

5. Kevin Wong Hoy social report. Kevin writes: The NWMA's first social event was exceedingly well attended. Held at Libertine, the French Dining Room, Victoria St, this mid-winter social event evolved into a Pre-Bastille Day celebration. Influenza was responsible for a few cancellations, but the event was so popular that it was over-subscribed. I think it may be conservatively claimed that a good time was had by one and all. A message of thanks has been emailed to the owners and staff of Libertine.

The next two events will probably be held during September (maybe a fund raising event for the 2010 Spring fling) and December (our Christmas Party)."

I am pleased to report the social events team is growing as we welcome Nan Nankervis as a deputy social secretary. This only leaves us seeking one other deputy. With the help of these deputies it is hoped that the social arm will help grow and strengthen the association and help expand the association's activities.

Action: Kevin C suggestion: make a feature of the Libertine event on the NWMA website, including photos.

Correspondence

302-308 Arden Street: Letter from Priority Planning Pty Ltd on behalf of developers requesting postponement for 7 weeks of VCAT hearing scheduled for 12 August 2009. Discussion establishes we will agree to this.

Action: Alba to sign and return their application for postponement.

Delegation to Shanahan re planning items : Arden Lodge, North Melbourne Recreation Reserve, 87-101 Roden St application.

Action: ask Alba to organize this delegation visit.

Work Group Reports.

Graffiti issue: need to wait for the Melbourne City Council Graffiti Management Plan (due 14th July 2009). City West and Carlton Police invited to next Gen'l Mtg, and PCCC update.

Sherman Oil site (West Melb): proposed 10 units, 4 storeys (height limit 5 storeys). Locals have submitted objection. Geoff Leach observes that previous proposal was for high rise development in the region near the station. Noted that this developer is Joe Demonti, who is also working on several other properties in the area. Need to monitor all of his activities with a view to acting strategically rather than piece by piece. If Peter Clarke reopens the Planning Scheme we run the risk of losing nominal 4 storey height limits, ending up with 8-10 storeys.

Action: Notify Beth that NWMA will support the objection and if they want that in writing we will provide it.

87-101 Roden St proposal: 6 storeys in part, not visible from street but thin end of wedge. NWMA agrees again to support locals' objections, on grounds of carparking, height, and the need to continue using the area for mixed use. Specify no on-street parking permits.

Action: Bill suggests he (and Alba?) will invite the locals in to the July meeting to discuss the issue.

Mulcahy's Hotel site: Facades will all be left intact. 21 dwellings will be built within. Won't exceed the current heights. Maintaining heritage.

42 Curzon St: 4-level building.

It was agreed that the following planning issues need to be addressed by NWMA:

1. Most important focus is the current Planning Scheme (C20) - applications that exceed this are the ones we need to fight hardest.
2. Frequency of waiving of parking requirements.
3. Recidivist developers.

A necessary strategy for us is to put the onus back on the residents affected by individual proposals, with backup only from NWMA.

Homeless Action Group - Bill Cook report. Hope to get Nanette Mitchell (MCC) to next HAG mtg. Discussion at HAG mtg about people sleeping rough under bridges over Moonee Ponds Creek.

Environment:

Denys congratulated Gabby on Sustainability Street work, including workshop recently on green flats and apartments, which 30 people attended. Article to go into NWM News.

Also improving energy efficiency of homes. Free home assessment and access to interest-free loans. Free light globes.

Royal Park planting on June 14 was quite successful. And plantings from 2 years ago are looking quite healthy.

Hilltop site (Royal Park) original planting was unsuccessful, and has been replaced by MCC with non-indigenous (to the area) plants, over-ruling the Royal Park Master Plan. Can NWMA support objection to this plantation? It's considered too densely planted as well as non-indigenous. A submission to the ombudsman is being planned. CoRBA has been taking up the issue forcefully. Michael will check if Parkville Assoc'n will also support.

Transport: New Bus shelters in Dryburgh St, West Melb. Seen as progress.

The opening of the footbridge at North Melbourne station has not been approved by Connex.

Nancy: The re-design of the triangle at Errol and Courtney Streets opposite the primary school: The 402 bus will probably be rerouted to avoid the area. (Nancy had submitted a request for rerouting with signatures from 15 people)

Eades Park: Ray Cowling will look at the submission Bill has received.

CoRBA: mainly about parks and gardens. Dissatisfied with operation of Eco-Committee. Bill Cook has drafted another letter. Received response from Lord Mayor claiming to have Community Connections under control. Bill will circulate his redrafted letter before sending it.

A committee had been proposed composed of experts from Botanical Gardens etc, with only 2 resident reps as after-thought. Now this has been increased to 5 resident reps, which is still only a token input from community.

Still pursuing VEC report on the MCC 2008 election. Comparing questions and answers, looking for "holes". Election cost \$1.2million plus Council labour.

New Business:

Kevin Wong Hoy is still intending to draft a letter (with advice from our cycling members) suggesting that cycle paths be moved from Arden St into O'Shannassy St.

Protectors of Public Land: Would anyone volunteer to replace Kevin C on this committee?

Meeting closed 9.30pm