



North & West Melbourne Association
Inc.

Monthly General Meeting
21st October 2009

7:30 PM
Meeting Room 1
North Melbourne Library
66 Errol
North Melbourne

Chairperson: Michael Horscroft

Secretary: Alba Gatto

Minutes: Bill Cook

----- Minutes -----

1. Attendance: Kevin Chamberlin, Janet Graham, Alan Ashley, Alba Gatto, Michael Horscroft (Chair), Kevin Wong Hoy, Bill Cook, Mary Kelleher, Dick Standish, Geoff Leach, Wendy Cook

Apologies: Patricia Patterson, Val Gerrand, Lorraine Siska, Nan Nankervis, Verena Augusti, Brian Walters, Julianne Bell, Gabby Stannus, Madeleine Scully

2. Confirmation of minutes of meeting

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Kevin WH followed up about his draft letter to the committee re: relocating bike lanes from Arden Street into O'Shannassy Street.

The meeting endorsed the following motion.

"The North & Melbourne Association Inc requests the City of Melbourne and Vicroads to review cycling in Arden St North Melbourne and to consider the feasibility of relocating the cycle path to a safer location, possibly in a parallel street. The Association is concerned about :

- cyclist safety,
- the volume and speed of traffic and its interaction between traffic and cyclists and pedestrians.
- the changing nature of vehicles using Arden Street,
- safety and movement issues near the large rail crossing near Lloyd Street
- any other matters of concern

Moved Kevin Chamberlin

Seconded Michael Horscroft

Carried

Action: Bill and Alba

4 Correspondence

- Bronwyn Pike request to attend an Association meeting. It was agreed that we should welcome her attendance at the November meeting and that the Secretary should follow up to make arrangements.
- Our community...board builder Development Activity to be held in December. Any one interested should talk to Bill.
- (via email).Proposed Local Law Amendment - Queuing and Security outside Licensed Venues. The draft was tabled and it was noted that community feedback welcomed by Council.
- Via email to the association from Connex. The letter was tabled by Janet Graham re imminent closure of the footbridge- the meeting unanimously agreed to support the following action.
 - The NWMA expresses its strong opposition to the Connex letter dated 19th October 2009 re: North Melbourne Station – Closure of Footbridge.
 - That the NWMA Inc. refer this correspondence and its formal position to our local member, Bronwyn Pike. The Association notes that the correspondence says “that the informal footbridge that connects the station to the Capital City Trail and Dockland will be permanently closed to the general public from 16th November 2009.”
 - The Association holds fundamental concerns about the shared path along Dynon Road and the level of safety it provides for both cyclists or pedestrians .
 - Closure of the footbridge will deny pedestrians and cyclists safe access to the Capital City Trail and Docklands from the station. The only alternative is the Dynon Road Bridge which we consider highly dangerous.
- Lord Mayor re Community Consultation
- Bus Review

5. Committee Report

- Christmas Event. Kevin Wong Hoy has been active on settling the details for this celebration of the Festive season. The menu has been agreed and the time and date. See below.
- The resignation of Wendy Cook as the Minutes Secretary was noted with regret. The resignation was related to our handling of NMFC Rock Concert. (See later report)
- Website developments. The Committee has focused on the development of the website and how to make it more topical and immediate in its capacity to keep the community abreast of the latest developments on community issues.
- Budget for this year: items to spend on eg banner, website, revised brochure, business cards.

6. Reports Planning

- 39 Lothian Street - At CoM Planning Committee meeting Councillors agreed with the report from management that placed at least a limited restriction on hours of operation from 24/7 to 6.30am to 9.30pm Monday to Friday and Saturday We feel that these hours are still excessive but at least restrictions are now in place.
- 22-28 Provost Street, Objection submitted to demolition of existing factory and construction of four tree storey dwellings. Concerns of overdevelopment and overlooking.
- The height of the proposed development of the Stork Hotel site was noted.
- 79-89 Leveson Street. Further consultations are still taking place.
- The future usage of St Joseph's College in Queensberry Street was a still not clear. This is a matter of concern especially as it may have a social welfare focus.
- Two issues are of concern in Chetwynd Street, both LaTrobe Close proposed development and the student accommodation facility on the West side (are matters of major concern.
- Arden Lodge is heard at VCAT in December.
- The suggestion was again made to invite Cr Clarke to speak to us about the review of the planning scheme and to enable our follow up on our concern about the whittling away of heritage requirements.

Social Committee

- The end of year function is being held on Thursday 10th December at Oasis Oz in Dryburgh Street, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Cost \$30 per person for two courses, main course and sweets
- Invitations to the membership will be sent out the 2nd week in November 2009.

Business- No report

Environment-

- Sustainability Street -
 - Community Garden survey - closes 25 October 2009.- on the establishment of community gardens. Information from survey to be collated and used for submissions to funding bodies.
 - Make your own garden session to be held on November 7 at 2 pm at St Albans Church.
 - End of Year get together on 7 December at 5.30 at Flagstaff Bowling Club.
- The issue of tram wheel squeal was raised, particularly at the intersection of Abbotsford and Flemington Roads, with two tram routes changing direction. It was agreed to follow up with Yarra Trams.

Transport

- The Connex letter regarding the footbridge should be circulated on our website.

CoRBA Report

There was little to report from the last CoRBA meeting. It was emphasized that CoRBA is proposing to take a similar approach into the forthcoming State and Federal elections that it took into the last Council election. A process of interviews, questionnaires, website reporting would be undertaken to inform the electorate of the issues. Both sitting local members were not secure in their votes from the last election so it is important that voters are as well briefed as possible on the campaign issues.

7. Proposed Rock Concert at Arden Street – Update.

Several members who attended the meeting at the pool on October 14 reported on what was said at the meeting. There appeared to be some flexibility in the responses from the organisers to the issues raised by the community members in relation to times, logistics and the target audience. There seemed to be no doubt that the event was to be a fundraiser and that this would lock in a number of parameters as to what changes we might be able to expect. Several members indicated that they would be interested in attending the proposed event.

The fundamental issue was viewed to be the role of the Council. The fact that decisions appear to have been made – to be fair it appeared that different players had different views about what in fact had been agreed to- without a clear and transparent process in Council was a real concern. It was noted that the issue of horse polo in Royal Park had been undertaken with a full Council Committee review, with a Council paper presented. This meant that many of the issues were out in the open, community members had an opportunity to make an input and that the Council had to vote publicly on their position. Other examples of similar events are illustrative. Carlton Football Club ceased to support the 'Big Day Out' when it lost money. The Melbourne Flower and Garden Show went to the Carlton Gardens as a stop gap measure when the Showgrounds were being refurbished and are now permanently enshrined in this location with special State Government legislation, despite much local opposition.

The meeting agreed that NWMA ask the City of Melbourne to deal with the matter at an appropriate Committee/Council meeting, that the matter be voted on by the elected representatives and that we ask that a report be prepared. This should allow constituents to be informed and to make an input if they wish.

8. New Business

The Meeting congratulated Mary Kelleher on her appointment to the City of Melbourne Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee.

9. Closure of meeting

It was agreed to ask Kevin Wong Hoy to chair the November Meeting. (Kevin left the meeting early)