



North & West Melbourne Association
Inc.

Monthly General Meeting
16th February 2010
7:30 PM
Meeting Room 1
North Melbourne Library
66 Errol
North Melbourne

Chairperson: Bill Cook
Membership Secretary: Alba Gatto
Minutes: Michael Horscroft
Treasurer: Bill Cook

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies by Bill Cook who was Chair for the night.

Attendance - Alba Gatto, Lorraine Siska, Bill Cook, Kevin Chamberlin, Ray Cowling Mary Kelleher, Janet Graham, Roger Nairn, Verena Augusti, Maureen Peck, Janine Danks, Stephen Farrugia, Michael Horscroft and Margaret Fried

Apologies - Gabby Stannus, Denys Harroway, Val Gerrand, Alan Ashley, Geoff Leach, Julianne Bell and Madeleine Scully

2. Confirmation of minutes of meeting held 16th December and minutes of meeting 21st October (deferred at December meeting)

- These minutes were unable to be confirmed as a quorum of the Committee was not present

3. Matters arising from the minutes of meeting 21st October 2009 and 16th December 2009

- Refer point 3.

Questions were raised about what follow up occurred after the meeting with Bronwyn Pike last November, on the resolution by the newly elected Council of the City of Melbourne asking that the State Government instigate a review of the electoral matters affecting the Council. The question was taken on notice.

Action – Bill Cook to follow up and provide response at next meeting

Follow up was also raised in relation the possible use of St Joseph's College in Queensberry Street as a youth refuge. It was agreed that Roger Nairn write to the Christian Brothers seeking some further information clarifying their view on the future of the site when classes cease at the end of 2010. It should be a personal letter as an 'old boy' with a copy to the Association.

Concerns were expressed about the possible scale of such an operation and the secrecy that appears to be surrounding the proposal.

4. Correspondence

State Library request for Annual Report 2008-9

VCAT re follow up to decision on Arden Lodge

5. Committee Report

The Committee had met a couple of times in the new year. The first meeting was an attempt to raise the profile of the need for the Association to engage in a more strategic approach to its priority setting and operation. It reflected the scarce resources that we have to operate on and the fact that too much gets left to too few.

Tour of North Melbourne Learning and Life Centre Arden Street 9th February.

Denys Harraway has provided a written report which is tabled at the end of these minutes on his attendance at the Centre. The meeting noted its appreciation for the written report and agreed that we should ask Denys to represent the Association on the Community Network, which will aim to reach out into the community to gain volunteers and to present the Football Club in a favourable light into the community.

6. Reports

- Planning

Update on La Trobe Close redevelopment indicated that little had moved although there appears to be some optimism being expressed about the possible outcome. An announcement is expected soon.

After some discussion into the question of open space in relation to this development the following motion was passed

The NWMA Inc supports the concept of the conversion of the eastern carriage way of Chetwynd Street between Courtney and Queensberry Streets to parkland, which included the median strip and the eastern nature reserve. However, we are concerned that this not be to the detriment of the quality of the proposed Latrobe Close development.

Moved Ray Cowling

Seconded

Carried

Concern was also raised about the need for safety fencing to the remaining carriage way and the need for preferential resident parking. How the site came to be consolidated, prior to the hospital development was discussed. Possible explanations included the existence of another church in the precinct and that the Lambrick estate may have been a major owner.

Update on Arden Lodge.

The Association had supported the Council in opposing a permit for a new development for 54 rooms at 302 to 308 Arden Street North Melbourne at VCAT. Concerns were raised about the conduct of the hearing and further details obtained through the hearing about the nature of the facility and how it is being and will be run.

It was agreed that we write to the Lord Mayor to encourage the Council to obtain a legal opinion on the issues regarding Arden Lodge and the likelihood of success if the City of Melbourne appeals to the Supreme Court. It was also agreed that we write to the Minister of Housing requesting an investigation into the operation of Arden Lodge and the alarming situation revealed at the VCAT hearing and in the decision. Does this decision represent a good outcome for the Government's housing policy?

Moved Kevin Chamberlin

Seconded Roger Nairn

Carried

79-89 Leveson Street- Outcome of CoM planning meeting

The Council's response to our objection and that of the local residents was sympathetic, particularly in regard to the response of the Council Officers lack of consideration for the Heritage Advisors report.

Ray Cowling presented to the meeting a picture of the impact of a proposed building for 330 -360 William Street, the Holding Redlich building. Since the application is over 25000 square metres, it will be decided by the Minister of Planning. Whether the height is to be 50 or 35 stories its bulk and over-shadowing was felt by the meeting to be inappropriate for the heritage Flagstaff Gardens on the opposite side of William Street. Ray agreed to write to Heritage Victoria.

- Business –Nil report
- Social- Nil report
- Environment- Nil report
- Transport- Nil report
- CoRBA The first meeting of CoRBA is not until early March

7. WestLink – Update Julianne Bell has communicated with us about being represented on the Linking Melbourne Authority Community Reference Group. As this Group is to provide advice on West link, the tunnel from Geelong Road/Sunshine Road to Footscray Road Dynon Road, which will have the capacity to pump out thousands of cars into West Melbourne in particular, we have good reason to be concerned. There was concern about the likely confidentiality agreements that may need to be signed and the capacity to be able to report back to the group - let alone the press.

8. New Business – Nil

9. Meeting close- 9.35pm

Report- 'Tour of North Melbourne Learning and Life Centre'- Denys Harraway

Representatives of N&WMA were invited to a presentation of plans for the new North Melbourne Learning and Life Centre on Tuesday 9th Feb. Representatives of other local community groups, local Councils, Clubs and Govt. Depts, including Federal and Victorian Police were also invited and present. James Demitriou led the presentation supported by staff from the Errol Street Centre and others now employed by NMLLC. The three principal sponsors of the new Centre are, the Scanlon Foundation, the Australian Multicultural Foundation, and the Kangaroos. Mr Demitriou said the intended set up was unique in sporting and community circles, possibly a parallel with the Lakers at Candlestick Park, San Francisco.

We were taken on a tour of the new facilities, including the "Huddle" and the "Oval", areas to be devoted to education for local children, years 3 to 12, programmes ranging from help with school homework, tutoring, computer familiarisation to help with VCE studies. There will also be junior sport and health programmes in adjacent areas. This was followed by inspection of the Gymnasium, run by Melbourne City Council staff, the indoor basketball court, the 100 metre running track, the change and shower rooms, the upstairs open plan offices of the Football Club, an auditorium and the new Fencing Centre.

The reason for the invitations was to establish a Community Network of local people interested in the LLC. This group would meet every 3 months to assist and contribute to the development of the Centre. Members of the Network would reach out to their communities to obtain volunteers to help with the various programmes and the achievement of such goals as the "embedding of North Melbourne Football Club as a true community club and an AFL leader in community engagement."

Our impression was that the new facilities were spacious and commodious and a far cry from the former Arden Street accommodation. The education rooms could be too small if all the plans progress. It is recommended that a N&WMA member, possibly one with a family connection become involved with the Community Network Group.

Denys