



North & West Melbourne Association
Inc.

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

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

Minutes

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

Attendance - Alba Gatto, Lorraine Siska, Bill Cook, Kevin Chamberlin, Ray Cowling, Mary Kelleher, Roger Nairn, Virginia Nairn, Stephen Farrugia and daughter, Michael Horscroft , Alan Ashley Jo Griffiths Denys Harraway Nancy Nankervis and Brian Walters

Apologies - Janet Graham ,Val Gerrand, Madeleine Scully, Julianne Bell, Patricia Patterson and Verena Augusti

Our Guest Speaker- Councillor Peter Clarke, Planning Committee Chair- was unable to attend tonight but hopes to attend our next meeting. Concern was expressed about the way in which planning is being undertaken by the State Government – decisions are being taken out of the hands of the Council.

2. Confirmation of minutes

Meeting held 16th February 2010.

- Meeting held 16th December 2009 and meeting 21st October 2009 (deferred at February's meeting

As quorum of Committee members was not present the meeting was unable to confirm these minutes as a correct record of these meetings.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of meeting

- 21st October 2009, 16th December 2009 and 16th February 2010
- Bronwyn Pike re review of City of Melbourne

We sent two emails immediately after our meeting with Bronwyn Pike in November 2009 to draw her attention to the fact that the Council at its first meeting after the Council election had supported the motion that the City of Melbourne should be subject to a review of its electoral governance and structures, as applies to all other councils in Victoria.

There has been no follow up.

Roger Nairn wrote as requested at the last meeting to the Principal and chairman of St Joseph's College, seeking clarification on the future use of the St Joseph's site, when the school ceases operation at the end of 2010. No response has been received as yet.

Defer until the next meeting.

4. Correspondence

Planning decision 171-3 Melrose St. - Where the City of Melbourne refused to grant a permit for a three storey residential hotel in a low rise residential area. The Association opposed the development

PILCH (Public Interest Law Clearing House).- It was agreed to close off this arrangement to obtain advice on our Memorandum of Understanding with Sustainability Street.

Invitation to workshop regarding WestLink - Linking Melbourne Authority, was received too late to be able to attend. It was agreed at our last meeting that we did not have anyone able to commit to establish our membership of the Group.

Free community website hosting from the .au Community Domains Trust- It was agreed that no action should be taken.

Priority Planning-New plans for Arden Lodge development

City of Melbourne response to VCAT re Arden Lodge development.- The Council raised a number of concerns about the revised plans that had now been submitted to VCAT. The issues related to fence detail, screening of waste storage, tree retention, security fencing to entrapment areas, an increase in the number of rooms and a decrease in the number of bicycle racks.

Nancy reported on a case of someone who praised the support he obtained from Arden Lodge.

39 Lothian Street North Melbourne.- Request for consent for an adjournment was based on some change of conditions being promoted by the City of Melbourne. We have written seeking clarification from the Council as to the nature of these changes but as yet have received no response.

5. Committee Report

- Election of 'Public officer for the Association. Rob Oke has resigned as our Public Officer and we need to replace him. Someone with a legal background would be desirable.

.Included at the end of these minutes is the role of the Public Officer (from Consumer Affairs Victoria Website).

Action to be discussed at next committee meeting

- AGM Reports and arrangements The AGM will be held at the Bowling Club on Saturday 17th April. Denys to approach John Landy on his availability to be guest speaker, on a topic of his choice. Suggestions included - his experience as a North Melbourne resident and vision of the future; his work experience as an

Agricultural Scientist, butterflies, primary school in Fitzroy,. Leave it up to Denys.

- Reports to be written on issues that have been important for the year including - reform of the City of Melbourne, failure of Government, planning, Govt taking planning out of the control of Councils, Transport (a massive issue), the East West link. Social outings success
- Refreshment arrangements – to be discussed at next Committee meeting.

6. Reports

- Planning

La Trobe Close redevelopment-Update including letter from Bronwyn Pike.

Steven Farrugia reported that no plans on this development will be available until the end of March. The letter from Bronwyn Pike indicated that the height of 7 story building would be reduced to 14m or 4 stories, A number of heritage houses would be retained and car parking spaces would be reduced to 44. Open space is to be negotiated in Chetwynd Street.

We do not know the mix of dwellings or the density. We need to go to the Council to obtain copies of the plans to find out whether it is good or bad. The child care plan appears to have been shredded. The issue of how it will look and fits the heritage surrounds have not been resolved. Media hype has not helped. There is not much time left to do anything.

There has been no clarification as to what will happen to Stage 2 as it is not mentioned in the letter from Bronwyn Pike. Is it to be sold off in one lot to a developer?

We understand that not many requests are made for family accommodation within social housing because it is only available in the highrise.

Open Space is a big distraction, especially as the Anglicans have not agreed to sell their land. Rob Adams has listed some money in the May budget to investigate proposal of using Chetwynd Street, and to assess support for it.

We need to make sure that this whole issue be placed on the agenda for the Council Planning Committee and we need to make sure we have speakers to attend. It will be able to be identified on the list, including amendments to existing applications. Issues relating to density, open space, garbage removal from within the site have not been addressed – only height has been attended to. We have to go back to the Government and both Federal and State levels to see how they respond to all these issues.

We also need to respond to the State Governments media strategy to label us as anti – public housing. We need a media strategy of our own to remind state, local and federal governments of the massive failure of public housing and the dysfunctions that this project will bring to the local area.

We are concerned that we have received no feed back from our Federal Member Lindsay Tanner.

Action:

- It was agreed that Bill and Kevin write to Lindsay Tanner and to Bronwyn Pike.

- Steven is to draft a letter to Councillors on behalf of the NWMA, to ensure that the issue goes to the Planning Committee. Draft letter to be forwarded to Alba to send. (The timeline needs to be now. The community is still unhappy.)
 - Business
 - Social
 - Environment
 - Transport
 - CoRBA (Coalition of Residents and Business Associations-Melbourne)

Bill reported on the last CoRBA meeting. With the impending State election to be held later this year, our concern was expressed about the need to promote the reform of the City of Melbourne, its structure and electoral arrangements, in order to counter its downgrading by successive State Governments. Unfortunately, there was not unanimous support for this position.

CoRBA Members were asked to bring to the next meeting a list of macro Melbourne wide issues and a list of precinct matters that are of concern.

The current CoM work plan on disability was also discussed. Members were asked to raise the matter with their associations to encourage submissions. Residents 3000 will send information to Jackie Watts (Coordinator, CoRBA-Melbourne) who is to send in a submission on behalf of CoRBA.

The inequitable treatment of municipal gardens was raised. Further information is to be requested from the Carlton Gardens Group. The three community representatives on the City of Melbourne Gardens Advisory Committee are to be contacted for feedback on proposed methods of community consultation.

Jackie Watts is promoting a 'Friends of Melbourne General Cemetery' to try to promote local interest in the maintenance and community involvement in this very significant piece of local open space.

Concern was expressed about the directions of planning under the current State leadership. Jackie Watts is to write to the Lord Mayor to ascertain information about the rumour of a metropolitan wider planning authority. It was agreed to ask Professor Rob Adams from City Design, City of Melbourne to attend the next CoRBA meeting to explore these issues.

Transport was also discussed. A number of members attended a recent sustainable transport forum organised by the Melbourne Transport Forum. Jackie Watts is to investigate CoRBA joining the Forum.

7. New Business

- i)Ray Cowling moved the following motion-

I move that a Special General Meeting be called for the purpose of moving two Constitutional changes. That it be held immediately after the AGM is concluded. (Saturday 17th April 2010)

These are the two changes which were passed at the 2008 AGM to operate for one year. I now move that they be made permanent changes.

viz:

Amend s26(3): *All Committee meetings shall be open to any interested person to attend with*

The responsibilities of the management committee

Under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*, committee members have certain responsibilities. A breach of these responsibilities may constitute an offence under the Act, to which a penalty is attached. The statutory responsibilities of committee members include:

Annual Obligations:

- Ensure an annual general meeting is held within five months after the end of the association's financial year and submit a financial statement to members at the meeting
- Ensure an Annual Statement by Public Officer is lodged with the Registrar within one month after the annual general meeting

Notifying the Registrar of:

- a change of the incorporated association's registered address within 14 days of the change
- the appointment of a Public Officer (or any changes to their details)
- if the position of Public Officer becomes vacant, the appointment of a new Public Officer within 14 days
- a special resolution relating to winding up the association or distribution of assets

Applying to the Registrar to:

- alter the Association's statement of purpose or rules
- change the Association's name

Return of documents

- Committee members must return all documents that belong to the incorporated association within 28 days of ceasing to be a committee member.

Online transactions

Public Officers can complete a number of tasks online after first [obtaining a User Identification and Passcode](#). For example, you can:

- change the contact name and address details for your Incorporated Association at no cost
- apply for an extension of time for lodging an annual statement and pay by credit card.

Management committee membership and personal gain

The members of the Management Committee owe important duties to act in the best interest of the incorporated association and not to take advantage of their positions. In particular:

- Committee members (or former committee members) must not knowingly or recklessly make improper use of their position (or information acquired because of their position) to:
 - gain any financial benefit for themselves or any other person, or
 - cause a detriment to the association.
- Where a committee member has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a contract with the incorporated association:
 - the member must disclose the nature and extent of the interest to the committee and must not take part in any decision of the committee in regard to the contract, and
 - the interest must be recorded in the financial statements submitted to the association's members at the next annual general meeting.