



NWMA General Meeting

20th July 2010

7:30 PM

Meeting Room 1

North Melbourne Town Hall

521 Queensberry Street

North Melbourne

Chairperson: Kevin Chamberlin

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Bill Cook, Nancy Nankervis, Annie Turner, Greg Bowman, Kevin Chamberlin, T Sangster, Lody Dannaoui, Andrew Dannaoui, Janet Graham, Stephanie Jones, Rob Oke, Roger Nairn, Virginia Nairn, Brian Walters, Michael Horscroft, Denys Harroway, Helen Reich, David Reich, John Wood, Mary Chapman

Apologies: Valerie Gerrand, Thea Bates, Verena Augusti, Alan Ashley, Alba Gatto, Lorraine Siska, Ray Cowling, Julianne Bell

Guest Speaker

Local resident, Ben Cusack spoke on Vertical Gardens. He demonstrated how the system worked, using his prototype as a model and spelt out details of the Climate Communities Grants Program, seeking expressions of interest for trial installations, with the support of government grants.

After Ben had concluded his presentation a number of issues were raised. The simplicity of the concept was seen as a plus. Concern was expressed about the aesthetics, although this may be improved in further developments. It was felt that we should check out other options before giving final endorsement as the application would have to be made by the Association.

Motion

That the NWMA express a strong interest in the concept and that we investigate further on the proposal with a view to making an application for a grant. The Association should promote diversity in terms age, disability and physical environment in determining participation in the project.

Moved Michael Horscroft

Seconded Rob Oke

Carried unanimously

Rob indicated that Sustainability Street would be keen to be involved and support the project.

2. Confirmation of minutes

- That the minutes of the meeting held 15 June 2010 be accepted.

Moved Janet Graham

Seconded Denys Harroway

3. Matters arising from the minutes of meeting (Not covered elsewhere in the agenda)

No matters were raised

4. Correspondence (Not covered elsewhere)

Inwards

City of Melbourne – Acknowledgement of receipt of application for funding.

City of Melbourne – Acknowledgement of receipt of objection re 46 Villiers Street

City of Melbourne – Invitation to comment on MSS

City of Melbourne – Promotion of Student welcome, Friday Nights and Sunday Studios.

5. Committee Report

- 'Appointment of Public officer for the Association'
 - Motion
 - That the Association move a vote of thanks to Rob Oke for his substantial performance as the Public Officer of the Association for many years.
 - Moved Michael Horscroft
 - Seconded Nancy Nankervis
 - Carried
 - Motion
 - That Margaret Fried be appointed as the new Public Officer
 - Moved Michael Horscroft
 - Seconded Nancy Nankervis
 - Carried
- Constitutional directions
 - The Committee is proposing to refer the matter to a sub group as there are issues that require clarification.
 - Motion
 - That the meeting note progress and defer for one month
 - Moved Denys Harroway
 - Seconded Nancy Nankervis
 - Carried
- Meeting plans for the remainder of the year
 - Motion
 - That we agree to organise a Meet the Candidates in August. That we focus on the House of Representatives candidates for the seat of Melbourne and not the Senate. That the Executive be asked to convene.
 - Moved Michael Horscroft
 - Seconded Denys Harroway
 - Carried

6. Workgroup Reports

- Planning
 - **Municipal Strategic Statement** Meeting tomorrow at 6.00pm. There are two meetings; one for professionals and business and one for the residents. Details are on the website.
 - **La Trobe Close redevelopment-update**
 - A report was presented by Roger Nairn. He is very critical of the whole proposal. The Government can refurbish the existing buildings and not sell the existing housing to a private developer, but he feels the ALP want a big project. He has written many letters to ALP MPs, including senators. He expressed concern at the response Cath Bowtell, the ALP candidate for Melbourne, to the issue. He argued that once the trees are gone it will all be over. He feels that the ALP is treating him like a pariah. The responsibility for the impasse is also due to a weak response from the Council. We do not want it deferred. We want the government to abandon their proposal.
 - The report was noted.
 - **46 Villiers Street.** Our objection has been submitted.
 - **St Joseph's CBC** As the time gets closer we do need to keep monitoring developments
 - **Zagame- corner of King and Roden Sts.** This is a new application consisting of 259 units and one retail premises.
Concern was expressed at the scale of this project. As we have not seen plans or any advice on how these projects of over 25000 m2 that are referred to the Ministerial Committee, we can say little more at this stage. It was observed that we do need to be concerned at the trend toward a more transient population and we do need to focus on the problem of the lack of amenity in these developments
- **Business** - deferred
- **Social Events**- The next event is proposed at the Halal Korean restaurant. A barbecue is available upstairs and the price is \$5 dearer upstairs. The total per capita cost can be tailored to what we want. BYO is a cost problem. Upstairs accommodates 36 people.
 - Motion
 - It was agreed that settle Wednesday 11th August price \$35 with no dessert
 - Moved Nancy Nankervis
 - Seconded Michael Horscroft
 - Carried
- **Environment** - Michael Horscroft reported on a recent planting at Royal Park and the demolition of the old clubrooms at the NMRR and the creation of a hard surface??
- **Transport**
 - **Westlink** A road tunnel will emerge at Docklinks Road between Footscray and Dynon Roads. While the emphasis has been on its use by **trucks**, it is now acknowledged that it will be used by some **60,000 cars per day**. It is not funded from the Commonwealth but is a stage 1 of the Eddington East West tunnel. Go to Department Of Transport website.
 - **Metro Rail** Includes links from Footscray to Parkville medical precinct and then below Swanston Street to the Domain. There is an Arden Station included at Queensberry Street and Laurens Street. We believe this is an election stunt as it will not be built. There has been no consultation. The question was raised as to

why it should not be located under the North Melbourne Station. It has not been allocated federal funding at this stage.

- **Regional Rail** A public presentation has been made by the Department of Transport. The proposal of separating regional lines on a dedicated track to free up suburban network. We consider this to be a good thing but the management has not been good with a number of residents being exposed to an uncertain future.
- **Speakers** to be organised August to November.
- **CoRBA** CoRBA has held a meeting with Planning Minister Maddern. The key issue that was raised was that we request a briefing on State strategic planning and what constraints it imposes on the City of Melbourne MSS. Each group brought their issues. Council lets you think that their MSS is a clean slate but this is not the case. The Minister has undertaken to provide us with a briefing.

7. General Business

- Brian Walters (Greens candidate for the State seat of Melbourne) was asked comment to the meeting. He was most concerned about Westlink because it creates so much certainty. He argued that we have a system based on Rafferty's rules and that we need to start again. He gave as an example the Vancouver model where there the planning scheme provides no discretion. Janet Graham commented on the need to consider population on a world basis rather than Australia only.
- Bill Cook spoke about the potential problems created by the high rise residential developments in Batman Street on the bell ringing at St James Old Cathedral. He outlined some of the history of the bells and some of the significant cultural and heritage issues involved. The amenity of the developments as residential dwellings would also appear to leave a lot to be desired.
 - Motion
 - That the Association support Bill Cook's objection to the high rise residential developments in Batman Street close to St James Old Cathedral.
 - Moved Denys Harroway
 - Seconded Michael Horscroft
 - Carried
- The chair raised a question about an email from a fourth year RMIT planning student wanting to interview a spokesperson from the Association. It was agreed to leave it in the hands of Bill Cook and Kevin Chamberlin.

8. Meeting close

Time and date of next meeting - 7.30 pm on Tuesday 17 August 2010