



MINUTES
Ordinary General Meeting, Tuesday 15 August 2017, 7.35pm

Present: Nicholas Atkins, Kevin Chamberlin, Mary Chapman, Bill Cook, Jenny Danielson, Melanie Del Monaco (guest), Stephen Farrugia, Alba Gatto, Valerie Gerrand, Janet Graham, Michael Horscroft, Jan Lacey, Dan McDonnell, Anne Maclean, Jane Poynter, Jacqueline Stevenson, Mark Stewart, Geraldine Suter and Carolyn Thompson

Apologies: Emmy Chung, Ray Cowling, Enid Hookey, Mary Kelleher, Bridget Macwhirter and John Widmer

Kevin Chamberlin, the Chair, welcomed members and friends and guest Melanie Del Monaco, the Community Engagement Partner responsible for West Melbourne in the City of Melbourne's Placemaking and Engagement team.

1. Presentation by Melanie Del Monaco, Community Engagement Partner, Placemaking and Engagement, City of Melbourne (CoM)

Melanie referred to Liam Lenihan's previous overview (NWMA meeting 20.6.17) and said her areas of responsibility were Docklands, West Melbourne and Fishermans Bend.

She explained that the role was partly internal supporting teams within CoM, for instance looking at the West Gate Tunnel Project, and also externally focused, understanding issues and helping people with those. She said we should feel free to contact her and Liam so they could work with the Association. There were three main topics she wanted to mention.

(1) Adam Mills and Kate Dundas had presented at the last NWMA meeting on the **West Melbourne Structure Plan (WMSP)**, the consultation on which would end Sunday 20 August. As well as the two community workshops there had been pop-up information booths. The survey on the Participate Melbourne website had to be completed by Sunday evening. There had been 100 responses so far, so it was tracking pretty well. If one wanted to respond at length, one could send a submission by email as there was limited space in the survey fields.

(2) Melanie wanted to acknowledge that NWMA had submitted a response to the **West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) EES** via IMPA (Inner Melbourne Planning Alliance). She said there had been a brief overview and opening submissions heard at the WGTP Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) hearing on Monday 14 August.

(3) Finally, she introduced a pilot project — **Sunday Streets** — which aimed to use under-utilised open spaces for gathering and building community connectedness, providing an opportunity for people to get to know each other. They had held a pilot event in Docklands, which had gone really well. Melanie's team would like to see more such events. If anyone was interested, please contact her. Streets or other spaces could be closed (although this was sometimes difficult).

There was discussion about public liability insurance. This would come under Council's insurance policy and was still being worked on. As part of Sunday Streets, the community would need to collaborate with Council. The team were looking for a suitable place to launch the project. Janet Graham suggested the new pocket park at Railway Place, Laurens, Anderson and Miller streets if it was ready in time. The Docklands event had been in May when the weather was still fine.

Alba Gatto spoke of the street parties in Lothian Street that took place about 10 years ago as a precedent. With CoM subsidising these events, they had been able to close off the street and have barbecues with about 50 people attending. Melanie said this involved the police as well. Looking at

North Melbourne as well as West Melbourne, the team were working out how the process of activating areas could be simplified — it could tie in with the community garden as well.

Kevin mentioned the community forum in Hoppers Crossing held on 3 July, 'West Gate Tunnel tollway: will it slow you down?' One of the presenters was William McDougall, who had been campaigning on traffic in the west for a long time. There was also the submission-writing session run by IMPA on 8 July in Spotswood.

2. Confirmation of minutes

Moved Carolyn Thompson, seconded Jane Poynter:

That the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on Tuesday 18 July 2017, having been circulated previously and taken as read, be confirmed.

Carried.

3. Committee report

(a) Spring Fling Festival stall

Secretary Jane Poynter said this hadn't been finalised yet. We needed to find a screen for Graeme Butler's photos and add something to it, not just leave it to roll around. In the Association's 50th anniversary year it was important to build on our successful interactive events of the last couple of years. We also needed people to mind the stall. Stephen Farrugia offered to follow up at North Melbourne Library re sorting the images.

Valerie Gerrand noted that we hadn't heard anything about the new public toilet since it had been spotted on the quay at Auckland.

(b) 50th anniversary celebratory dinner

Carolyn Thompson made an on-screen presentation of her research. She described the City of Melbourne Bowls Club venue and said some fairy lights and candles would provide the atmosphere. Access from Dudley Street was easy, with an external graduated ramp, and the floors inside were flat without steps. Costs were based on a minimum of 50 people attending. Drinks would be at bar prices. A fee of \$150 would apply for staff and cleaning. The Hon Richard Wynne had been confirmed as speaker.

Three local caterers had been invited to quote, with these results: Amiconi, \$50 per head, staffing costs included; Fred & Ginger, \$65 for two-course menu, \$78 for three-course menu, plus staffing \$15 per head; and Tommy Collins, \$60 plus staffing \$15 per head.

Moved Michael Horscroft, seconded Stephen Farrugia:

That the concept of a \$5 – \$10 surcharge to cover incidentals in addition to the base charge be endorsed.

Carried.

Moved Bill Cook, seconded Valerie Gerrand:

That Amiconi be retained as the caterer to provide a three-course menu at \$50 per head plus incidentals.

Carried.

Payment plans were discussed.

Moved Michael Horscroft, seconded Mark Stewart:

That the Committee determine the method of payment and the setting-out of instructions on the invitation regarding booking and payment deadlines and how to request vegetarian meals.

Carried.

It was agreed that Jane would do the invitation layout. Members were asked to inform friends and past members about the dinner. There would be a re-run of the Spring Fling display on the big screen. It was decided that the event times and date would be 7.15 for 7.45pm (leaving at 10.30pm), Wednesday 25 October. Carolyn was to view a function in action at the Bowls Club to make sure it worked well.

(c) Abbotsford Street Estate public housing development

Kevin said he had written to Housing Minister Martin Foley and been told the matter had been referred to a committee. There was a lot going on behind the scenes. Other groups had asked to be involved. There had been a malicious campaign on Facebook.

Widespread concerns were reported, especially about the selling-off of public land. There are many mixed public and private housing developments in the area. Once land is sold it's gone forever. One attendee said he had been horrified to learn at a meeting about the high-rise towers of up to nine storeys opposite the Homebush units and one even up to 12 storeys. Valerie queried why the government didn't utilise the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) system designed for the WMSP. She thought a 20% or 30% target for affordable housing in the WMSP would be better than the 6% proposed.

Melanie said the Council didn't have an official position on the Abbotsford Street Estate yet. Jane is to email the Brighton group about their manifesto — this group also supports public housing but is opposed to high-rise. It seemed clear that the ministry didn't want the responsibility of managing public housing. Public housing had worked well when a Council responsibility. It was noted that the advertisement for tender had gone out on 10 June 2017, indicating the process was moving on apace.

(d) North West Patch community garden

Jane said Bridget Macwhirter had contacted her from interstate, reporting that North West Patch (NWP) had had a positive first meeting at the North Melbourne Library. It had been decided that NWP would become a separate incorporated body in due course. While it would be great to have a dedicated area, the reality was that they would have to plant the garden in temporary boxes. Small areas would have one or two wicking beds. NWMA had been asked to support the grant application. NWP had just submitted an expression of interest for a \$9000 Stronger Communities grant to set up the project in the garden attached to the Meat Market. When/if Adam Bandt gives permission to apply, more detail will be worked out. NWMA will auspice NWP until incorporation is effected.

Moved Jane Poynter, seconded Michael Horscroft:

That this meeting agrees that NWMA auspice North West Patch's application to the Federal Government for a Melbourne Stronger Communities grant.

Carried.

4. Reports from affiliated organisations

(a) Melbourne North Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC)

Jan Lacey reported on a recent PCCC meeting. The priority this year has been on local youth and what can be done working with the police. A young African youth worker, Anyaak Abiel, had attended the meeting. He was working with 20–24-year-old males in Carlton but they were having trouble finding a permanent space and had to pack up and remove their equipment after each session. Their project allocating stolen bikes to deserving kids had been interrupted because there was no storage space. Ellen Sandell was working with Council to find a new venue so the good work could continue. The PCCC was also looking for suitably talented volunteers to work with the young people.

Regarding public housing renewal developments, Ellen was doing some work on those in her electorate. She would be happy to attend another NWMA meeting soon.

Motorbike noise had been discussed. In NSW the police now have more powers to make owners fix the component that makes the noise. They were seeing if a similar law could be introduced in Victoria. There was also an issue with noise from construction trucks accessing the Woolworths site, particularly in Kensington. These trucks have a special permit to travel through the night.

Melanie asked if this had been reported to VicRoads. Jan replied that VicRoads seemed to be aware but there was not much that could be done. Melanie said she would follow up with Liam (who had attended the PCCC meeting) and Council. Carolyn said VicRoads had responded well when she and her neighbours had complained about truck breaches at the Baptist Church site.

(b) Homelessness Action Group

Alba reported on behalf of Lorraine Siska. The steering group was calling for community members to be involved in making beautiful art by attending workshops for the Distant Voices, Common Goals project. Not many people from the general community had become involved yet. The workshops take place at North Melbourne Community Centre, 49–53 Bunclie Street, on Mondays and Tuesdays between 1.00 and 3.00pm, and you don't have to be an artist to contribute. The project is sponsored by CoM. Enquiries to 0404 771 366 or email dvcg2017@gmail.com [see *NWMN* Spring 2017, page 2 Noticeboard].

(c) CoRBA (Coalition of Resident and Business Associations)

Bill Cook reported. (1) They had discussed the **Local Government Act review**. CoRBA had sent a delegation to see the Opposition spokesperson on local government and other matters, David Davis. A number of Liberal members had backed Petro Georgiou's report, which addressed a lot of issues that we were concerned about, the exception being wards. This gives some leverage to prompt Minister Natalie Hutchins.

(2) There had been action on **heritage policy** by several groups that had concerns about the new scheme where buildings are regarded as 'contributory' or 'significant'. The policy statement made by CoM in 2014 has not been implemented, which means properties have to be reassessed. There was to be a meeting of CoRBA representatives and the National Trust on Thursday 17 August.

(3) **Active Citizenship for Urban Green Infrastructure in the City of Melbourne** — a project proposal that CoM had been working on with the Carlton Residents Association. This is a grassroots group trying to promote policies on green infrastructure. They had come to the meeting to encourage members to support them. Bill suggested we invite them to speak at a NWMA meeting.

(4) The East Melbourne Group had written a letter to CoRBA asking members to support their **proposal re aircraft noise**. The group wants a minimum height limit of 2000 metres imposed, to apply to helicopters (except hospital emergencies) and commercial aeroplanes. CoRBA encouraged people to sign a petition on the Greens' website.

(5) **Construction management plans** were raised. There had been very little consultation about the content of plans for city development sites. Parking was a concern, as were rostered days off — usually unilaterally on a Monday to make up for working on Saturday.

5. Discussion of correspondence circulated in the past month and received by hand

Correspondence is mainly received by email nowadays and is circulated to the members' and friends' lists. There was no discussion.

6. General business

(a) 77–79 Capel Street, West Melbourne

Mark Stewart reported on behalf of the local group. The area involved is Capel, William and Victoria streets, generally a one- and two-storey area. The applicant's intention was to build a residential hotel up to a maximum four storeys. This would set a precedent. Council had rejected the application. The residents supported Council at VCAT but VCAT's decision was to let the original application go ahead. Council is contemplating a legal appeal on the grounds that the decision flies in the face of all evidence.

Valerie pointed out that the timing was wrong for the objectors to benefit from the Historic Hilltop guidelines in the draft West Melbourne Structure Plan. Stewart said the proposal supported mixed-use so VCAT had no objection. However, residents objected to the scale and lack of transition.

(b) Proposed speed reduction in Errol Street

Valerie raised the possibility of the speed limit in Errol Street between Victoria and Queensberry being reduced from 50 to 40 km/h because people often cross mid-street rather than at the crossings at the ends of the block. Kevin asked Valerie to do a traffic analysis.

Moved Valerie Gerrand, seconded Jan Lacey:

That the matter of Errol Street traffic speeds between Victoria and Arden streets be listed on the agenda of the Association's next meeting and that Valerie provide a written report for discussion.

Carried.

(c) NWMA 50th anniversary dinner at CoM Bowls Club

Moved Jane Poynter, seconded Stephen Farrugia:

That the Chair sign the hiring terms and conditions document for City of Melbourne Bowls Club on behalf of the Association for the 50th anniversary dinner.

Carried.

7. Time, date and venue of next ordinary general meeting

Tuesday 19 September 2017, 7.30pm, Bastow Institute.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.