



MINUTES
Ordinary General Meeting, Tuesday 17 April 2018, 8.05pm

Present: Nicholas Atkins, Kevin Chamberlin, Mary Chapman, Sebastian Clark, Bill Cook, Stephen Farrugia, Peter Gerrand, Valerie Gerrand, Janet Graham, Stephen Hatcher, Michael Horscroft, Jan Lacey, Liam Lenihan, Dan McDonnell, Bridget Macwhirter, Jacques Péril, Jane Poynter, Sue Scarfe, Jacqueline Stevenson, Geraldine Suter and John Widmer

Apologies: Jenny Cook, Ray Cowling, Cecilia Gason, Michael Halls, Enid Hookey, Rosemary John, Marg Leser, Margaret Péril, Annie Rivera, Duncan Rouch and Carolyn Thompson

Moved Stephen Farrugia, seconded Bill Cook:

That apologies from the people listed above be accepted.

Carried.

1. Confirmation of minutes of previous meetings

Moved Valerie Gerrand, seconded Michael Horscroft:

That the minutes of Ordinary General Meetings held on 20 February and 20 March 2018, as amended, be confirmed.

Carried.

Amendments to the 20 March minutes included clarification that only the portion of Curzon Street between King and Miller streets would be subject to the reduced 40 km/h speed limit (item 4).

In accordance with Valerie Gerrand's request, it was noted that we should ask Duncan Rouch to consider amending his report tabled at the 20 February meeting (item 3) to reflect accurate figures regarding the proposed increase in housing units under the State Government's Public Housing Renewal Program.

2. Reports from affiliated organisations

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

Jan Lacey delivered a written report on the PCCC's meeting held 13 April 2018. There were two topics.

(i) Helping Hand Project (Conrad Aikin)

Since 2002 the Helping Hand Project (HHP) has been working with refugees aged 13–24. The project aims to break their isolation and provide a crucial link into the wider community.

The refugees are matched with a volunteer mentor. HHP is flexible and can include young people who have been here for any duration, including those born in Australia of refugee families.

The mentors complete a half-day training session and are expected to meet with other volunteers once a month as part of their ongoing development. They should also be prepared to commit to continue as volunteers for a year from the time they commence. Volunteers should expect to undergo a police check and a working-with-children check. The young people they would work with have already been screened for their suitability for the program, those with complex problems being referred elsewhere.

People who cannot volunteer can help in other ways, including donations. For more information visit the website <http://www.helpinghandproject.org.au>. Jan added that the importance of this work was hard to overestimate, so it would be good if anyone had time to help.

(ii) Theft of cars

There has been a jump in the number of stolen cars in the district. Because it is more difficult to get into new-model cars, thieves now break into the home first and take the car key, then steal the car. So store car keys out of sight!

(b) Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

John Widmer reported that Melbourne Water was a positive force at the moment and the creek was in the best state of health that it had ever been, helped by regular emptying of litter traps. On behalf of another organisation he had written thanking Melbourne Water. He was asking that the maintenance routine for emptying the litter traps be organised in response to rainfall events, rather than at a regular time interval such as monthly.

Moved John Widmer, seconded Bill Cook:

That the Association join in congratulating Melbourne Water on its maintenance of Moonee Ponds Creek and emptying of litter traps after significant rainfall, and that John write a letter to Melbourne Water, noting the improvements and requesting that the maintenance routine for emptying the litter traps be organised in response to rainfall events, rather than at a regular time interval (e.g. monthly).

Carried.

John added that the Greens' plan to turn the stretch from Arden Street, North Melbourne, to Racecourse Road, Flemington, into a linear park made sense.

(c) Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) Kensington and North Melbourne Community Reference Group

Peter Gerrand (having replaced Enid Hookey as NWMA representative in this group) spoke to a tabled report on the CRG meeting held on Thursday 22 March. He said most of the action currently was in the Kensington area. The Kensington Association was represented very capably by Matt Hammond.

Of interest to NWMA was the Victorian Planning Authority's (VPA) report that "their planning [had] been energised by MMRA's plans for the new North Melbourne station in the Arden precinct". VPA's aims were to: improve Moonee Ponds Creek; introduce new walking and cycling paths; and reserve space for community infrastructure including affordable housing and "two to four new schools".

Peter noted that there was no planning for impact on traffic from the Western Tunnel / West Gate Tunnel (formerly Western Distributor) project. There had already been great impact around Kensington and Parkville but there was much more to come from both the West Gate Tunnel and the Metro Rail project that would affect North and West Melbourne.

(d) MMRA Parkville Community Reference Group

Rachael Palmer, NWMA representative in the Parkville CRG, had sent a link to the minutes of the meeting and presentation held on Friday 6 April. Rachael had queried the process with regard to property condition surveys. Property condition surveys will be completed prior to commencement and following completion of works. Property owners will be provided with copies of reports.

Regarding property condition survey scope (Level 1 and Level 2 investigations), some additional investigation may be required for properties such as heritage buildings. Property owners can also provide building plans, construction reports etc to assist the survey teams. Properties closest to station works will be surveyed first. Properties 50 metres either side of the tunnel alignment will be surveyed (but the exact alignment hasn't been determined).

The action agreed at the CRG meeting was to coordinate a strata acquisition and property condition survey presentation for the NWMA.

The North Melbourne area is where the rail tunnels will be closest to the surface (12.5 metres at one point), and residences have varying titles, some to the centre of the Earth. The underground strata acquisition process will not begin until planning approval is achieved.

Moved Jane Poynter, seconded Mary Chapman:

That Peter's and Rachael's reports on the MMRA Community Reference Groups be received.
Carried.

Moved Bridget Macwhirter, seconded Bill Cook:

That the reports from the NWMA representatives in affiliated organisations be accepted.
Carried.

4. Traffic: speed limits — VicRoads and Melbourne City Council

Bill reported that Haig Poulson, Traffic Engineer at City of Melbourne (CoM), had emailed him saying he would be happy to speak at the Association's May meeting. The history of Curzon Street being an arterial road goes back a long way; it was done so that other roads could be downgraded to local roads. One suggestion as to how to get reduced speed limits imposed was to look for precedents where 40 km/h had been implemented. We should ask Haig to bring information about the current situation on a USB stick.

The presentation by the other proposed speaker — Sam Cremean from CoM on the Royal Park Transport Assessment — could be postponed because that was a longer-term project.

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

A flyer about a Better Boards Conference on 'Customer-centric governance — driving social impact' at the Adelaide Convention Centre on 9–12 August 2018 was passed around.

Other correspondence received and circulated electronically was as noted elsewhere.

6. General business

(a) West Gate Tunnel Project

It was noted that a combined arrangement between Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, the Kensington Association and NWMA for representation on the Western Tunnel (West Gate Tunnel) project would continue, if requested.

A new reference group was being formed and we wanted to continue our involvement. Our representative in the previous group was Michael Ingram.

(b) Report on MCAT meeting re Western Tunnel

Peter Gerrand had attended a meeting called by MCAT (Moreland Community Against the Tunnel) at Brunswick Town Hall on Wednesday 21 March to rally community groups across Melbourne to fight the Western Tunnel / West Gate Tunnel (aka Western Distributor) project. He had produced a written report. Attendees included Moreland City councillors and MPs from the upper house including Samantha Ratnam, Leader of Victorian Greens, and community representatives from wide-ranging suburbs, not just those directly affected.

Three independent experts presented. John Stone said Melbourne was alone among First World major cities in creating a new road project that would inject *more* road traffic into the city's centre. Crystal Legacy criticised the State Government's dependence on "market-led policy development" as undermining democratic governance; the planning of Melbourne's transport network had effectively been outsourced to Transurban.

Clare Walter spoke of her research into the adverse health effects of sub-micron particles in diesel trucks' emissions, which are so small they can pass through people's lungs into the bloodstream, causing cancers. She was also critical of the EPA, saying it no longer had internal expertise on the effects of air pollution on public health, or any influence on political decision-making.

Community reps who spoke from the floor included: Rosa McKenna representing Spotswood; Chris Dunleavy from Brooklyn and Altona; and Lisa Thomas from the Maribyrnong Truck Action Group. Lisa was in favour of the Western Tunnel "because it will take thousands of trucks off our streets", but was outraged that there would be no filtration of air in the tunnel, or bans on freight trucks driving on suburban streets.

To have any hope of stopping or mitigating the West Gate Tunnel, the action recommended at the end of the meeting was to learn from the campaign to stop the East West Link. Given that the Liberal Opposition's freeway proposals are even worse than Labor's, vote for the Greens or independents in the state election to ensure that the next state government is a minority Labor government, forced by parliamentary pressure to implement much more community-sensitive transport policies.

Moved Michael Horscroft, seconded Jane Poynter:

That Peter Gerrand's report on the MCAT meeting about the Western Tunnel / West Gate Tunnel held on 21 March 2018 be accepted.

Carried.

(c) Community garden at St Alban's Church

Michael reported on the status of this garden in the grounds of St Alban's Church in Melrose Street at the corner of Mark Street. Since the church closed it has been run by Anglican Property Services. The community garden is not an incorporated body and its public liability insurance was previously covered by the church. Lou Olliff has been liaising with Anglican Property Services to see if there is a way around this. It's possible that the church will be sold for development. There are about 20 members of the garden group with six shared plots.

It was discussed whether, if we needed money, we could co-opt the \$694 in the Sustainability Street account, noting that the focus of Sustainability Street was originally on this community garden. The Association was seen as the auspice to set up the bank account but the money doesn't belong to NWMA, and Gabby Stannus and Matt Grounds are still signatories.

Discussion turned to joining the group with North West Patch. Bridget confirmed that the Patch could accept more members. The church building is now being used by Foodbank and possibly as a meeting space. The garden group has working bees once a month, effectively looking after the church's garden, so Anglican Property Services could be asked to cover costs including public liability insurance.

It was agreed that the Association should ask the St Alban's community garden group to enter into discussions with North West Patch and noted that the group would continue negotiating with the church in regard to assisting with costs. Michael is to report back to the next NWMA meeting.

(d) Useful publications

Jan suggested that members buy copies of *The Big Issue* — the two latest editions featured homelessness.

Sue Scarfe had obtained a box of 140-page booklets on the *West Melbourne Structure Plan 2018: Planning for sustainable growth in a distinct neighbourhood* released last February. Attendees were encouraged to take one.

(e) Meet the Candidates events

Several events had been arranged to meet the candidates in the Lord Mayoral by-election. Kevin said he had been asked to chair one in Chinatown. The Carlton Residents Association was running a forum on Monday 23 April, 7.30pm – 9.00pm, at Church of All Nations, Palmerston Street, Carlton.

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

Tuesday 15 May 2018, 7.30pm, in the Dewey Common, Bastow Institute, 603–615 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne.

The meeting closed at 9.28pm