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**MINUTES  
Ordinary General Meeting, Tuesday 19 September 2017, 7.35pm**

**Present:** Nicholas Atkins, Kevin Chamberlin, Mary Chapman, Emmy Chung, Bill Cook, Tess Demediuk, Stephen Farrugia, Cecilia Gason, Alba Gatto, Peter Gerrand, Valerie Gerrand, Janet Graham, Susan Greer, Enid Hookey, Michael Horscroft, Rosemary John, Mary Kelleher, Jan Lacey, Geoff Leach, Liam Lenihan (guest), Bridget Macwhirter, Kath Olive (guest), Jane Poynter, Winsome Roberts, Lorraine Siska, Jacqueline Stevenson, Carolyn Thompson, David Walker (guest), Jim Weatherill and John Widmer

**Apologies:** Susanna Collis, Ray Cowling, Mark Jones, Mary Kehoe, Colin Long, Graham McCallum, Jacques Péril, Margaret Péril, Annie Rivera, Gerard Rodgers, Duncan Rouch, Geraldine Suter and Helen Sweeting

Chair Kevin Chamberlin welcomed attendees and introduced the guests from the City of Melbourne, Liam Lenihan (Placemaking and Engagement) and David Walker and Kath Olive from the Open Space planning team, who would speak about the plan for Gardiner Reserve.

**1. Presentation on plan for Gardiner Reserve park expansion**

David Walker said this was a funded capital works project going ahead this year. The City of Melbourne (CoM) strategies that guide them for parkland include: 2012 Open Space; Open Space Opportunities in North and West Melbourne; and even one that dates from 2002.

**Open Space Strategy (2012)** identified a lack of open space to meet current and future demand. Gardiner Reserve in particular was highly valued but needed more work including more trees. A survey showed that what people liked was that it was within walking distance and good for dog-walking and picnics. Suggested improvements included more shade trees. Gardiner Reserve was one of nine open-space sites identified at the time. Some other sites have already been done.

**Urban Forest Strategy (2012)** includes:

- resilient, healthy and diverse urban forest
- target to increase canopy cover to 40% by 2040
- help address climate change.

**Nature in the City Strategy (2017):** Melburnians want a city that cares for the environment.

There is potential to expand Gardiner Reserve east into Dryburgh Street and across the northbound carriageway to the median strip, extending the park's grassed area, introducing a north–south path and planting vegetation at the eastern side. This would expand the reserve (currently approximately 6630 square metres) by 43%. They would move the play area to the north-east, leaving more open grassed space at the southern end of the reserve. This would enable more people to picnic at the same time. Car-parking would be lost on the western side of Dryburgh Street but retained on the eastern side.

There is a proposal to create car-parking in Macaulay Road along the north-eastern side, with a bike lane next to it, then a single traffic lane, the bike lane to be protected by chevrons marked on both sides. This is awaiting VicRoads' approval.

**Pop-up information event held 9 September**

- to provide information to local residents and get feedback from children, among other things.

The CoM thanks everyone for attending the event and providing positive input. In the kids' survey, swings won out (six out of 20 responses).

## **Project timeline**

- Review feedback next month (October)
- Prepare tender documentation October–December 2017
- Award tenders January 2018.

Kath added that this had been a long time coming. The community had been consistent over time since 2002. They would like to get comments from the NWMA regarding play equipment, paths and other matters.

## **Questions / comments by attendees and answers by David, Kath and Liam**

**Q:** levers Creek runs under Gardiner Reserve — it's quite shallow. There's an opportunity to put in water tanks to collect water from the creek to use on the reserve.

**A:** We are considering putting in channels in levers Reserve itself (Parkville).

**Q:** levers Creek runs in a brick tunnel in the Harris Street drain.

**Q:** How many car-parking spaces are planned on Macaulay Road?

**A:** Fifteen new spaces, including two for disabled drivers.

**Q:** I noticed something happening on the east side today. Are you considering that Dryburgh Street be two-way?

**A:** That's still proposed.

**Q:** You still need to get VicRoads' approval for Macaulay Road?

**A:** That's correct.

**Q:** The rest of Macaulay Road is single-lane.

**A:** We're conscious of that. We are hoping our plan will prevail.

**Q:** Is there a new pedestrian crossing?

**A:** No. There's already one on Macaulay Road. We will try to improve it.

**Q:** Here's some positive feedback. You did a terrific job in Howard Street, West Melbourne.

**Q:** You overlooked the matter of road discontinuance on another site years ago. Maps were never updated.

**A:** Once we get the plan accepted we can start the discontinuance process.

**Q:** You might get an objection.

**A:** We could but we generally don't.

**Q:** This portion of Macaulay Road was subject to special provisions linked to the Tullamarine Freeway and control of traffic movement in contributing streets. If work were to proceed, the approval of Transurban might be required. The beauty of this design is that it recognises the existing alignment of Dryburgh Street. Overall it's a good design.

**A:** The overshadowing almost comes to the edge of the park but not to Dryburgh Street.

**Q:** Shadowing is much more pervasive with the new developments.

**A:** We have to look at these spaces and maximise opportunities.

**Q:** There's a question of sun as opposed to sunlight.

**Q:** I think it's a wonderful plan. The native vegetation really keeps that character. There are too many rocks elsewhere.

**Q:** Have you considered community gardening?

**A:** No, we haven't. Maybe it's not the right time; we could consider it next March/April.

**A:** We will be choosing plants that suit the area. We might be able to incorporate community gardening.

More information is available on the Participate Melbourne website.

David and Kath were thanked. They departed at 8.20pm and the meeting proceeded, with the Abbotsford Street Estate item brought forward for Liam Lenihan to make an announcement.

## **2. Abbotsford Street public housing development — submission date**

Liam said there was a two-week extension for submissions on the North Melbourne Renewal. They were now due by 5.00pm on Wednesday 4 October [subsequently revised to **Monday 16 October**].

Submit via <http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/shrp> and click on “Abbotsford Street, Nth Melbourne”. He said they had wanted to clarify some discrepancies in the documentation. We could send additional submissions if we wished. Liam was asked about a Melbourne City Council report being considered by councillors that evening on the redevelopment (Item 5.4). He replied that the zoning for schools was generally not Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) but Public Use Zone (PUZ).

Liam departed and the meeting continued with the regular agenda.

### **3. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**

There was a request that the phrase in parentheses “(below that number meant a higher cost per person, above meant a reduced cost)” on page 2 in item 3(b) be deleted to avoid confusion.

*Moved Valerie Gerrand, seconded Alba Gatto:*

That, subject to deletion of the above phrase, the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on Tuesday 15 August 2017, having been circulated previously and taken as read, be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.

*Carried.*

### **4. Committee report**

#### **(a) Spring Fling Festival stall, Sunday 15 October**

Secretary Jane Poynter said she had had a very helpful meeting with Mary Chapman to discuss ideas. One was that everyone should write down an observation or memory about a building, and those that were reflected in a Graeme Butler photograph would be superimposed as a caption. Jane needed a street name and number to identify the building and the comments needed to be submitted ASAP. The subject didn't have to be a building; it could be a tree or a park with a childhood memory, or a modern take — a lot of variety needed. At Spring Fling the photos would be shown on a screen installed near the library window.

We also needed to talk about current issues, several of which will have a huge impact. Mary's idea was to print out a large map identifying problem sites — a physical display. We could also do the postcards again. All this would provide opportunities to stop and engage people. Cecilia Gason asked about fundraising. This was discussed, including putting out collection tins again. Ideas please.

#### **(b) 50th anniversary celebratory dinner, Wednesday 25 October**

Kevin reminded participants about payment for their dinner as we needed the money to pay the caterer. Jane said there would be a table set up with memorabilia showing all the great things NWMA had done over the years, minute books etc — any historic material welcome.

#### **(c) Abbotsford Street public housing development — report on public consultations**

The Association had written to Planning Minister Richard Wynne, who said the matter wasn't with him yet, so we had then written to Housing Minister Martin Foley and received a response that a senior official of the department and his staff would be happy to meet with us. The meeting agreed that the Association should speak with the bureaucracy. Members interested in attending were Kevin, Rosemary John and Susan Greer. It was noted that the education ministry was now involved but had been conspicuously absent.

The Melrose Street meetings (22 and 23 May) were referred to, where community members had suggested integrating preschool and kindergarten into the housing estate. At the 'debacle meeting' at North Melbourne Library on Friday 25 August the presenters had said the new education component — 5500 square metres of “land for future school provision” — responded to this feedback. That triangle of land provides a lot of open space for the community.

The CoM had held an information session on Wednesday 13 September at North Melbourne Community Centre to try to provide clarification in a larger, more suitable venue and a less heated atmosphere.

Kevin summarised the issues of concern as follows:

- (1) The planning process has been very poor, including the rezoning.
- (2) It isn't a comprehensive solution. It should have a comprehensive, integrated policy.
- (3) Inclusionary zoning. This needs to be incorporated into the planning scheme.
- (4) Is this the site for the second school?

The buildings proposed are out of character; the housing is obsolete; the plan is unsustainable because of the loss of public land.

Members commented variously as follows: The same strategy is being applied across all public housing estates. The new Arden suburb might have 15,000 people. The government has plenty of funds available to enable a good plan. North Melbourne Primary School's newsletter had a reference to "NMPS Campus No. 2". The government is trying to exclude children not from North and West Melbourne from attending, even Parkville residents. There was general discussion about the history of poor school planning and school closures.

*Moved Jane Poynter, seconded Bill Cook:*

- (i) That the Chair be authorised to make a submission to the planning panel for this project;
- (ii) that a similar submission be made to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Public Housing Renewal Program and that the NWMA present at that inquiry; and
- (iii) that, subject to the outcome of the meeting with Housing Minister Foley's staff, the Chair make a decision about sending a delegation to Education Minister James Merlino.

*Carried.*

**Note:** Email submissions to the Parliamentary Inquiry to [phrp@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:phrp@parliament.vic.gov.au) by **Friday 3 November**. See <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/lpic/article/3842>

#### **(d) West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) Inquiry and Advisory Committee hearing**

Janet Graham had attended the opening day and the last seven days of the panel hearing, which had wrapped up today. She reported that she and Colin Long had both presented towards the end of hearing, as had a number of individual community members and representatives from local organisations. Gerry McLoughlin, on behalf of IMPA (including NWMA as a signatory), had done a great job with their submission, calling Dr Ian Woodcock as an expert witness, who was unfazed by Stuart Morris's (barrister for Western Distributor Authority) cross-examination.

The hearing had been conducted with respect shown all round in a pleasant environment. The chairman had reassured a woman from Stanley Street, who spoke about her perplexity at what was happening to her suburb, that she wasn't alone and there had been many presenters from West and North Melbourne. Kevin added that the panel had congratulated Gerry on her attendance throughout the hearing. He referred to the WGTP as "planning on the run". The government had announced several changes during the course of the hearing.

*Moved Jane Poynter, seconded Stephen Farrugia:*

That the report on the West Gate Tunnel Project be noted.

*Carried.*

#### **(e) North West Patch community garden**

Bridget Macwhirter reported that North West Patch had potentially secured the Meat Market garden to set up the project. There would be seven to 10 garden beds on wheels, which could be moved when there were events at the Meat Market. About 10 individuals so far had come forward to be members of the community garden. No one will own a box — they will all be shared.

#### **(f) Speed limit proposal for Errol Street**

This matter had been deferred from the previous meeting. Valerie Gerrand had suggested getting the speed limit in Errol Street lowered, as the distance between the pedestrian crossings at the Errol/Queensberry and Errol/Victoria Street intersections was about 227 metres. It was assumed the current speed limit was 50 km/h (although there are no signs) but 40 km/h seemed advisable given the increasing number of pedestrians and their tendency to cross mid-street.

If the Association supported her proposal Valerie would write to CoM requesting they do a traffic survey with a view to assessing the desirability and feasibility of introducing a 40 km/h speed limit along this section of Errol Street. This was becoming common in streets where there was a mix of cars, cyclists and pedestrians, such as Lygon Street and Sydney Road. It might also be sensible to extend the limit to Arden Street. Bridget added that the limit was still 50 km/h near North Melbourne Primary School, where it should be 40.

*Moved Bill Cook, seconded Carolyn Thompson:*

That the NWMA endorse Valerie Gerrand's proposal re traffic speed reduction in Errol Street.  
*Carried.*

## **5. Reports from affiliated organisations**

### **(a) Homelessness Action Group**

Lorraine Siska provided an update on the *Distant Voices, Common Goals* project, holding up a brochure. She said the group hoped eventually to have the mural mounted somewhere in the neighbourhood. They had had some fun with local characters at the workshops and she showed some photos on the screen. Dan Waters, their artist, would be putting participants' 'doodles' together on cardboard. The work was gradually evolving as Dan put his imprimatur on the individual pieces and painted out the less effective parts. There were 40-odd panels, some of which would go into the mural while others would stand as separate artworks. There were three more workshops if anyone wanted to join in.

## **6. Discussion of correspondence circulated in the past month and received by hand**

None discussed.

## **7. General business**

None.

## **8. Time, date and venue of next ordinary general meeting**

Tuesday 17 October 2017, 7.30pm, at the Bastow Institute, 603–615 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

The Committee met briefly after the meeting to consider applications from two people to join the Association.

*Moved Bill Cook, seconded Michael Horscroft:*

That Annie Rivera and Jim Weatherill be approved as members of the NWMA.  
*Carried.*