



MINUTES
Ordinary General Meeting, Tuesday 18 April 2017, 7.53pm

Present: Nicholas Atkins, Kevin Chamberlin, Mary Chapman, Emmy Chung, Jenny Danielson, Stephen Farrugia, Alba Gatto, Valerie Gerrand, Janet Graham, Enid Hookey, Michael Horscroft, Jan Lacey, Michael Murphy, Jacques P ril, Jane Poynter, Duncan Rouch, Sue Scarfe, Lorraine Siska, Dick Standish, Jacqueline Stevenson, Gina Stuart, Carolyn Thompson and John Widmer

Apologies: Diana Bosanac, Vlad Bosanac, Bill Cook, Jenny Cook, Ray Cowling, Cecilia Gason, Stephen Hatcher, Mary Kelleher, Marg Leser, Ewan Ogilvy, Margaret P ril, Gerard Rodgers, Geraldine Suter and Helen Sweeting

1. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Moved Jan Lacey, seconded Valerie Gerrand:

That the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on Tuesday 21 March 2017 be confirmed.

Carried.

2. Committee report

Secretary Jane Poynter said the Committee had met the previous week and discussed the following:

(a) Guest speakers

No further guest speakers had been booked. Members are asked to email suggestions.

(b) N(W)MA's 50th anniversary

This is the start of the North and West Melbourne Association's (originally North Melbourne Association) 50th year. The Committee would like to celebrate this with one to three events during the year. Perhaps the May meeting could include a dinner or cocktail party-style gathering, possibly with a quiz. They had thought about a North and West Melbourne trivia night. There could be a more formal function or dinner later in the year with a significant speaker. Please make suggestions for a nice event for 2017.

It would be good if our stall at this year's Spring Fling had a theme celebrating the NWMA's 50th year. The Errol Street Improvement Survey and the North West Patch community garden display had both been very successful events at the 2015 and 2016 Spring Fling festivals, respectively. A slide show of Graeme Butler's historic photographs was suggested for an indoor event. The Chair suggested bringing out the old minute books, available from Kevin Green.

(c) Office of Housing redevelopment of estate bordered by Abbotsford, Haines, Curzon and Molesworth streets, North Melbourne

Kevin Chamberlin had attended a meeting called by the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) to discuss the 'renewal' of this low-rise Housing Commission estate. He said some properties might be sold off. The media release in December 2016 hadn't said much. NWMA representatives had been able to attend an on-site gathering for estate residents, where the department had put on a sausage sizzle and a baby-animal pen and face-painting for the kids. The Tenants Union of Victoria (TUV) also attended.

It was announced that social and equitable housing would increase by 10% on a reduced land footprint with the remaining land being sold. The department was asked why it needed to demolish the buildings. The DHHS may be intending to apply for a planning scheme amendment. They are going to get back to us on this. The current tenants are not guaranteed a flat in the redeveloped estate, which worried the TUV representative.

Jan Lacey noted a positive aspect with the plan to install lifts because people with disabilities couldn't manage the walk-ups. Kevin said the man from DHHS had talked about lifts being installed in other estates as well. Getting people back onto the estate was a major concern, especially for families. Kevin was concerned that families wouldn't be invited back, that the accommodation might be for single people. One NWMA member had heard a suggestion that DHHS wanted to sell housing to housing associations. Valerie Gerrand suggested getting someone from DHHS to talk to the Association.

3. Reports from affiliated organisations

(a) Homelessness Action Group (HAG)

Lorraine Siska explained that HAG normally held four meetings a year but last year two had been cancelled, so there was little to report. The usual annual Community Forum was also cancelled.

Updating VincentCare Victoria's \$45 million redevelopment, Lorraine said Ozanam House was currently in a six-week demolition phase, which meant its staff and services had been relocated to Bailly House. When the redevelopment was complete, services at Ozanam Community Centre in Abbotsford Street would be relocated to the new building. Expanded crisis accommodation services would be accessed from Flemington Road. There would also be a cafe on the Flemington Road frontage open to people experiencing homelessness as well as to the general public. The development would include 20 two-to-three-storey private townhouses in Chapman Street, which Council had approved.

HAG Art Project, 2017: A steering group is being formed to develop the concept for a public art piece, *Different Voices, Common Goals*, to be displayed at the Spring Fling. They have received a \$15,000 Community Grant from the City of Melbourne. There may also be a digital art installation that anyone can participate in. The project aims to celebrate living and working in North and West Melbourne, with themes of home, belonging, community and diversity. It is hoped that working towards a common goal of shared aspirations will promote harmony and acceptance.

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

Jan Lacey reported that at the PCCC's last meeting they had been discussing a youth focus. Two people from University High School had spoken, saying schools were losing their welfare officers. Two people from Kensington high-rises were involved in preventative programs for young people. There had also been discussion about what role the PCCC could play. A number of African kids are interested in joining the police force but a barrier to this is their inability to swim! The police would like to have more youth liaison officers like Nick Parissis so more areas and young people could be contacted.

With regard to crime, the number of aggravated burglaries had dropped. Car robberies occur more often in daytime than at night and are most common on Thursdays. A word of warning: storage cages on the bottom level of flats are broken into regularly. Jan's report was noted.

4. Government statewide amendment to the residential zones

Enid Hookey said the amendment was rather vague. Mandatory height limits had been introduced. Kevin said that Planning Minister Wynne was now talking about 'discretion'. Previously this had often allowed double the recommended height to be built. Bill Cook, an apology for this meeting, had wanted to discuss the topic. It should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Jane suggested members might like to check out responses to the Arden Vision and Framework consultation.

5. Discussion of correspondence circulated during the meeting

(a) Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal

Members queried where the Save Queen Victoria Market rally scheduled for Friday 28 April between 11.30am and 1.00pm was to be held. It was thought that the corner of Queen and Therry streets would be close to the action.

(b) West Gate Tunnel Project (formerly Western Distributor)

Several brochures were among the correspondence. Kevin said this project was growing with every change of name. Janet Graham reported responses by engineers at the 'pop-up' expos that the Wurundjeri Way extension had to be located along the north-eastern side of the E-Gate site (near Railway Place) because that was railway land. Alba Gatto added that the project was not allowed to impinge on any E-Gate land. Moving the road further west next to Footscray Road would indeed impinge on E-Gate.

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

Tuesday 16 May 2017, 7.30pm, at the Bastow Institute, 603–615 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne.

There being no general business, the meeting closed at 8.34pm.