

Your local voice



www.wccc.com.au
info@wccc.com.au

PO Box 3701
Weston Creek ACT 2611

Telephone **(02) 6288 8975**

Minutes of the General Meeting Wednesday, 30 April 2009, 7.30pm

1. Opening of meeting

1. Meeting opened 7.43pm.
25 persons were present.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes

The minutes of public meetings held on 25 March were distributed. The Secretary explained that the draft minutes had been sent to Tony Gill, Roads ACT, for him to check that the record of questions and answers given at the meeting reflected correctly what he and his colleague had said, but that no response had yet been received. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was passed (Moved: Simon Hearder; Seconded: Eddie Irvine), with a caveat that if Roads ACT asked for some changes, these would be incorporated later.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that WCCC has \$4480.59 on hand, represented by \$537.35 in one account and \$4368.94 in the other. One outstanding amount of \$425.70 is yet to be paid to Sensis White Pages.

- A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was passed. (Moved: Tom Anderson; Seconded: Tim Dalton)

5. Presentation: Renovation of former Weston and Rivett School buildings

Richard Hutch, from the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS), apologised that his colleague, David Collett, had been delayed in Melbourne and would not be able to give a presentation as planned, but that he would speak on the topic instead.

He said that the Hindmarsh company had been appointed as project managers for the renovation program, and that they had started work after Christmas. Hindmarsh had already done a lot of investigation at the schools concerned, and fences had been put up where work was to begin.

Architects has also been engaged. Paul Barnett Design has been selected to have primary carriage of the renovations to be done at Weston, Rivett and Holt school sites. Conrad Moore has been selected to undertake renovations design at Melrose.

DHCS had made a preliminary allocation of space for the tenants of the building at Weston, taking account of specific requests for ground floor preference, ease of access, and car parking, etc. There would be 15-16 tenants, 6-8 of whom were existing tenants, and 7-8 would be new tenants. Existing tenants include the following:

- Good Environment Choice Australia
- Good Environment Services
- Australia 21
- Sustainable Population Australia
- Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools (APFAS)

New tenants who would be offered space at Weston include the following:

- Woden Community Service Inc
- Parentline
- Galilee Incorporated
- ACTCOSS
- Communities at work
- Canberra Rape Crisis Centre
- Care Incorporated
- Toora Women Inc.
- ACT Shelter
- Sharing Places
- Autism Asperger ACT

Questions and Comments from WCCC members

1. WCCC members noted that where Weston School used once to be a Weston Creek facility, the new regional community centre would be so no longer. Two members said it was disappointing that there appeared to be no community groups from Weston Creek, and asked if any Weston Creek group had applied for space but missed out. Tim Dalton undertook to find out about Weston Creek groups.

2. A member asked if there would be any casual lettings of space in the new regional community centre.

Mr Hutch replied that the centre would have a Neighbourhood Hall that would be available for letting. DHCS has yet to decide how the hall will be managed, but several options will be put to the Minister.

3. Tenants will be expected to pay rent at “community rental” levels. The levels used by the Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) would be used as a guide. At present DHCS lets space at a “peppercorn” rent, but in the future DHCS will want to recover the costs of utilities and maintenance.

4. Is the centre fully tenanted?

Mr Hutch said that all the space has been allocated and there is none left.

5. WCCC raised the question of the name for the centre. DHCS has suggested that it would be called the Weston Creek Community Centre, but this would give rise to much confusion with the Weston Creek Community Centre at Cooleman Court. WCCC is of the opinion that the

centre needs to have a different name, one that does not cause such confusion.

Mr Hutch said that DHCS has not examined this matter in detail, but would not rush into naming the centre.

Cath Paton, chair of the Weston Creek Community Association, said that the Association has expressed an interest in managing the hiring of the Neighbourhood Hall, and has also indicated to DHCS its concern about the proposed name for the regional centre.

6. What will the tenants of the regional centre use the space for? Will they use it mainly for administration, or will the space be used for counselling clients (such as clients of the Rape Crisis Centre)?

Mr Hutch replied that most groups would be involved in administration of their affairs, but that the Rape Crisis Centre in particular would be using the centre to see clients for counselling and other matters.

DHCS will monitor the traffic that uses the centre, and also whether parking is adequate.

7. How long will it be before the playgrounds at Weston that have just been removed will be re-established? Why were the playgrounds removed before replacement playgrounds had been built, as was promised last year?
Will the equipment be re-used?

Mr Hutch said the Weston playgrounds would be constructed by TAMS, not by DHCS, but he did not know the timeframe for that work.

8. What about Rivett playground at the back of Noah's Ark? Why was that dismantled this week?

Mr Hutch said he did not know the reason, but that Rivett was soon to become a construction site.

WCCC members indicated they were angry that playgrounds have been dismantled without replacement facilities being built first. Many grandparents take their grandchildren to the playgrounds, and now the number of facilities has been substantially reduced.

9. How soon after the assessment period for tenants can WCCC get floor plans for the refurbished schools?

10. What will be the size of the Neighbourhood Hall?

Mr Hutch said this would be decided by the architect. He expected that designs would be completed by June 2009, also traffic studies and development applications. DHCS was aiming for construction to begin in August 2009, with completion planned for June 2010.

Noah's Ark will be finished sooner than that, probably by the end of 2009.

The meeting was closed at 8.20 by WCCC Chair John Burke, as it seemed that Mr Hutch was either unable or unwilling to give meaningful answers to questions from the audience.

[By mistake, the following paragraph was not included in these Minutes before they were printed and presented to the public meeting on 27 May 2009, and passed as presented. The

paragraph is included here to clarify the record.

About 45 minutes after the start of the meeting, Mr Burke (Chairman of the WCCC) suggested to the meeting that Mr Hutch was not providing information about the internal and external renovations of the building that would give the attendees an indication of what the building would look like when the renovations were completed. He said that the meeting was called primarily for this purpose. Bearing this in mind, he asked the attendees to vote (by show of hands) on whether to close the meeting. Nearly all of the attendees raised their hands in support of closing the meeting. Mr Burke then declared the meeting closed.]

Next Public Meeting: WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2009, 7.30pm
Topic: Weston Community Park