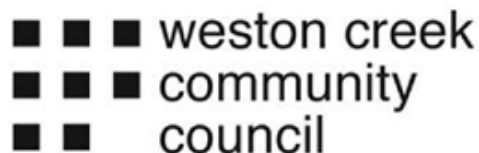


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**Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, 30 September 2009, 7.30pm**

1. Opening of meeting

1. Meeting opened 7.45pm by Chairman Tim Dalton who acknowledged the presence of Caroline Le Couteur MLA for Molonglo. He also welcomed Neale Guthrie and Sue Dever from the Department of Territory and Municipal Services. 15 persons were present.

2. Apologies

No apologies had been received.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of Public Meeting held on 26 August were distributed and approved as presented. (Moved: Seconded: Simon Header)

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that WCCC has \$1194.67 in its bank account. The only bill recently paid was \$60 for the tea and coffee at the last Public Meeting.

- A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was passed. (Moved:Chris Wilson, Seconded Heather Hughes)

5. Presentation by Neale Guthrie and Sue Dever [Sp] of the Department of Territory and Municipal Services on the Draft Plan for Stromlo Forest Park.

Mr Neale Guthrie provided the monthly meeting with a detailed presentation on the current draft master plan for future development of the Stromlo Forest Park. While submissions have closed on the current plan, input from community members and interest groups is still being made. The draft plan is conceptual in nature and subject to on-going development, especially in relation to the emerging planning outcomes for the Molonglo residential area.

The Draft Plan had originated from Government, with input from User groups and Government Agencies, about what development should take place in the Park. The Plan was conceptual by nature and sought community opinion on what was being proposed. Not all of the concepts proposed had been agreed to by the community or Government.

The Government had invested \$10 million to date to build the complex into a world-class facility as well as a facility for the people of Canberra.

24 user groups were making use of the park. The Park now had

- A purpose built criterium bike track
- A purpose built cross country running track
- A mountain bike track with 50 to 60 km of mountain bike trails, and
- Work was continuing on equestrian trails

150,000 people are visiting the main entrance of the park each year by car. As well, there are users arriving by foot, bike and horse and also parking at other access points to the park so the numbers of users are far greater.

The Mountain Bike World Championships were held at the start of September and 45,000 people had attended over the 6 days with 34,000 over the last three days when the event was ticketed. The event had also attracted 2000 visitors from overseas who had stayed in Canberra for an average of 7 days. This was good for the Canberra economy.

Stage One of the Park is now almost complete and the Draft Plan was developed to discuss with the community how to progress the Park development. He outlined the Plan, which included:

- Sporting fields adjacent to the Cotter and Uriarra Roads and the Fire Memorial. This area had been requested to take this area from the Park to provide the fields for the Molonglo Development
- A purpose built athletic track
- New mountain bike, horse and walking trails to link from the Park under the proposed John Gorton Arterial to the Molonglo River and on to the Arboretum and Lake Burley Griffin.
- An event village
- A possible 3 Star Hotel
- An accommodation precinct with around 350 beds for which a private investor would be sought
- An equestrian park
- A Gondola [a controversial idea] that would be about 1 km in length and would provide access to the top of Mt Stromlo. An estimate of cost would be around \$8m which may require assistance from both the Federal and ACT Governments
- A vertical descent ride such as a luge or flying fox
- A 12 km bitumen road racing bike circuit to go around and up Mt Stromlo

The Plan would be reworked after the consultation period and then be progressed through a Budget bid to Government. There would be staggered progress with the proposals but there was a need for commercial enterprises to become involved.

Issues raised:

The main issues raised by members at the Meeting were:

- A concern for the Fire Memorial to be surrounded by playing fields
- The playing fields themselves should be removed from the Park and placed in a more central location in the proposed Molonglo development
- The playing fields presented a parking concern for the neighbourhood as it was away from the proposed main arterial roads
- Noise issues from the Park were raised, particularly concerns over the proposed luge
- A view that too many functions were trying to be squeezed into the Park

6. General Business

1. **CIT Horticultural Site:** The Chair provided an outline of the latest developments at the CIT Horticulture Site in Weston and Councils efforts to maintain the arboretum area for the use of the Weston Creek Community. This included meetings between Council and the Chief Minister's Department as well as their Consultants and a public briefing held recently at the CIT in relation to the proposal for the relocation of the Islamic School to the site.
2. **TAMS Review:** - The Chair outlined the briefing provided last Friday by the Chief Minister and the Head of TAMS for comment and advice from Community Councils and Organisations to find savings of \$4.4 million from this years expenditure.
3. **Relocation of the Islamic School to Weston:** - The issue of the move of the Islamic School to Weston was raised by members who sought to have a broader discussion on the issue.
4. **Equestrian Issues with Stromlo:** - Christine was asked by the Chair to outline the issue with Equestrian use and proposals for the Stromlo Forest Park . She indicated the likely issues with the development of the 12 km bike path, the proposed luge development and the fact that access to the Park is restricted to the southern and eastern sides.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Next Public Meeting: Wednesday 28 October 2009 at 7.30pm