

Your local voice



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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 25 August 2010

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7.40pm by Deputy Chair Tom Anderson, who welcomed members and guests. Twenty-seven persons were recorded as present, but several others also attended.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Katy Gallagher, Simon Corbell, Andrew Barr, Zed Seselja, Jeremy Hansen, Caroline Le Couteur, Shane Rattenbury, Tim Dalton, Heather Hughes, Charlotte Hearder.

3. Minutes

Copies of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 26 August 2009, were provided to all present at the meeting, and have also been up on the WCCC website since October 2009.

A motion to accept the minutes was put to the meeting.

Motion: That the minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented.
(Moved: Tim Walshaw; Seconded: Simon Hearder)

The motion was passed.

4. Chairman's Report

Deputy Chair Tom Anderson made the Chairman's Report on behalf of the Council. The report is attached.

Some of the main events and achievements for the year included the following:

- Public meetings of WCCC were held in every month except December and January, with a mixture of presentations on topics of interest (such as Plans for Cotter Dam; New Water Storage for Weston Creek Ovals; Scams, Fraud and Consumer Rights) and community forums for members to raise matters of concern;
- The highlight of the year was the decision by the ACT Government to give the former CIT gardens to the Weston Creek community as a community facility;
- Roads ACT carried out a survey of parking needs at Cooleman Court, and as a result, the number of long-term parking spots has been reduced in favour of 2-hour spots;
- Other successes for WCCC include the installation of a safe road-crossing outside the gym for mothers and children; the on-going upgrade of Trenerry Place, with trimming of trees and improvements to the gardens; and the decision by Roads ACT to install traffic

lights at the future intersection of Streeton Drive, Dixon Drive and Unwin Place.

- WCCC has been given good publicity by *The Southside Chronicle*, with eight front-page articles in the past twelve months, and WCCC wished to thank the Chronicle's editor and staff;
- The WCCC website has been developed as a vibrant, up-to-date website that allows members and the general public to keep abreast of what is happening in Weston Creek. We would like to express our thanks to webmaster Lance Williamson;
- WCCC has sent nine submissions on various matters to the ACT Government; WCCC members have also attended ACTPLA forums every two months, and meetings of the Airport Noise Committee.

In conclusion, Tom Anderson thanked the Weston Club for providing rooms for WCCC meetings each month.

A motion to accept the Deputy Chairman's Report was put to the meeting.

Motion: That the Deputy Chairman's Report be accepted. (Moved: Trevor Wilson; Seconded: Mal Ferguson) The motion was passed.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Simon Hearder presented the Treasurer's Report. He said that expenditure for the year had been \$7475.00, and that the balance in the bank was currently \$6594.00. He noted that the books had been sent to the auditor three weeks previously, but that the auditor had not yet presented a report.

A motion to accept the report was moved.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted, subject to a satisfactory report from the auditor. (Moved: Simon Hearder; Seconded: John Burke) The motion was passed.

The question was raised: Should the auditor be changed?

6. Secretary's Report

Secretary Chris Wilson reported that, as of 25 August 2010, WCCC has 81 members registered. In addition, there are 221 persons on our email address list who receive notification of meetings. Notification of the AGM was given in *The Southside Chronicle* as well as on the WCCC website and at previous WCCC public meetings.

A motion to accept the report was moved.

Motion: that the Secretary's Report be accepted. (Moved: Lance Williamson; Seconded: Tim Walshaw) The motion was passed.

7. Election of New Committee

Tom Anderson stood down as chair of the meeting, and John Burke took over as chair for the election. He declared all positions on the WCCC committee vacant. As there were six nominations for ten positions, Mr Burke declared that all six nominees were elected.

Deputy Chair Tom Anderson

Secretary Christine Wilson

Treasurer Simon Hearder

Committee members Heather Hughes, Mal Ferguson, Maisie Griffiths

Mr Burke handed the meeting back to Tom Anderson as Deputy Chair, noting that although there had been no nomination for a Chair of the committee, the position could be left vacant and the Deputy Chair could fill it for the time being. The committee could at a later date appoint a Chairperson.

The election of office-bearers being completed, Tom Anderson moved on to General

Business and invited members to raise any issues of concern in a community forum.

8. Community Forum

8.1 Planning

Tom Anderson listed some issues that are before WCCC at present:

- Changes in planning law: Draft Variation 303 relating to dual occupancy and a range of other matters would see the eligibility for blocks where dual occupancy could be developed increase from 58 percent to 85 percent.
- Parking at Cooleman court: Despite changes, there needs to be some adjustment, as 2-hour spots do not allow people time to attend classes or gym sessions and do shopping.
- Use of commercial leases outside the zoned use of a property.
- Maintenance of streetscape
- Graffiti.

Q: When was the last time the ACT Government did something for the Weston Creek community, apart from building public housing associated with the stimulus package and the re-development of former school sites?

A: Bob Sutherland said he thought the last thing would be the widening of Streeton Drive, just after Rosemary Follett finished as Chief Minister. He said that because Weston Creek is not a big area, it gets overlooked. For example, residents know that Weston Creek has never had a library or swimming pool.

A: Trees were planted in the buffer zone between Dixon Drive and Cotter Road after the fires, but they were not watered and many died.

Multi-storey developments. It was noted that multi-storey developments are now being built in Chifley, and there are rumours that within the next six months, there will be development applications (DAs) for multi-unit developments in Weston Creek.

A: That is already happening. Residents of Mokoan Place in Duffy had found that a developer had applied to build 15 units in a cul-de-sac.

WCCC does not know the outcome of that issue. ACTPLA does notify Community Councils of new DAs, and WCCC follows up when it can.

Residents are not always aware of what is being proposed, and Community Councils have an important role informing residents so that they can take action if they wish.

It was pointed out that developers are not now required to put up a sign, although they should inform immediate neighbours about what is proposed.

Infill is not the problem; it is the nature and size of infill developments that is the problem.

What WCCC can do

- WCCC monitors the notifications of new DAs and could send an email to members when any relate to Weston Creek.
- If there is a major development, WCCC could alert, and/or write an article for *The Chronicle*.
- There is a link on the WCCC website to “Latest DAs” and a page for “ACTPLA DAs”.

Q: Streamlining the process for developers. A member said *The Canberra Times* had reported that Minister Andrew Barr is planning to streamline the application process for developers, and asked if WCCC or other Community Councils had taken any action in relation to that.

A: The Greens had asked WCCC and other Community Councils to a meeting on how they

could communicate with the community and try to improve communication on such issues. The Community Councils are considering joint action.

Q: One member said that the Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, Minister Andrew Barr, and developer Bob Winnell had held a meeting about simplifying the requirements for Environmental Impact Statements. Would WCCC make representations to reflect community concerns about this?

Q: If someone raises a query about a development application, does ACTPLA give a public response? Lack of transparency means that people don't know who else is concerned about a particular development.

A: ACTPLA responds directly to any objections. At the end of the process, ACTPLA will make public the decision and list the comments and objections it received. WCCC's experience is that ACTPLA will take some objections into account, and may change their decisions. One example, the decision to use stimulus package money to build public housing instead of aged-care housing in Rivett and Chapman.

Q: The Chief Minister said on Radio 666 that the ACT Government is planning a big open-ended consultation with the community—a “conversation. We should raise our voices and let the government know what we think.

There was some discussion of bus routes and levels of patronage.

8.2 Community Gardens at former CIT site

Kerstin Linton, Convener of the Friends of the Gardens Working Group, outlined recent developments.

- In June, the Chief Minister walked through the gardens with Kerstin and some others, and at the end he said the Government would give \$50,000 for maintenance of the Gardens. The group has decided that they would recommend the following expenditures:
 - \$30,000 for developing a master plan for the Gardens;
 - \$10,000 for watering (there is a bore, but it is on what will become Defence Housing Association land);
 - \$10,000 to install a gate providing access to the site, plus some tree surgery.
- Kerstin has written to the Chief Minister to ask how the funds can be accessed.
- Naming of the Gardens: It has been suggested that the Gardens be named in honour of Tony Fetherston, who was head of the CIT Horticulture School and passionate about the Gardens. (The ashes of Mr Fetherston and of his wife were scattered in the Gardens.) He was a remarkable person, and amongst other things, taught Mark Carmody (ABC weather-man). The Friends of the Gardens group has contacted the children of Tony Fetherston, who have indicated they would be happy to have the Gardens named for their father. An approach has been made to the ACT Names Committee about the process for suggesting a name to the Committee.

Motion: That WCCC recommend to the ACT Naming Committee that the gardens on the site of the former CIT Horticulture School in Heysen Street, Weston, be named the Fetherston Gardens. (Moved: Kerstin Linton; Seconded: Trevor Wilson)

The motion was passed.

Q: Does WCCC have a lease on the Gardens?

A: No. The Gardens will be under the care of Parks, Conservation and Lands area of the Chief Minister's Department, which will have responsibility for public liability insurance,

etc. Through the Friends of the Fetherston Gardens, WCCC members can be involved and help with maintenance of the Gardens.

Q: Could WCCC suggest to Minister Corbell that provision be made to run a pipe up Heysen Street to the Gardens when the new pipeline from Weston Pond to Stirling Ovals is installed, so the Fetherston Gardens could also be watered with non-potable water?

A: WCCC will write to the Minister to suggest that.

8.3 Parking at Cooleman Court

Roads ACT has changed the times for parking in the car parks at the north and south ends of Cooleman Court.

- Of 13 rows on the north side (Woolworths entrance), 3 rows will be all-day, and 10 rows will be 2-hour parks.
- Of 14 rows on the south side (Aldi entrance), 3 rows will be all-day parks; 10 rows will be 2-hour parks; and 1 row will be short-term parking only.

WCCC had suggested that rows be made 4-hour parks, but Roads ACT decided on 2-hour parks. WCCC will speak to Roads ACT to see if some rows can be made longer, as a number of residents have complained that 2 hours is not long enough to do gym classes plus some shopping and then have a cup of coffee with friends. Three- or four-hour parks would be better. Roads ACT is aware that parking at Cooleman Court is already a problem, and is bound to get worse as people come to live in North Weston and Molonglo.

Q: Is parking at Kingsley's Chicken private or public?

A: Don't know, but will try to find out.

8.4 Information session to update residents about Molonglo

Several WCCC members had attended an information session at St Peter's Church, and learned some useful information.

- The intersection at the junction of Streeton Drive, Dixon Drive and Unwin Place will NOT have a roundabout as originally planned, but will have traffic lights.
- The outcomes of on-going studies being carried out on Molonglo Stage 2 will be communicated to residents of Weston Creek in due course.
- Water recycling will be installed on a community-wide basis in the new suburbs. Water from the Weston Pond will also be recycled. It may be possible to use treated water from the Molonglo Treatment Plant, but that would be very costly.
- The specifications for the new arterial road would allow light rail in the future.

8.5 Fix My Street website

If any resident has a problem with graffiti, footpaths, etc, requests to the government can be made through the Fix My Street website.

8.6 Vandalism at former Weston School

A member reported that there has been considerable vandalism at the new playground at the former Weston School. Trees have been broken and seats damaged, with edges all broken off. The BBQ is very dirty.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm, and the Chairman thanked all participants for attending and for their input.