

Your local voice



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Minutes of the WCCC General Meeting Wednesday, 28 September 2011

1. Meeting opened

Deputy Chair Pat McGinn opened the meeting at 7.35pm.
Seventeen persons were present.
Pat welcomed attendees.

2. Apologies : Tom Anderson, Chris Wilson, Heather Hughes, Maisie Griffith, John ?, Mike ?

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous public meeting (July 2011) were accepted as circulated. (Moved: Mal Ferguson; Seconded: Lance Williamson)

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that WCCC had a credit balance of \$5716.42 as at 28 September 2011.

5. Deputy Chairman's Report

Pat McGinn advised that she had attended the Planning Development Forum in August which followed the ACT Government re-structure. She indicated that the new Chairman, David Papps, had impressed with his forthright and forthcoming approach. Despite this encouraging beginning, it appeared that the next meeting scheduled for September, would be delayed until November. She also said that she thought these meetings should discuss policy as well as ongoing and planned activities.

She reported that WCCC had lodged a submission on DV 306, which covered issues relevant to Weston Creek, such as dual occupancy and design.

The National Capital Authority (NCA) is seeking input for its review of such issues as hills and buffers (the last review was in 1989-90). An NCA representative will be invited to speak on the subject at a future public meeting.

WCCC had recently supported a gathering of Weston Creek parents protesting the decision, made without consultation, to move a preschool class from the former Weston Creek Primary School to the Arawang Primary School. As a result of representations, the decision has been deferred for a year to allow for appropriate consultations to be held.

Ms McGinn commented that a public art work had recently been located at the corner of Brierly St and Hindmarsh Drive. She mentioned in passing that WCCC had not been consulted until after the work had been commissioned. A member of the audience mentioned that there had been adverse comment about the work because the three figures depicted were all female.

Pat noted that there had been another well-attended working bee at the Fetherston Gardens on Sunday.

Ms McGinn also indicated that there would soon be a consultation on the Weston Group Centre Master Plan and input would be sought from as many as possible, perhaps through a public meeting.

She tabled a publication entitled “Engaging Canberrans” which purports to set out the procedure for interaction between the Government and people, but does not mention “consultation”.

6. Presentation by Shane Rattenbury, Greens ACT MLA for Molonglo Electorate, Speaker for the Legislative Assembly

As no guest speaker had been arranged, Mr Rattenbury agreed to comment on various issues he thought would be of interest to the meeting. His major points were:

- He considers the draft proposal for the re-distribution “radical”. After consultations are completed, the Electoral Commission will announce the new distribution which will not be subject to appeal.
- The Government has released its energy policy for the next ten years. Mr Rattenbury is disappointed with the policy, among other things because it makes no mention of action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- As a result of a motion introduced in the Assembly by the Greens, the Commission for the Environment will conduct an enquiry into the health of Lake Burley Griffin. Concern has been expressed about the frequent closures of the lake due to algal blooms. This is a complex issue because stakeholders include the ACT and NSW Governments and the NCA.
- A new “Park and Ride” facility has recently opened in Mitchell. This is the third since the last election, and it is planned that Weston will be next. A member of the audience suggested that there was a ready-made area that could be used which is already on a bus route, that is, the Weston Oval. Mr Rattenbury undertook to convey this suggestion to the Government.
- A member of the audience expressed concern that the results of the “Quality of Life for People 50+” survey conducted by Communities@Work in September 2010 had not been released by the Government despite official requests by WCCC. Mr Rattenbury undertook to follow up with the Government, using an FOI request if necessary.

7. General Business

• Weston Group Centre Master Plan

The Acting Chairman sought suggestions from the audience on issues to be considered in the Master Plan. A lively discussion ensued during which the following suggestions were made:

- Parking, especially at Cooleman Court
- Upgrade or replacement Community Centre (WCCC has previously lodged a submission regarding a new Community Centre on the vacant land opposite The Weston Club –copy on the WCCC website)
- Dangerous access to the Service Station from Brierly Street

- Shopfront services for Weston Creek.
 - Close part of Brierly Street to vehicular traffic (around the Cooleman Court entrance)
 - Improvement of bus service to and from Civic
 - Bicycle paths in the area, especially at the Cotter Road - Streeton Drive intersection.
- **Children's Playground at Cooleman Court**
 - Comment was made that the area had been fenced off for some months without any work being done on the shadecloth structure.
 - It was also noted that trees had been removed without any indication that they would be replaced.
 - This latter comment led to further discussion about the removal of trees without replacement across Weston Creek suburbs (another issue for the Master Plan).
 - **Brain Gym at Stirling**
 - Concern was expressed that the Canberra College Association Brain Gym courses currently held at the CTL in Stirling (former Stirling College) were likely to be relocated to Canberra College Phillip, to enable expansion of office space for Education Directorate staff. It was agreed that this move should be resisted because it would deprive Weston Creek of a valuable and popular education resource, particularly for older residents. Mr Rattenbury undertook to pursue the matter.

The Acting Chairman thanked those in attendance with particular mention to Mr Rattenbury for providing his contribution at short notice.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 26 October 2011, at 7.30pm