

WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Your Local Voice -

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Minutes Meeting 7.45pm 25 August 2004

Welcome

Ms McGinn, Interim Chairperson, welcomed the Committee, residents and the Returning Officer. Ms McGinn indicated that Sgt Noble, Officer-in-Charge at the Woden Police Station has asked to give his police report on Weston Creek before the AGM commences as he has other commitments this evening.

This would be followed by the AGM, then a regular monthly meeting.

Apologies

Karin McDonald MLA

Police Report on Weston Creek

Sgt Noble of the Woden Police Station advised that there were low crime rates in Weston Creek. Burglaries in August to date were 11 compared with 14 in July and 12 in June. Thefts were also down. Thefts of motor vehicles were 5 in August and 12 in July.

In regard to graffiti a 21-year male was charged based on photo identification. In addition a cleaner at a bank in Brierly Street reported graffiti in action and 16 year old was taken into custody. His father was advised.

Three youths were charged with cannabis offences as well as stealing from motor vehicles at Coolamen Court.

A resident asked what the Police could do about the small motor bikes being ridden on ovals and footpaths? Sgt Noble indicated that a police motorcycle officer would need to ride to Civic Station to change the BMW motorcycle to a trail bike to pursue the offender, in this period the offender would have left the area. It has been reported that the small mopeds are a problem in Gungahlin. Inquiries are being made as to how these should be treated under ACT Traffic Ordinances.

A resident asked about the fine for graffiti? The maximum is \$2,000 and a sentence of 12 months but this is rarely imposed. The actual sentence imposed usually includes a combination of a fine and community service work.

An attendee asked of alcohol free zones? They are called dry zones and include the bus interchanges and designated areas declared by the Minister for Urban Services, is there a particular area of concern? Yes the underpass at Woden Library. Sgt Noble indicated that that area was very difficult to patrol and offenders slipped into the night and around those buildings very quickly. It is also difficult to have dry zones in areas where families picnic and it is impractical to have time limits, for example 6pm to 6am.

An attendee asked why the father of the youth was called? Sgt Noble indicated that under the *Children's and Young Persons Act* the parents or guardians need to be advised if a young person appended is under 18 years of age.

A resident asked if the mobile speed cameras could be used to target users of mobile phones while driving. Sgt Noble indicated that that is not a prescribed use for speed cameras.

Ms McGinn thanked Sgt Noble.

Annual General Meeting

Open AGM

Ms McGinn declared the AGM open.

Minutes of AGM 2003

The minutes of last year's AGM were made available. After an interval Ms McGinn asked if there were any questions or comments on issues in the minutes, there being none she asked for a motion that they be accepted.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the 2003 AGM

Moved: Pat McGinn Seconded: Rosemary Drabsch

Chairperson's Report 2003-2004

The after-effects of the January 2003 firestorms continued to require some involvement by the Council, although the scale of the commitment reduced after 31 March 2004 when the functions performed by the Bushfire Recovery Centre in Lyons were wound back into various ACT Government Departments. This wind down was reflected in a substantial reduction in attendance numbers at each of this calendar year's regular Council meetings when compared to the attendances throughout 2003, with attendances at recent meetings returning to about the "normal" pre-bushfire numbers.

The Council convened three additional Special Meetings during the reporting period which were held on 13 August to discuss the Non-Urban Study 17 September to discuss ACT Forests' Reforestation Business case and a meeting to discuss the proposal for enlarged villages at Stromlo Settlement and Uriarra Village. The first Special Meeting was attended by about 220 people and was the largest meeting of the reporting period. The last three regular monthly meetings of 2003 also attracted over 100 people each, with the biggest meeting in November attracting about 187 people to discuss the draft Canberra Spatial Plan.

The former Chairperson, Jeff Carl continued to represent the Council on the Community and Expert Reference Group until the original Group was wound up in May 2004. Over the reporting period, Mr Carl attended about twenty Reference Group meetings and several Bushfire Recovery Taskforce meetings. Other bushfire related activities that involved the Council include:

- Discussions with ACT Forests regarding sites for their new depot and Headquarters;
- Written submission on the Non-Urban Study;
- Attendance at various public meetings convened by the Phoenix Association; and
- Attendance at Canberra Urban Parks and Places meeting on 20 August to discuss replanting strategies for burnt urban areas of Weston Creek.

The Council has also been very active in matters not related to the bushfire recovery. Some of these activities are as follows:

- Attendance at the launching of ACTPLA;
- Several written submissions on the Canberra Spatial Plan;
- Attendance at a Canberra Spatial Plan forum;
- Participated in the Community Needs Assessment Study;

- Several discussions with the consultants and representatives of the Land Development Agency on the Broadacre Estate Study in Weston;
- Attendance at the launch of the draft Canberra Spatial Plan;
- Several written submissions on the sub-lease extension for the Weston Creek Community Centre:
- Participated in a public hearing on the ACT Electoral boundaries;
- Attendance at a transport forum for the draft Canberra Spatial Plan;
- Attendance at a workshop on sustainability in the ACT;
- A detailed written submission for the 2004-2005 ACT Budget;
- Attended all six Community Council Forums hosted by CMD;
- Written submission to Mr Ross McKay, CMD on potential aged care facility site;
- Attendance at the launch of the Canberra Social Plan;
- Participated in several discussions with Dr Robyn Seth-Purdie from the National Institute for Governance at the University of Canberra regarding an independent assessment of community engagement in planning for the ACT;
- Written submission on the lease renewal for the Arawang Netball Association;
- Attendance at a workshop on Concessional Leases; and
- Attendance at a workshop on risk assessment for public liability insurance.
- Submission on the proposed memorial for the fire and attendance at a workshop on the memorial.

The community remains concerned about issues arising from the fires but no directly attributable to them. This includes the wind blown dust assailing residences on the western edge of Weston Creek and the planting of street trees on Dixon Drive and Warragamba Drive. The Community Council brought these concerns to the attention of the relevant section of Government.

Following a presentation by Roads ACT numerous residents raised dangerous traffic situations with the authority and for some time after the meeting residents were still raising issues all of which were conveyed to roads ACT. Later in 2004 three sites with dangerous traffic situations were brought to the attention of the Council. These were at Rivett Primary schools, Arawang netball centre and at Eucumbene Drive where traffic/parking on Eucumbene Drive and nearby land was caused by the relocation of group recreational activities to Narrabundah Hill. The Council made submissions on all of these matters.

Our regular electronic newsletter was also continued during the tenure of this Committee. The newsletter continues to be very well received and we have broadened our coverage of Weston Creek residents to include some of those who don't receive our flyers or the local newspapers. WCCC flyers were prepared and delivered to most residences in Weston Creek in October and May to advertise our activities. Activities relating to the bushfire recovery have been widely advertised on various Canberra radio stations and also in the Community Update newsletter. They have also received extensive advertising space in the Canberra Times and the Southside Chronicle - all at no cost to the Council. The Council's regular column in the Southside Chronicle has also continued throughout the accounting period.

Over the last three months considerable time has been spent in meetings and preparing submissions in response to the minister for Planning's proposal for community consultation on planning matters. This is partly resolved with all of the Community Councils agreeing in principle to have representation on the Planning and Development Forum. This will be a forum for developing and discussing policy issues and will meet quarterly. Negotiations for community consultation on Territory Plan variations and Development Applications are still taking place and will hopefully be resolved shortly. These arrangements will hopefully give Weston Creek residents a recognised process for making comment on major development proposals

The deed of agreement with Chief Minister's department involved considerable negotiation this year. This was partly linked to the requirement to obtain public liability insurance but driven by the need to both simplify and clarify the agreement. Extensive investigation of avenues to obtain public liability insurance as required by the government was undertaken by the secretary who is to be commended in his tenacity in finally resolving the issue. The new deed is a three year agreement with significant gains in some areas and a much tighter agreement.

Finally a huge thank you to the executive who have been very supportive during the period during which I have been Interim Chairperson

Motion:

That the Interim Chairperson's Report be accepted

Moved: Pat McGinn

Seconded: Barbara Brinton

Secretary's Report 2003-2004

Notification in writing of this AGM has been in *The Southside Chronicle* 17 Aug 2004 (Page 10). It has also been in *The Canberra Times* Fridge Door on 2nd August 2004 (Page 12) and again in *The Canberra Times* Fridge Door on 13th August 2004 (Page 12). An email was sent to all WCCC contacts as notification in writing

Notification has been at the regular monthly meetings for June and July and appears on the website and in minutes of the WCCC also on the website www.wccc.com.au

The first half of the 03-04 year had a number of guest speakers who attended the WCCC regular monthly meetings to focus on the progress of examining the options for the use of the land at the corner of Cotter Road and Streeton Drive. A number of submissions were prepared in that time. The latter part of the financial year had a diversity of speakers ranging from bushfire recovery transition arrangements through to emergency services and traffic management. The committee has attempted to balance the demands of ACT Government staff seeking to consult with the community and inviting speakers on topics of interest to the community. This balance is to ensure that the WCCC meetings remain relevant, topical and meet the needs of the community.

The Committee works to cover the issues raised by residents and being on the alert for issues which were looming.

Members of the committee of the WCCC are also on the Community and Expert Reference Group (CERG), Transport Reform Advisory Group (TRAG) and the Ministerial committee of Adult and Community Education (ACE).

The efforts of the WCCC are believed to be valued and we continue to receive requests from a wide range of people to speak at our regular monthly meetings. At present our schedule is usually booked several months ahead.

Our attendance book is in circulation. This has become a valuable tool to record email addresses and therefore quickly and cheaply disseminate information to residents.

All forms for the continuing registration of the WCCC as an Association have been lodged and no returns to the Registrar of Associations are outstanding. We are also complying with our Grant Agreement with the Chief Minister Department.

I would also acknowledge the volunteers I call on from time to time to assist in a number of tasks.

Copies of the Minutes for each meeting in the last year are here if anyone wishes to look at them and they are also on the WCCC website.

Motion:

- 1) That the Secretary's Report be accepted
- 2) Gary Caitcheon continue to be the WCCC Public Officer

Moved: Alan Henderson

Seconded: Allan Synfield

Treasurer's Report 2003-2004.

The WCCC started the 03/04 financial year with \$290.90. Due to the ongoing and protracted public liability insurance debate, which commenced in March 2003 the finances were very difficult and volunteers were paying the bills. After substantial lobbying the Chief Ministers Department finally agreed to provide reimbursement of funds already expended in the financial year by volunteers of \$1211.45 on 27 Oct 2003. This however provided no funds for any future activities.

It was not until 12 December 2003 that the Chief Ministers Department paid the remaining \$3,788.55 to fulfil a \$5,000 grant. The first payment the WCCC made from this was for \$10M public liability insurance premium of \$1062.03 which the Chief Ministers Department insisted that the community councils pay.

It needs to be noted that although the grant was increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000 the insurances were in total \$1,200 so the WCCC was \$200 worse off in the financial year. In addition we are paying 10% GST on all the items we purchase so the grant value is actually going backwards. The WCCC cannot reclaim GST

In order of expense the major costs in the financial year are those associated with printing and delivery of flyers, insurance premiums and phone/fax/internet costs.

A flyer to all Weston Creek letterboxes was delivered in October 2003 for that month's meeting with ACT Land Development Agency on the potential uses of the land at the corner of Cotter Road and Streeton Drive. A flyer was also used for the May 2004 regular monthly meeting with ACT Roads on traffic management.

CPS Credit Union continues to be our bank. We continue to cover the costs of a PO Box, a phone and fax line.

As has been the approach of over a number of years the WCCC continues to direct funds to communicating with residents through diverse means, namely; phone, fax, email, website, magnets, flyers, PO Box.

The WCCC finished the 03/04 financial year with \$760. These funds are to enable the WCCC to meet commitments in regard to known on-going payments with companies such as Telstra and Netspeed.

Copies of the audited accounts of the WCCC are available here at this meeting

Motion:

1. That the meeting accept the Treasurers report
2. That the meeting endorse the continued payment of a PO Box, a phone line, fax line, Internet email access and web site hosting.
3. Endorse Gary Rake as the auditor for the 04-05 financial year

Moved: Alan Henderson Treasurer

Seconded: Rosemary Drabsch

Committee for 03-04 FY

Ms McGinn advised that Mr Mike Reddy, Deputy Chair of the Woden Valley Community Council had kindly agreed to be the Returning Officer.

Mr Reddy advised that correctly completed written nomination forms have been provided to the Secretary/Treasurer by the closing of nominations for positions. The AGM has been appropriately advertised through a range of publicity especially *The Southside Chronicle* and *The Canberra Times*.

The forms for the following vacancies on the Committee were received:

Chairperson	Jeff Carl
Deputy Chairperson	Pat McGinn
Secretary/Treasurer	Alan Henderson
Ordinary Committee	Rosemary Drabsch
	Juanita Kerec
	Barbara Brinton
	Robert Sutherland
	Allan Synfield

Since there have been no other nominations received for a vacancy, the candidates are deemed to be elected. Mr Reddy congratulated the incoming Committee and handed the meeting over to the new Committee.

Close AGM

Mr Carl thanked Mr Reddy and closed the AGM at 8.30pm and invited people to remain for the August monthly meeting.

Regular Monthly Meeting

25th August 2004

Welcome

Mr Jeff Carl welcomed the new WCCC Committee and residents. Mr Carl advised that there were two issues to report and there would be other business.

Spring Fair

Mr Carl called on Trish Hoad from Communities @ work. Trish advised the meeting that Communities@Work was the amalgamation of the Weston Creek Community Service and the Tuggeranong Community Service. They have offices in both Weston Creek and in Tuggeranong.

Trish advised the spring fair would be on Saturday 25th Sept at Coolamon Court. Local groups were invited to have stalls and events. It would be held from 9.30am to 2pm.

Barbara Brinton from the WCCC Committee advised the meeting that the WCCC would have an information stall with the theme "Make a Wish for Weston Creek". Residents were encouraged to write ideas and suggestions for Weston Creek.

Emergency Services Authority – Community Consultative Committee.

Mr Carl advised the meeting that the WCCC had nominated a Committee member to be the 'community representative' on the Emergency Services Authority – Community Consultative Committee. However that Committee will meet monthly between 2pm and 5pm on a Monday. As a result of this the WCCC had to withdraw our nominee.

A resident indicated that this was obviously designed not to be inclusive of volunteers who also had real jobs.

A resident asked if the WCCC could invite the ESA back again to advise residents how prepared they were for the upcoming bushfire season. Mr Carl indicated that he would contact Commissioner Peter Dunn from the ESA to invite him to the October meeting.

Other Business

Mr Carl asked for Other Business

Variation 200 Core areas.

An attendee asked of the WCCC view if core areas were accepted, as she was of the opinion that the core areas should be withdrawn.

Mr Carl advised that the 200metre radius from shopping centres in Weston Creek suburbs generally covered open space and sport fields. Ms McGinn indicated that she had visited all shopping centres in Weston Creek when the WCCC submission on Draft Variation 200 was prepared and there were substantial 2 storey buildings already in existence.

Mr Carl indicated that he and Ms McGinn had attended the ACT Legislative Assembly Planning and Environment Committee hearing to argue for an extension of the 5% dual occupancy rule to fire affected suburbs as so many fire-affected blocks in Weston Creek were of concern.

Mr Carl advised the meeting that the rules under Variation 200 were better for Weston Creek after the bushfire when compared to the old regulations which would have seen an even more dramatic change in the streetscape. Under the old regulations, triple or even quadruple occupancies would have allowed in our suburban areas and these were prohibited under Variation 200 which only allowed for dual occupancies. He also added that there were concerns on the streetscape in respect of the size of the houses being replaced, but these were within the regulations.

Meet the Candidates.

Mr Carl advised the meeting that the next WCCC regular monthly meeting on 22nd Sept would be 'Meet the Candidates'. Candidates for the electorate for Molonglo would have the opportunity to address the residents. This also enables the residents to ask questions. An attendee indicated that she believed the North Canberra Community Council (NCCC) had also chosen that day for their similar meeting. Mr Carl indicated he would contact NCCC to discuss the issue.

A resident asked of the effect of a Federal Election on 16th October. Mr Carl indicated the ACT Election would move from 16th Oct 2004 to 4th Dec 2004.

Mr Carl called for any other business. As there was none forthcoming Mr Carl closed the meeting and thanked residents for their attendance.

Meeting closed 9.25pm

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday 22nd September 2004