

Your local voice



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Record of Proceedings Annual General Meeting 7.45pm 23 August 2006

Welcome

Mr Jeff Carl, Chairperson of the Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC), welcomed the Committee, residents and the returning officer, Mrs Rosemary Lissimore of Tuggeranong Community Council. Mr Carl advised the meeting that this AGM would be followed by a regular monthly meeting.

Apologies

Steve Rutter, Mike Hettinger, BobSutherland, Rosemary Drabsch, Gary Caitcheon, Graham Franklin-Browne, Steve Cooke, and Lawrence Gillard.

Record of Proceedings of the AGM 2005

The Record of Proceedings were distributed and after an interval, the Chair asked for comments or questions. There being none he asked for a motion that they be accepted.

Motion: to accept the Records of the 2005 AGM.

Moved: Mr Tim Walshaw.

Seconded: Allan Synfield. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report 2005-2006

The 2005/2006 Financial Year has been a year of consolidation for the Weston Creek Community Council. The Committee has revamped the Council's 'corporate' look, and also devoted considerable time to succession planning activities, including reviewing and updating our Risk Management Plan, developing a Governance Plan and conducting a volunteer recruitment campaign. All of this planning has been time well spent as four long-standing and very dedicated Committee members are leaving the Committee at this meeting – these members being our Deputy Chair and planning expert Pat McGinn, our perceptive Treasurer and miscellaneous helper Juanita Kerec, and our graphic designer Barbara Brinton.

The after-effects of the 2003 bushfires continue to require some involvement by the Council. Barbara Brinton has very ably represented the WCCC at meetings of the Bushfire Community Development Network which continues to assist in the recovery effort.

Ten regular monthly meetings were held during the reporting period with a break over December-January. The April monthly meeting, which featured Mr Brendan Smyth MLA speaking about the current land tax/rates system and Mr Peter Byfield speaking on behalf of the lessee about the proposed redevelopment of the Duffy service station, was the largest meeting and was attended by about 70 people. No other meeting in the reporting period had more than 50 attendees and average attendances were 30-35 people. The smallest meeting was in February with about 10 attendees when the topic was a review of planning Variation 200.

One notable feature of the reporting period was the total absence of ACT Government Ministers and Government MLAs from our meetings. This is the first time in many years that a Minister has not attended a WCCC meeting as a guest speaker. The Chief Minister was invited to our April meeting, but did not respond to our invitation. Also the Minister for Education accepted invitations to speak at our May and June meetings but cancelled in the days leading up to each meeting. Notwithstanding this, Senator Gary Humphries was a guest speaker at our March meeting which focussed on the provision of aged care facilities.

The Council's Committee has continued to actively represent the Weston Creek community over the reporting period with participation in regular meetings of the following committees or forum groups:

- The Community Council's Forum;
- The Planning System Reform Project Reference Group;
- The Bushfire Community Development Network;
- The Planning and Development Forum;
- The Canberra Airport Aircraft Noise Consultative Forum; and
- The Weston Creek Festival Committee.

During the reporting period, the Committee has also prepared nineteen written submissions which covered many topics including the 3GIS telecommunications tower in Duffy, the Weston Creek Childcare Centre, the 2006/2007 ACT Budget, the Mirinjani Nursing Home extensions, the renewal of Civic and possible school closures in Weston Creek. Copies of most of these submissions are available from our website.

Members of the Council's Committee attended various meetings with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and senior ACT Government officers; attended several formal launches for ACT Government initiatives; and attended various ACT Government consultation forums and focus groups.

Our very successful *Taking-it-to-the-Streets* program did not proceed as planned in February and April this year due to the unavailability of a majority of the Committee members. However, it is hoped that the incoming Committee will be able to run this program in the coming spring.

Flyers were prepared and delivered to about 7,500 residences in Weston Creek in November, March and May to advertise our activities. The Committee also prepared and distributed in December a 2006 calendar to advertise the Council's meeting dates and other significant dates for our community. The Council's regular column in the Southside Chronicle was continued over the reporting period with a fortnightly frequency from July to December and a monthly frequency from January.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank the management and staff of The Weston Club who have gone out of their way to accommodate our different meetings.

I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to Barbara Brinton, for her extraordinary efforts in managing the Council's telephone service, organizing most of our publicity, revamping our 'corporate' look, developing our Governance Plan and running our volunteer recruitment campaign which resulted in several new Committee members.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the Committee members – especially Bob Sutherland's assistance on transport, Rosemary Drabsch's assistance with 'housekeeping' tasks and Allan Synfield's assistance with web work – for freely giving of their time on a Saturday afternoon each month for a Committee meeting and assisting me with Council business.

After nearly six years as Chairperson and 11 years on the Committee, I feel it is time that I move on and pursue other interests. Therefore, this will be the last Chairperson's report that I will be presenting as I have not nominated for the next Committee. I have greatly enjoyed my time on the Committee and I would like to thank all of the members who have assisted and supported me over the years. Whilst I'm sad to be leaving, I'm very happy in the knowledge that I am leaving the Council in sound shape and good hands. I wish the new Committee every success.

Jeff Carl 23/8/06

Motion: That the Chairperson's Report be accepted

Moved: Jeff Carl

Seconded: Tricia Hoad Motion Accepted

Secretary's Report

Notification in writing of this AGM has been in a mail out by letter to all members on the Membership Register on 5 August 2006, as well as *The Southside Chronicle* on 15 August 2006 and a reminder email to the email distribution list on 22 August 2006. Notification has also been given at the regular monthly meeting on 26 July 2006 and has appeared on the website since 4 August 2006 at www.wccc.com.au.

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.

At the last Annual General Meeting our long standing and hard working Secretary/Treasurer, Alan Henderson, resigned. We miss the work he did very much.

This year we have managed to get speakers to nearly all our regular monthly meetings. The speakers came predominantly from the ACT public service and Senator Gary Humphries, Senator for the ACT, spoke on one occasion.

Attendances at our meetings have been good -- some with fifty people. Overall there was a fall in attendance this last year compared with the year before. This reflects the fact that the effects of the disastrous 2003 bushfire are slowly fading and are being overcome. We were pleased by the strong support given to our meetings by members of the Legislative Assembly and on two occasions by two ACT Federal politicians.

The Committee of the Community Council met regularly during the year on the Saturday afternoon before the next scheduled monthly meeting. Members of the committee appreciated these meetings for the spirit of co-operation which was manifest and for the freedom to express ideas and opinions.

Records of all our regular monthly meetings and Annual General Meetings continue to appear on our web site.

As most of you will be aware several key members of the 2005/2006 committee will be resigning at this Annual General Meeting and it is imperative that this gap is filled so that we can maintain as much as possible of services to the community. I certainly appreciated the work and the wise counsel of these retiring committee members during the year.

I apologize for my non-attendance at this Annual General Meeting. I have reached the stage in life where my family responsibilities require more travel than I had to do in the past. For example my two sons now live in London and if I want to see them I have to go there. For these reasons it has been impossible for me to do all the work that Alan Henderson used to do. I think it is fair to say that Alan's diligence would be hard to match by just about everybody. The local issues facing us this coming year will certainly be challenging and will have important ramifications for Weston Creek.

Bob Sutherland

Motions:

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

Moved: Jeff Carl

Seconded: Brian Weir

The Treasurer's Report 2005-2006

The Weston Creek Community Council started the financial year with \$3,693.06.

In August 2005, the \$5125 grant from the Community Engagement Unit was received. In October 2005, the \$4500 grant from the ACT Land and Planning Authority was received.

During the year our largest expense was for advertising. This included:

- The new WCCC calendar that was delivered to all homes in Weston Creek;
- Five flyers advertising regular meetings delivered to all homes in Weston Creek;
- One flyer to residents of Duffy notifying them of the April meeting regarding the redevelopment of the Duffy Service Station site; and
- Graphic design and printing costs for the new WCCC poster and letterhead.

In total advertising expenses came to approximately \$5040.

The Committee also decided to invest in new equipment. This will enable all committee members to participate in the running of the council. A laptop, software, multifunction printer and telephone were purchased. These items came to a total of approximately \$2360.

The other major expenses for the year were insurance, telephone and the internet.

The WCCC finished the financial year with \$656.75 in the Community Engagement Unit fund

and \$1955 in the ACTPLA fund. The Community Engagement funds have been committed to the ongoing running costs of the Council and the ACTPLA funds have been committed to insurance and flyer cost. \$104.41 of the ACTPLA funds are uncommitted and may have to be returned to ACTPLA.

The Accounts of the WCCC have been independently audited and are unqualified. The auditor was Gary Rake from Xact Project Consultants. Copies of the audited statements are available tonight for interested attendees.

Motions:

1. That the meeting accept the Treasurer's Report.
2. That the meeting endorse the continued payment of:
 - A PO Box
 - A phone line
 - Internet email address
 - Web site hosting
 - Domain name registration.
3. Endorse Gary Rake from Xact Project Consultants as the auditor for the 2006-2007 financial year.

Moved: Juanita Kerec

Seconded: Brian Weir Motion Accepted

Committee for 2006-2007

Mr Carl then handed the meeting over to the Returning Officer, Mrs Rosemary Lissimore, Chair of the Tuggeranong Community Council.

The Returning Officer advised that correctly completed written nominations have been provided to the Weston creek Community Council by the closing date. The AGM has been appropriately advertised through a range of media and by a mail out to all members.

Nominations for the following vacancies have been received:

Chairperson: Allan Synfield

Secretary: Bob Sutherland

Treasurer: Rosemary Drabsch

Committee: Brian Weir, Wendy Groves, Noel Tregoning.

Since there have been no other nominations, the candidates are deemed to be elected to the nominated positions. The Returning Officer congratulated the new committee and handed the meeting to the new committee.

The incoming Chairperson, Mr Allan Synfield, acknowledged the outstanding contribution of Mr Jeff Carl during eleven years of dedicated volunteering and thanked the previous committee.

The AGM closed and residents were invited to stay for the August General Meeting.