

*Your local voice*



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## **Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday 27 September 2017**

### **Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was opened at 7.35 pm. The Chair, Tom Anderson, welcomed members and guests Caroline LeCouteur, Elizabeth Hoyt and Lesley Pattinson.

### **Apologies -** No apologies had been received

Caroline Le Couteur MLA spoke for about 5 minutes primarily about the Legislative Assembly (LA) motion about rates and Participatory Democracy. The LA has been debating the impact of rates increases on different groups of people some of whom are OK and others who struggle. She acknowledged that the Greens are well aware that the territory only has a finite amount of resources and cannot keep growing exponentially so are asking the government to look at the issue more generally.

The government's resources are finite and there is considerable contest for expenditure from a wide variety of areas. Using a Participatory Democracy model involves trying to make better decisions by involving residents in the process. This will commence from January 2018 when randomly chosen groups will be given all the information on a topic including the financial realities and asked to come up with answers. This has been trialled in South Australia with some success.

The Chair commented that the subject chosen is not very dynamic and may not elicit much interest. Caroline agreed that it is not a good topic.

The Chair also commented about the apparent shortage of funds for the City Services area and stated that WCCC would comment about this issue in their budget submission.

### **Lesley Pattinson from the Friends of Fetherston Gardens spoke about "Spring"**

Lesley spoke about basic home gardening and provided copies of three very helpful information handouts. They were titled – 'Some principles of Gardening' - 'Tips for Gardening in small spaces' and 'Your garden Your Way'

She described issues surrounding the advent of smaller gardens and how to manage them, whether we want to grow our own food and how we often buy plants before thinking about what to do with them. The basics of planning, soil and drainage were canvassed along with the suggestion to obtain information from a variety of sources including the internet.

Other interesting topics were – how to plant veggies by simply scattering seed, the use of vertical gardens and their need for water and ‘grow what you like to eat’. The key elements of water and fertilizers were emphasized. Innovative containers were suggested even using trugs for the growing potatoes. A major message was “ Have Fun and Experiment”

Q. What about the use of Black plastic ?

A. Don't use.

Q. If we use newspaper how thick a layer ?

A. Open up a chronicle

Q. What to do about tree roots under concrete

A. Cut the roots as far as possible

Q. Can you suggest veggies for shade

A. Most veggies can tolerate dappled shade so just experiment

Lesley then showed a tool called a Cyclone Heritage which she considers one the most useful tools in the garden.

The Chair proposed a vote of thanks. He then introduced the next speaker and mentioned the changing demographics in the Weston Creek area.

### **Elizabeth Hoyt the proponent of the Playground at Waramanga spoke about the proposal.**

Elizabeth spoke about the number of families with young children moving into Waramanga and gave detail of the progress with the campaign so far.

It started with a video campaign in April 2017 and gathered momentum through April and May resulting in a petition with 400 signatures. This sent a strong message to the government of the need for a playground adjacent to the shops similar to those already existing at other shops such as those at Chifley. The petition was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in June and was featured on the front page of the Chronicle and on radio and TV.

Elizabeth met with Guilina Jones MLA who had been responsible for the establishment of an active playground near the lake. She was also successful in arranging a meeting of 4 government representatives who came and looked at the site.

There are lots of ideas being put forward so there is a need to prioritize and decide exactly what is most appropriate. Over the whole ACT there are 6 proposals for new playgrounds so there is considerable competition however the Minister's office said that they are very impressed with this particular proposal. In order to maintain momentum a ‘Block Party ‘ is being organized and people were encouraged to attend and have a stall or just bring a picnic. There will be a raffle with prizes donated by the shop owners.

A further video campaign will hopefully produce more interest. One of the ideas for the

playground is that it will bolster the economy of the shops by attracting more people to shop and have a coffee., Any ideas are welcome – would people like a toilet – a water fountain – what age groups should be catered for ? – should there be WiFi.

Currently they are working with the Minister's office to refine the proposal. Elizabeth asked if anyone had been to a block part and Caroline LeCouteur was able to describe one which she was aware of and which had been successful.

## **General meeting**

**Motion** : that the minutes of the previous meeting of 30 August 2017 be approved as circulated. Moved: Trevor Wilson Seconded: Jenny Adams Carried

## **Business arising from the minutes of the meeting on 30 August**

- None

Mention was made that due to representation from the Woden Valley Community service increased public transport has been arranged for Coombs

## **Treasurers Report**

- WCCC has received its grants monies and there is now \$22,063.98 in the general account
- In the Fetherston garden account there is \$5,884.20 and that have received a grant
- The WCCC committee has donated \$300 to the Weston Creek Community association for the restoration of a mural which is estimated to cost \$2,000 in total. This mural was executed after the 2003 bushfire but has recently been vandalized.

## **General Business**

The Chair explained that 2018 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of construction in Weston Creek the first suburbs being Waramanga and Fisher. He explained that the committee have discussed holding an event each month for the year 2018 and that the majority of the monies currently held in the Councils account would be expended on 1 or 2 large events such as a birthday party.

The Chair explained to the persons present that the committee requires the services of a secretary in order to operate efficiently and asked any interested person to make contact.

The Chair outlined the major contents of the Council's proposed submission on the ACT Budget. The list included – stage 2 of the upgrade of Brierley St, a new Community Centre, Toilets for Fetherston Gardens, fast tracking the construction of a public swimming pool at Mt Stromlo, upgrades for Fisher and Duffy shops and the installation of tables and benches around Weston Ponds.

The Chair outlined the Council's concern about the delay in the provision of any shops in Molonglo and the pressure this place on Coleman Court. Further the lack of any planning for a High School in Molonglo and that there is only one oval which is within the Primary School grounds and therefore not generally accessible.

The Chair spoke about the submission by the council on Draft Variation 329 which concerns the formalizing into legislation of the master plan for the Weston Neighbourhood Centre Master Plan

Further issues that were raised briefly included:

- The suggestion of an Art Centre for Weston Creek which could be located at the Weston Hub.
- That the Council had made a submission to the government concerning the proposal to extend the Cemetery at Woden
- That the upgrade of Trenerry Sq had commenced.
- Caroline LeCouteur was asked what had happened to the report on Billboards and she replied that the report is expected by the end of October.
- That Woden Pre-school is likely to close by the end of the year and that all 5 MLAs had been approached to stop the closure but to no avail. There was no community consultation.

**The meeting Closed at 9.05 pm**

**The Next meeting is on Wednesday 25 October 2017  
Raiders Club  
Liardet Street, Weston**