

Your local voice



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PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2022

MINUTES

See also video of meeting, live streamed and uploaded to WCCC Facebook page

Committee in attendance: Bill Gemmell (Chair), Michelle Bourdet, Liam Foley, Louise Hughes

Committee apologies: Michelle Weston, Mark Boast, Diana Terry, Lesley Pattinson

MLAs in attendance: Ms. Jo Clay MLA, Mr. David Smith MLA, Ms. Emma Davidson MLA

Meeting opened: 7:39 pm. 8 signed in attendance plus guests and MLAs and WCCC committee members. Unique Facebook 169 views of meeting video (at 20 May 2022).

MEETING: 7:39 pm Welcome to members and guests. Chair, Bill Gemmell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We are honoured to be meeting on the ancestral lands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We acknowledge these First Australians as the traditional custodians of this land, whose cultures are among the oldest living in human history. We pay respect to the Elders of the communities in the Murrumbidgee region and extend our recognition to their descendants – past, present, and future.

7:42 pm SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Federal Member for Bean, the Honorable David Smith MP, formally awarding a Volunteering Grant to a worthy local group, Fetherston Gardens.

Mr. David Smith MP gave a thank you to WCCC Committee over the last three years. and the advocacy work that they do on behalf of the community. He then presented Volunteers Grant to WCCC and Friends of Fetherston Gardens, which he called a hidden gem in Weston Creek due to the work of volunteers.

Award was accepted by Louise Hughes.

Mr. David Jeffery Senior Director, Sport and Recreation

Presentation points:

- Gave overview of ACT Government work and projects
- Over \$167 million worth of capital works projects are proposed to be delivered this term
- Recently completed project in Weston Creek is Pavilion upgrade at Stirling Enclosed Oval
- Proposed projects in Weston Creek are court upgrades at Arawang netball court and adjustable height basketball rings at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning at Stirling

Sample questions from the audience:

- Concerns over asbestos at Arawang netball courts. A: Response was suggestion to implement an asbestos management plan and applying for grants to upgrade facilities under the Capital Grants Program.
- Is there going to be more shade and landscaping at Stromlo Park area? Will there be a cost for parking? A: A different area of the Directorate. Not aware of costs. (Comment from Jo Clay MLA: said this was under Minister Chris Steel's office and she could follow this up).
- Re-activating the Holder Oval, particularly lighting and toilet facilities. A: There is not a present plan to reactivate Holder Oval. (Comment from Jo Clay MLA: Holder is a dry land oval. TCCS is taking the lead on these areas.
- Facilities need for the activities for younger groups
- Rivett Ovals are in bad shape and desperately need maintenance
- Concerns of vandalism and car burn outs at Holder Oval. Why are there not any bollards?
- Why is Stromlo Leisure Centre so named? Would be better being called a swimming pool as it can be hard to find? A: Stromlo Leisure Centre has other facilities. Question taken on notice.
- Lack of facilities for growing area and population. Planning lagging community need. A: Act Government has a program of works and there are stresses on Government.
- When is it expected that Stromlo Park will be first used? Molonglo was planned over 12 years ago. A: Design work is finished. Subject to funding, 3 years away.
- Woden Gymnastics Club are preparing proposals to submit to Government. Concerns about lack of facilities with the growth in population in Molonglo and Weston Creek. Land that the club is interested in, would need to be re-zoned. Club will be submitting forms in the next 3 months. A: Government has been in consultation with Gymnastics ACT. They have identified the need for a competition facility.
- Further comment that other groups are also interested in this land.
- Royals Volleyball Club, Badminton Club, and Table Tennis recognize exponential population growth in Weston Creek, and greater need for facilities. They have a collaboration. What options are available for Club facilities?
- Comment from the floor: The old AFP site had a gymnasium, and it was demolished. This could have been a useful site for Weston Creek sport.
- Invitation given from Chair to Mr. David Jeffery Senior Director, Sport and Recreation and Minister Yvette Berry to meet again and consult further with the community.

8:50 pm MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs:

Emma Davidson MLA

- Veteran's Well-being Centre will provide a place for support and connection. The ACT has the highest concentration of veterans and their families
- Next week Veterans and Senior grant recipients will be announced
- Sports, recreation, and the Arts are important for connection. Indoor facilities are needed in the area.
- Sports and recreation facilities are needed for mental health for all groups - elderly, young, and those with a disability. COVID community recovery and climate change also impacts on sport and the need for indoor facilities
- First consultation today (27 April) of Disability Strategy. Your Say website has information on how to get involved in a variety of ways.

Jo Clay, Local member for Gininderra

- Greens spokesperson responsible for transport, planning, and the circular economy
- Discussion paper released about transport issues and active travel
- Food and organic waste scheme is being trialled in Belconnen
- Planning Review consultation is underway
- Climate change is an important focus

GENERAL MEETING: Chair, Bill Gemmell

- Minutes of the meeting of March 2022
Moved: Rosemary Drabsch Seconded: Louise Hughes Accepted: Yes.
- Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of March 2022.
Information giving an update on the RETURN IT scheme will be uploaded to the WCCC website.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Chair report/newsletter: Copies available at the public meeting and have been emailed out to those on the mailing list. Points include:

- Disappointed with the Planning Review and the lack of capturing the decision-making process within the Act.
- Village Building Company will be hosting an online session via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 5 May to show plans on the former AFP site.
- ACT Budget- community priorities. Residents have raised concerns about policing
- Fix My Street concerns have also been raised. Lengthy time of responses to request for repairs a concern
- Woden Police Station has a new Officer in charge. The WCCC Committee will be meeting with him
- New traffic lights have been announced for Hindmarsh Drive and Brierly Street
- Urban Forest Bill draft is open for comment
- The Chair thanked Mark Boast for his Chairing of the previous public meeting.
- Chair requested that audience use the microphone so that the online audience can hear.

- CANDIDATES FORUM SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY 2 MAY FROM 7pm.
 - VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre
 - Come and hear what the Bean political candidates have to say.

Please pass on any comments, suggestions, and views to Council that you would like followed up and/or passed on to Government.

CLOSE OF MEETING: 9:26 pm. Chair thanked everyone for their participation and again issued invitation to Candidate's Forum.

Next WCCC Public Meeting: Wednesday 25 May 2022

TOPIC: BRIERLY STREET UPGRADE

VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre

Also,

Weston Creek Community Council, with Molonglo Community Forum and Tuggeranong Community Council have a special combined **COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM SCHEDULED FOR 2 MAY FROM 7pm.**

VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre

Come and hear what the Bean political candidates have to say.