



PO Box 396
Dickson ACT 2602
info@northcanberra.org.au
www.northcanberra.org.au

Protecting, promoting and enhancing the economic, cultural, social and environmental well-being of the residents of North Canberra

The North Canberra Community Council receives funding and support from the ACT Government



Minutes: Committee meeting 7pm 17 June 2020 Downer Community Centre, Frencham Place, Downer

Minute taker for the meeting: Chris Finnigan (Secretary)

Attendance: Marg Dudley, Margaret Henderson, Jochen Zeil, Jane Goffman, Geoff Davidson, Simon Clarke, Bruce Smith, Geoff Francis, Angela Rymer, Gordon McAllister

Apologies: Marcus Hipkins, Waltraud Pix, Marianne Albury-Colless

Observers: N/A.

1. Confirmation of previous committee meeting minutes

- a. **The Committee confirmed the February meeting minutes.**

2. Funding requests and payment authorisations

- a. Marg Dudley advises on two potential spending proposals to provide a forum for discussion in the Campbell Community: a Campbell Coffee Club and Campbell Christmas Photo Competition.
 - i. **The Committee supported the proposals and requested that Marg settle final details with the Committee.**
- b. Gordon McAllister provided an update on a proposal where the NCCC could be the auspice organisation for a music and art project on Sullivans Creek.
 - i. The Committee support the art project, but note that there may be insurance and legal challenges relating to NCCC being the auspice organisation.
 - ii. **Gordon will seek further details on the legal and insurance requirements of the proposal and come back to the Committee.**

3. Treasurer's Update

- a. Bruce Smith updated the Committee on the recent and upcoming expenditure.
 - i. The current balance is \$7,843.
 - ii. Bruce advises that the ACT Government is supportive of the proposal to 'roll over' unspent funding from this financial year into 2020-21, noting the difficulties experienced by Community orgs in releasing funding during the COVID lockdown.

4. Discussion regarding meeting schedule for rest of 2020

- a. The discussion focussed on the limitations to holding public meetings, noting that, due to the ongoing social distancing rules, it will be impractical to hold physical meetings even after the current stage of restrictions has lifted.
- b. The Committee agreed that Zoom-based online meetings provide the best platform for hosting public meetings for the time being. **Jochen and Chris will follow up on the potential associated costs (such as Zoom membership).**
- c. For the July meeting, the **Committee also agreed that we would request guest presentations from:**
 - i. **Transport Canberra – regarding the revised bus timetable; and**
 - ii. **ACT Health – regarding the new Dickson Walk-in Health Centre.**
- d. For the September public meeting, **the Committee decided that Chris Finnigan would invite the candidates for Kurrajong for the upcoming ACT Election (due to be held in October) for a ‘meet the candidates’ style event.**

5. Reflections and lessons from COVID-19 lockdown, including consultation on key proposals

- a. Jochen notes that the COVID shutdown brought out people into green spaces more often, which highlighted the lack of parks, particularly for children, through the inner north. This exacerbates the negative experience for residents with limited access to backyards, such as apartment dwellers and the elderly, is particularly acute.
- b. In discussing potential proposals that could alleviate these problems, Angela Rymer suggests a potential ‘city farm’, which would provide an outdoor setting for inner north residents and provide an opportunity for kids to learn about farming and gardening.
- c. The Committee agrees that this proposal could be further developed and put to MLAs in the ACT election context. **Angela will continue developing up the proposal and circulate it to NCCC members**

6. NCCC Actions on ACT Planning Review

- a. Jochen advises that he has initial discussions with the Directorate and understands that they are at the very early stages of developing the Review (they are still at the point where still trying to merge their different strategies)
- b. Noting the importance of ensuring that the NCCC is properly consulted on the planning changes, **Jochen will send, on behalf of the NCCC, the letter drafted by Marg requesting that the NCCC be appropriately consulted as the Review develops.**

7. Heritage nomination for the original Canberra Aerodrome

- a. Jane Goffman provides an update on the Aerodrome heritage nomination, noting that the earthworks around the Dickson playing fields and nearby floodways is likely built over the remnants of the Aerodrome ring.
- b. While the heritage nomination has been submitted, Jane advises that, to accelerate the process for consideration to within a reasonable timeframe, there is a \$5000 fee. Jane is currently discussing with potential organisations who may be interested in sponsoring or contributing to this funding target.

- c. **Jane moves the motion that the NCCC support the heritage nomination, which is accepted by the NCCC.**

8. Consideration of Summernats cancellation proposal

- a. The discussion focusses on the disadvantages of Summernats. particularly for Watson and Downer residents who are adjacent to Exhibition Park, and also the potential support within the inner north community from those who support Summernats either generally or specifically for its potential economic benefits.
- b. In regards to the question of whether the NCCC should write to the ACT Government proposing that Summernats be cancelled or moved from Canberra, **the Committee agrees to consider the issue further, including seeking feedback from Residents Associations, on whether to take an NCCC position on Summernat's future.**

9. Update and motion on Angas Street issue

- a. The Committee notes the ongoing concerns regarding the proposed lease variation change in Angas Street, Ainslie, and **agrees to the following motion: "The NCCC confirms Marcus Hipkins and Geoff Davidson as representatives of the NCCC in the ACAT proceedings relating to Angas Street."**

10. Update from resident/community associations

a. Jane provides the update for Dickson:

- i. Jane advises that she has limited info on the nature of the Dickson Coles delay, while noting suggestions that Doma has pulled out of the deal;
- ii. in regards to Common Ground, it is noted that ACT Government are seeking architects to 'design and build' the Common Ground site, which Jane notes is strange considering that the fact that we've just gone through the development application process.
- iii. Jane also notes the decision to construct a new walking trail in Dickson. While noting that there was limited consultation on the proposal, she has spoken the designer and is exploring potential improvements, such as planting wildflowers along the path.

b. Margaret Henderson provides the update for Campbell:

- i. Margaret notes the extensive amount of development occurring within Campbell currently, including the nearby War Memorial expansion. There are three four storey apartment blocks being built on the old service station site in Blamey Street Campbell. There are safety issues regarding the construction barricades etc, which are forcing people to walk on the road.
- ii. Marg notes the recent survey undertaken y the South Canberra Community Council, and proposes that the NCCC could develop a similar survey. **The Committees supports the survey proposal in principle, with Marg to come back with final details for approval.**

- c. **There are no major updates from the Lyneham or Downer associations.**

11. Other business

Close of meeting

Committee meetings and general meetings are held on alternative months. The next Committee meeting will be held on 19 August.