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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



Agenda: Committee meeting 7pm 19 August 2020 Held via Zoom

Minute taker for the meeting: Chris Finnigan

Attendance: Chris Finnigan, Jochen Zeil, Marcus Hipkins, Marianne, Simon Clarke, Geoff Davidson, Margaret Henderson, Marianne Albury-Colless, Gordon McAllister, Angela Rymer, Bruce Smith, Geoff Francis, Jane Goffman.

Apologies: Marg Dudley

1) Confirmation of previous committee meeting minutes

a) July General meeting - confirmed

2) Update on September Candidates Forum

a) The Committee discussed the details of the upcoming September Candidate Forum and considered the RiotACT's proposal to assist with the broadcasting and hosting of the Forum, with RiotACT branding on the event requested in kind.

b) The Committee agreed that the proposal would help to ensure a smooth running of the event (given the technical and practical challenges presented with a larger scale event) and provide greater publicity and coverage.

c) At the same time, it will be important to ensure that the event still reflects the concerns and issues specific to North Canberra and NCCC members.

d) The Committee agreed:

(1) Chris Finnigan will reply to the RiotACT accepting their proposal and seeking further advice on the technical support that can be offered;

(2) Chris will invite the Canberra Progressive Party to the event (bringing to the total number of parties to five: Greens, Labor, Liberal, Bruce Paine (Independent), & Canberra Progressives).

(3) Marianne Albury-Colless will draft an initial set of questions for the event, to be circulated among the Committee;

3) Potential process for use of NCCC website's Discussion Board

a) The Committee discussed the use of the NCCC's website discussion board section. It is noted that, while there is not a significant number of posts, the forum does receive posts periodically and it is agreed that the Discussion

Board is a useful additional tool to help the NCCC gauge feedback from North Canberra residents.

4) Chair's Update

a) Morisset Road Extension

- i) Jochen Zeil provides an update on the proposed route of the Morisset Road Extension (which would go from the Antill Street/Federal Highway roundabout through to Mitchell).
- ii) Jochen notes that it cuts through areas that are designated as a nature reserve, reflecting the previous ACT Government decision to relocate the planned new suburb Kenny from the site and retain its natural values.
- iii) The Committee agrees that if the road extension, which is at the planning stage, was developed, it would break the previous commitment regarding the nature reserve and also boost traffic flow from Gungahlin to Antill Street.

b) SOHO development

- i) Jochen provides an update on the meeting he attended with the developers of the Soho building with Sue Dyer.
- ii) The building (which is in Dickson near the Pavilion building) would be for office space. The building is going to be built largely out of timber, and include a rooftop bar, solar and an open space that would, in principle, be accessible to the public.
- iii) The Committee agrees that, when the Development Application is lodged, the NCCC should lodge an objection, noting that the ad hoc development and cumulative traffic impacts and reductions in open space in the areas between Dickson and MacArthur Avenue need to be highlighted.
- iv) **The Committee agrees with Jane Goffman's suggestion that a question regarding this issue should be put to the candidates in September: would they support a comprehensive traffic study/analysis, given all the traffic impacts and developments along Northbourne?**

c) Dickson Section 72 call-in

- i) Jochen raised the issue of the Section 72 'call-in' by the ACT Planning Minister Mick Gentleman and, in particular, the proposal to construct a road through Hawdon Street to Antill Street.
- ii) Jane provided an update, noting that she had received a call from Lea Durie (the current head of the Section 72 team in EPSDD) advising that the road will be 'de-gazetted'.
- iii) **The Committee agrees that a question regarding this decision should be put to the candidates at the September Forum.**

d) Revised West Basin Plans

- i) Jochen notes that the recent revisions to the West Basin project are minor and do not address the concerns previously raised.

e) Braddon Bus Lay-over

- i) Jochen provided an update on the push by a Turner resident to prevent the Turner bus layover from being near Barry Drive.
- ii) It is noted that, while the site is not particularly close to residential buildings, it would be larger than the current one and the justification for its placement near Barry Drive is not clear given that the area, in the medium term, would also become valuable land for development and may prompt the bus layover to be moved again.
- iii) The Committee agrees to formally request from the Directorate the proper planning analysis for the proposal for the NCCC to examine.**

f) Mitchell Resource Centre

- i) Jochen advises that that a new Resource Centre in Mitchell may include an incinerator in an area relatively close to North Canberra suburbs, with specific details yet to be confirmed.

5) Treasurer's Update

- a) Bruce Smith advises that the current balance is \$4,893 (no new spending since last meeting)
- b) The new deed of grant has been signed (for 2020-21) which should ensure that the funding for this year (\$12,871) is delivered. The grant terms will be the same as last year.
- c) Bruce will prepare a report to acquit against last year's grant, providing some information about the key activities we funded and begin consultation on the NCCC's 2020-21 budget.**

6) Other business

- a) The Committee agrees to the request from Marcus Hipkins to move to the NCCC to annual subscription for Zoom services.**
- b) The Committee discussed the feasibility of coordinating Zoom subscriptions among Residents Associations and Community Councils (noting the inefficiency of multiple councils purchasing separate subscriptions), particularly for upcoming Annual General Meetings.

7) Update from resident/community associations

a) Reid update:

- i) Geocon has recently put in an amendment to its initial Development Application to increase the number of car spaces to 25. There is also concern that, among the many trees being replaced in Reid currently, some have potentially been poisoned.

b) Section 72 update

- i) Jane noted that in the final City and Gateway Framework released in late 2018, there is a page about Dickson which, in addition to the text, contains a map that appears to show a large potential development site at the NW corner of Dickson playing fields (which, in the context of the proposed extension of Hawdon Street, suggests a broader change to the area may have been under consideration).
- ii) Jane provided an update on the original Canberra aerodrome at Dickson following positive preliminary discussions with the archaeologists. Their

assessment on the day of investigating the Common Ground site using ground penetrating radar confirmed that subsurface remnants are likely to exist where the joint heritage nomination identifies the landing ground's central concrete ring was originally located. The archaeologists will prepare a report with recommendations for the ACT Government's consideration.

c) Ainslie update

- i) Marcus advises that they are still in ACAT proceedings on Angas street, however they are close to an agreement. If there is not an agreement, it will go to the tribunal at the end of next month.

d) Lyneham update

- i) Gordon advises that the Lyneham Residents Association has also organised a candidates forum, which will be held in person (adhering to the maximum number of people allowed under the current COVID-19 restrictions).
- ii) Gordon also notes that it would be useful to have a basic guide or useful 'cheat-sheet' to help individuals identify potential issues in DA's, which would draw on the skills of NCCC members such as Jane and Geoff Davidson.

e) Downer update

- i) The Downer Community Association recently met with Elizabeth Lee MLA to convey their concerns about the ACT Government's plans for Downer.
- ii) Downer accept that there should be some re-development, but not of the scale indicated in the National Capital Plan. A particularly egregious proposal is to remove the toilet block near Downer shops (the ones close to Antill Street will remain accessible when sports are being played) on the basis that there are toilets at the Dickson shops (noting that this is nearly a kilometre away on the other side of an Antill street that the ACT Government would also like to open for additional traffic flows).
- iii) Jochen suggest that Geoff Francis send him the relevant information on these issues and he will send a letter to the Planning Minister reiterating these concerns on behalf of the NCCC.

f) Campbell update

- i) The ongoing issues regarding the extensive development in and around Campbell were noted. In more positive news, a Floriade-reimagined event will be held at the Campbell shops on 12 September.

g) Hackett

- i) Bruce notes that a Floriade-reimagined event is also happening in Hackett.
- ii) The Committee discusses the increased use of the parks in and around Hackett and Jochen notes the importance of drawing out the parks into 'biodiversity corridors' to try and maximise their collective natural values (rather than maintaining a set of uniform flat empty spaces).

Close of meeting: 9.15pm

Committee meetings and general meetings are held on alternative months. The next Committee meeting will be held on 21 October.