



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 21 October 2020 Held online via Zoom

**Minute taker for the meeting:** Chris Finnigan

**Attendance:** Geoff Davidson, Jochen Zeil, Marianne Albury-Colless, Angela, Amanda, Simon Clarke, Margaret Dudley, Margaret-Ann Henderson, Bruce Smith, Gordon McAllister, Angela Rymer

**Observers:** Peter Callan, Ian Hubbard

**Apologies:** Jane Goffman, Andrea Madon, Geoff Francis

### **A. Confirmation of previous committee meeting minutes**

#### **a. August General Meeting - confirmed**

### **B. Preparation for November Annual general Meeting**

- a. The Committee agreed that the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on 18 November, will be hosted online via Zoom. Several Committee members note that Zoom has worked well for their Residents Associations' Annual General Meetings over the past few months.
- b. The Committee also agreed to invite a guest speaker for the November General Meeting, which will be held directly before the AGM. It is agreed that the former MLA Caroline le Couteur will be invited to give a presentation on planning and consultation.

### **C. Discussion regarding ACT election result**

- a. The Committee reflected on the outcome of the recent ACT election and its ramifications for planning policy in the ACT.
- b. Jochen Zeil proposes that the NCCC send a letter to Andrew Barr and Shane Rattenbury, as the Kurrajong MLAs and leaders of the re-elected ACT Government, to outline some of the key areas where the NCCC would be interested in working constructively during the next term. The letter will be sent to Barr and Rattenbury by the end of the week.
- c. While the issues would be raised only at a high level, a fundamental issue noted by several members is the extent to which NCCC members are often required to take on the work of a regulatory agency with

regard to ensuring that new developments adhere to building standards.

#### **D. Inner-North City Farm – update**

- a. Angela Rymer provides an update on the City Farm proposal following meetings with the Camperdown Commons, who run a City Farm in Camperdown, NSW. Camperdown Commons are interested in expanding, including potentially supporting a start-up in Canberra. Angela also discussed the proposal with the Chairs of Common Ground in Dickson about whether the City Farm could be based in the one of the remaining blocks on the Section 72 site.

#### **E. Chair's Update**

- a. Jochen provided an update on his recent meeting with the Chairs of Common Ground.
  - i. In the meeting, Jochen reiterated that the NCCC is not opposed to the Common Ground project per se, but rather had raised specific concerns regarding the rationale for its location and for the manner in which the consultation process was conducted.
  - ii. The meeting also touched on potential uses for the rest of the Section 72 site, which went positively. Jochen proposed a meeting with the Chairs of Common Ground, the Section 72 team in the ACT Government and the NCCC to discuss further.
  - iii. The Committee agreed that the Dickson Residents Group would also be looped in and invited to attend that meeting.
- b. Jochen also met with a representative from Coles regarding the stalled Coles development in Dickson. Coles advised that, pending the settlement of a new partnership with a developer for the residential units, they are still committed to ultimately proceeding with the development. It is unclear however, when a new partnership will be in place and a construction timeline can be established.

#### **F. Treasurer's Update**

- a. Bruce Smith advises that the current balance is \$4,000, with a further \$12,801 for the 2020-21 financial year to be provided to the NCCC shortly.
- b. **The Committee considered the Funding Paper at Attachments A1 and A2 (circulated prior to the meeting) and agreed to the 2020-21 Funding Proposals and to the set of Funding Principles (based on the NCCC's Constitution) at Attachment B to help inform funding decisions.**

#### **G. Update from resident/community associations**

- a. Reid
  - i. Marianne advises that there continue to be concerns about the level of compliance with and enforcement of the heritage listing of the suburb. In particular, while there are mandated rules regarding the distribution of built and garden land, these are increasingly not being adhered to.

## **b. Lyneham**

- i. Angela and Gordon McAllister advise that the Residents Association received a heritage grant in August (\$26,000) for the Lyneham to O'Connor heritage trail. The trail will provide a historical narrative of the development of the suburb. The grant will also include artistic work to develop a sign at the Lyneham shops linking the different heritage sites.
- ii. Bruce mentions that it may be useful to encourage knowledge sharing among residents groups on local artists, tips for heritage grant applications etc, in order to support similar projects being funded across North Canberra.

## **c. Ainslie**

- i. Marcus Hipkins advises that the ACAT proceedings on the dispute with the Ainslie Football Club have now settled. The dispute had centred on the Club's plans to facilitate future development plans around the Ainslie Oval and the potential traffic impacts in the surrounding area. As part of the settlement, rules have been established to clarify what the Ainslie Football Club can do (such as in terms of re-orientating their driveways and access points).
- ii. Marcus also gives a short history of the issue around the YWCA's proposal to develop community housing in Bill Pye park in Ainslie, including that:
  1. The site in the 1950s initially housed a pre-school. In 1993, the YWCA purchased the site in 1993 which, due its zoning status as a Community Facilities Zone, could be used for a broader range of purposes.
  2. In the last year, the YWCA received a grant from the ACT Government to support the development of the parcel of land into supportive housing for women (\$125,000 grant).
  3. While a Development Application is yet to be lodged, the project has been widely discussed in the community (and the YWCA has previously provided information on the project in the NCCC Newsletter), with regard to whether the site is the appropriate location for supportive housing.
  4. Jochen emphasises the key point that the NCCC is not against supportive housing, but the question is where are they best situated for transport, facilities, medical etc. There is also a question around the broad range of uses permitted under the zoning status and how social outcomes can be achieved without coming at the expense of a finite amount of community land.
  5. The Ainslie resident (and meeting observer) Ian Hubbard notes the strong attachment of local residents to the Bill Pye Park and misgivings about the architectural design of the proposal.

**d. Braddon**

- i. Geoff Davidson advises that ACAT is yet to make a decision on whether they can provide a hearing on the 42 Mort Street proposal.

**e. Dickson**

- i. Peter Callan advises that the Dickson residents are currently deciding whether to formally incorporate as an Association, with a final decision expected in the next few weeks.

**H. Other business**

- a. Update on Bill Pye Park development (covered in the Ainslie update).

**Close of meeting**

Committee meetings and general meetings are held on alternative months. The next Committee meeting will be held on 16 December.