



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 March 2021 Online via Zoom

Minute taker for the meeting: Chris Finnigan

Attendance: Marcus Hipkins, Bruce Smith, Jochen Zeil, Neil Parsons, Marianne Albury-Colless, Jane Goffman, Simon Clarke

Observers: N/A

Apologies: Gordon McAllister, Marg Dudley, Angela Rymer,

A. Confirmation of previous committee meeting minutes

- a. The February General Meeting minutes were accepted.

B. Chair's Update

- a. Jochen Zeil notes that there has been a recent flurry of Development Applications in the inner north, particularly in the area between MacArthur Avenue and Dickson.
- b. It is noted that these new apartment buildings would not have traffic open on to Northbourne, with traffic to instead be directed through the backstreets of Lyneham and Dickson. While this is likely to increase congestion in those suburbs, it is also noted that providing driveway access directly on to Northbourne Avenue would also cause congestion issues.
- c. Jochen provides an update on the new development on the site of the Dame Pattie Menzies building (near the Dickson interchange). While the proponents of the project met with NCCC in December as part of a consultation process, there has been no updates to the plans to reflect any of the suggestions raised by NCCC.
- d. Following the Canberra Racing Club's presentation to the NCCC General Meeting in February about their upcoming Development Application, there is discussion of whether it would be appropriate for the site (which is roughly between EPIC and the Barton Highway) to be more fully developed into a residential area, including new school facilities, with the horse facilities relocated to a more appropriate location, given the rapid population expansion in the area.
- e. It is agreed that the NCCC will invite a representative from the ACT Government who is best placed to provide advice on the high level

planning issues identified above, noting that they go beyond consideration of any single project or Development Application.

C. Treasurer's Update

- a. Bruce Smith advises that we have remaining planned expenditure of approximately \$10,000.
- b. Bruce asks that Residents Associations advise the NCCC if any updates are required to the expected expenditure for 2020-21, noting that, if all planned events go ahead, there will be a projected underspend in 2020-21 of approximately \$1,400.

D. Update from resident/community associations

- a. Marianne Albury Colless (Reid) provides an update on their recent Committee Meeting, where it was noted that the Australian Heritage Strategy is undergoing review. Given that North Canberra has many areas of heritage value that are not necessarily evident to many local residents, Marianne considers that it may be beneficial to develop some information tools to highlight the heritage features of North Canberra, to help inform our discussions about the inherent values of the various suburbs.
- b. Marcus Hipkins (Ainslie) advises that the Ainslie residents have not yet have not heard a decision on the Bill Pye Park development proposal.
- c. Bruce Pink and Simon Clarke (Watson) discuss the community meeting that was held with AIE (the proponents of the new Technology Park on the old Watson school site).
 - i. They advise that, while AIE has been constructive to work with through the consultation process, there are still some fundamental sticking points. In particular, there are concerns that the thousands of expected students at the new campus, including up to 600 students who will be resident onsite, is too large, given the size of the block and the character of the surrounding area.
 - ii. They also note that the proposal could particularly impact nearby residents in terms of overall noise. Traffic is also a concern, given that the parking is not expected to be commensurate to the number of expected students.
 - iii. It is noted that the Watson Residents Association are not objecting to the development per se, but rather consider that the current version of the proposal is too large for the area.
- d. Bruce Smith (Hackett) advises that the Hackett Residents Association are progressing a number of local initiatives, including establishing garden beds. The Association also been working with Blue Gum School to design a new mural at the Hackett shops.
- e. Jane Goffman (Dickson) notes that the Dickson Residents Group has now been incorporated as an official association, and also notes that, as part of the Canberra Heritage Festival, she would be hosting a tour of Canberra's original 1920s aerodrome and landing ground.

E. Other business

a. N/A

Close of meeting

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