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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



Minutes: Committee meeting 7pm 17 August 2022 Held online via Zoom

Minute taker for the meeting: Ernestine Kirsch

Attendance: Marcus Hipkins, Chris Finnigan, Ernestine Kirsch, Margaret Dudley, Marianne Albury-Colless, Leon Arundell, Christopher Mobbs, Ian Hubbard, Simon Clarke, Margaret Ann Henderson, Melissa Holland.

Observers: Paul Costigan, Robert Cain, Cameron Walker, Jing Huang.

Apologies: Bruce Smith, Jane Goffman, Gordon McAllister.

1. New development updates

- a. Ernestine Kirsch gave a presentation on the JWLand Braddon Place DA – period for submitting a representation closes 22 August 2022.
 - i. Chris Finnigan moved a motion to lodge an objection to the proposed design of the development prior to the closing date. Agreed by those present.
 - ii. Ian Hubbard encouraged members to make their own individual representations.
 - iii. Ernestine to ask the City Renewal Authority for information about the number of tenants that used to live in social housing along the Northbourne Avenue Corridor v. the projected number of residents in the future. Comparison will likely demonstrate the need for more public infrastructure to support higher-density living.
- b. Residents concerned about the JWLand Northbourne Village (Lyneham) development adjacent to the heritage listed Owen Flats gave a presentation. The development is in the pre-DA community consultation phase.
 - i. Chris noted that the NCCC could assist with media at this stage (prior to the DA being lodged).
- c. Leon Arundell noted that the activities of the ACT Heritage Council are currently suspended due to a review.

2. Confirmation of previous committee meeting minutes

- a. The June 2022 minutes were confirmed
- b. One correction made to the June 2022 minutes (spelling of Pedal Power).

3. Draft NCCC submission on the Active Travel Plan

- a. The NCCC Active Travel Plan submission was circulated prior to the meeting. Suggested edits: move the section on safer speed limits further up the list of concerns; and delete the words on page 1 that state “with some qualifications that are mentioned below”.
- b. Agreed by those present that Chris to submit the Active Travel Plan submission on behalf of the NCCC once minor edits (see 3(a) above) have been made.

4. Chair’s Update

a. Letter from NCCC re: Monash Drive

- i. It was agreed that the letter regarding Monash Drive (circulated prior to the meeting) will be sent from Chris in his capacity as Acting Chair.
- ii. Agreed by those present that Chris to send the letter on behalf of the NCCC. One minor edit to version circulated to insert the date the decision to send the letter was made.

b. Recent development announcements

- i. Ainslie Football Club development application
 - Marcus Hipkins updated the committee on the ACAT decision relating to the administrative review of a decision of EPSDD to approve the DA for a sub-division of the AFC Ainslie site and a ‘driveway to nowhere’.
 - ACAT ruled in favour of the EPSDD decision.
 - The process has highlighted the need for planners and a traffic expert as expert witnesses when raising issues and making arguments in proceedings.
 - Marcus will consider whether to appeal the decision of EPSDD relating the approval of a child care centre on the same site.
 - Ian thanked Marcus on behalf of the NCCC for all of his work on the ACAT case.
- ii. Gateway development, Dickson
 - Chris noted information received about the Gateway development at the corner of Antill Street and Northbourne Avenue, Dickson.
 - The current building is an office block and the owners are seeking a buyer/investor for a build-to-rent project for 435 units.

- iii. Developing an NCCC Strategy for planning issues
 - Members held a general discussion about the challenging environment that the NCCC is operating within – e.g. recent news articles have attacked the NCCC for opposing the AFC subdivision and proposed development on sports and recreation zoned land and Ainslie Residents Association for opposing the YWCA development.
 - It was agreed that there is a need to prepare talking points for the media and/or a press release in advance if the NCCC is going to challenge a development. Ian gave the example of only being given a couple of hours to give comment to the media on the YWCA development and noted that we do not have to be reactive and respond to media requests.
 - Suggestions for future discussion:
 - Information about any DA's that are being challenged could be posted on the NCCC website.
 - Develop a Q&A section on the NCCC website which outlines NCCC's position in relation to planning issues.
 - Develop talking points that represent the objectives of the NCCC.
 - Issue should be raised at the next meeting of the Combined Community Councils – Is there a way to resource media and communications? How do community councils manage and deflect negative publicity?

c. Banning of no-cause evictions

- i. The Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced into the ACT Legislative Assembly on 27 July 2022: the Bill calls for a ban on “no-cause evictions”.
- ii. Minimum standards for energy efficiency in rental properties are also introduced through the Bill.
- iii. The Bill is open for consultation until 26 August 2022.

5. Treasurer's Update

- a. In Bruce Smith's absence, Chris reported that there is \$4459.10 in the bank.
- b. Residents' associations need to submit their bids for funding prior to the next meeting (September meeting).

6. Updates from resident/community associations were provided via email and are included below in Attachment A.

7. Other business

- a. Ian Hubbard gave an update on the issue of the relocation of tenants in public housing.

Close of meeting

Committee meetings and general meetings are held on alternative months. The next General meeting will be held on 21 September 2022.

Attachment A - Residents Association Updates

Braddon Collective

Key points

- Plans for the Braddon Busking Festival to be held in Lonsdale Street on 23 October 2022 are progressing.
- The Braddon Collective will be making a submission to the draft Active Travel Plan consultation process.

Infrastructure

- Haig Park Community Centre – delays have been overcome and construction is progressing.
- Lonsdale Street upgrades - no news from CRA on start date
- Mort Street upgrades - no news from CRA on commencement of design phase
- The Braddon Collective continue to question the quality of the new 'desire line' footpaths in Haig Park and whether they are complete.

Campbell Report - August 2022

Campbell Shops Upgrade, traffic/parking and parks

The contractor for the shops' upgrade has set up a site office and there are signs notifying various trees to be removed and replaced. Local residents have been in contact with TCCS about care of tall, established trees that may be affected by works to increase parking spaces. TCCS has advised that to protect root systems, an arborist will supervise the works and soil removal will be by hydrovac instead of excavation.

Illuminated road signs were installed on Blamey Crescent in July/August near the school and child care centre to slow traffic and "keep kids safe". Awaiting outcome of ACT government's whole-of-Campbell traffic review.

On 1 August 2022, the CCA received a letter from the Place Names Committee advising that Minister Gentleman did not support the CCA's proposal to name the park behind the shops, Kuga Park, for brave military dog, Kuga. Minister Gentleman has directed the park be named to commemorate a woman. The Place Names Committee thanked the team of women from Campbell for their dedicated work over the past few years in preparing the proposal. Kuga remains under consideration for a place name in the suburb of Jacka which has a theme of valor and community service. Campbell is the location of VC Park and Legacy Park, but alas lacks the necessary, assigned themes of valor and community service.

Major Developments: 71 Constitution Avenue, Anzac Park East

Two major residential developments are nearing completion along Constitution Ave - 71 Constitution in Campbell and The Griffin in Parkes (opposite Reid). Getting Crescent, Campbell has been closed for a while to allow construction of a wide pavement and street tree plantings that residents pressed the developer/NCA/ACT Government for in the Works Approval/DA process. It's only for the part of the street beside the new development, but nonetheless an improvement.

CCA and Reid reps have been participating in preliminary discussions with the developer for Anzac Park East on Anzac Parade. Early designs for mixed use residential development are being discussed. Building height, parking and need for a supermarket have been raised by nearby residents.

Trees: Variation 369 and Urban Forest Bill

Residents continue to monitor undertakings by Minister Gentleman on V369. Residents are taking an interest in the recently introduced Urban Forest Bill noting that the Bill, when passed, will establish the 30% canopy cover target in urban areas and set the rules for tree management in residential areas.

Phone/mobile/internet services

Services continued to be slow and unstable in some parts of Campbell in July/August. At least one provider has notified Campbell customers of possible interruptions from 15/8 to 28/8 while they upgrade their network.

Downer

- Adele Cameron is the new Downer Centre coordinator.
- The committee has agreed on a draft of a new constitution, which it will circulate to members in September.
- We have received grants for the Bike "Pump" track and Berry Street Park projects, which we are auspicing,
- We have received a new supply of biodegradable cornstarch dog poo bags, for the Downer playing fields.
- The committee has agreed to buy a split system airconditioner for the SEE-Change office, and will seek a government grant to cover some of the cost.
- The Majura Womens Group have completed and installed a mural on the central raised lawn wall at the Downer shops.
- A Downer shops flea market is being planned for September.
- A petition has been circulated, asking the Heritage Council to allow the planting of deciduous trees rather than canary pines, to allow more winter sun penetration into new residences on Bradfield Street.
- The Downer preschool will use funds from its joint 'democracy sausage' stall with the Men's Shed, to cover Men's Shed costs in building flower/vegetable beds for the pre-school grounds

Hackett Community Association August 2022

Welcome leaflet for new residents

The HCA has produced a leaflet aimed at new Hackett residents. We provide it to real estate agents selling or renting houses or units – a great way to show potential buyers details such as community organisations, schools, churches, shops and other matters. We provide limited copies at the shops and drop them into the letterboxes of new residents.

Coffee and conversation for our senior residents

We have had a good response to the HCA facilitating get togethers for our senior Hackett residents. However, due to the increase in Covid across the Canberra community during winter, we have decided to postpone our first gathering until it warms up.

Hackett 2021 Census

The 2021 Census results were released on 28 June 2022. We have saved data about Hackett on the HCA website <https://hackett.asn.au/hackett-the-suburb/>. You can access the complete data for all Australia on the ABS website - <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/search-by-area>.

New grants for Hackett parks

The HCA is now managing two new grants for community groups working with the ACT Government to improve parks in Hackett. Under the *2021-22 Adopt a Park* program the:

- Gilruth Park Supporters Group received \$3,335 to undertake more landscaping;
- Bragg St Park Volunteers Group received \$3,000 to undertake more plantings in the swales and other parts of the park.

For more information about these parks visit the HCA website

<https://hackett.asn.au/community-actions/>

ACT House of Assembly inquiry into Environmental Volunteerism in the ACT

The HCA provided a submission to this inquiry and followed up with attending a hearing on 19 July 2022. The HCA submission outlined concerns about the inconsistent terms and conditions for various grants provided by the ACT Government. Each program grants have many variations and may reflect the directorate managing the program. The essence of the HCA submission was that all grant programs should have consistent terms and conditions to ensure volunteers are not spending time and resources meeting the different requirements. If you would like to receive the HCA submission please send an email to the HCA info@hackett.asn.au or access it on the inquiry website, along with the transcript of the hearing on 19 July.

Hackett oval trees nomination for ACT Tree Register

The HCA is still waiting to receive a decision about including these trees on the ACT Tree Register. The HCA is now preparing a submission to have the trees and cemetery plan put on the ACT Heritage Register. A copy of the report about these trees is on the HCA website [suburb Hackett – an area for a north Canberra cemetery](#)

SES depot block

The SES has a depot at the southern end of the Hackett oval. They will be moving from this site over the next 6-12 months. The HCA has been lobbying Minister Mick Gentleman to ensure the block is not left vacant and that it is made available for use by community groups as soon as possible after the SES leave.

Lyneham Community Association

The Lyneham Community Association, has been fairly quiet the last couple of months as we bring up to speed some new volunteers on our committee. However we have done a few things that may be of interest:

- We led a walk around the new Lyneham Heritage Trail for ACT National Trust members on 24 July;
- The formation of the Friends of Magpie Hill park care group was progressed with our first working bee on 6 August which installed some erosion control measures and no-mow regeneration areas;

- We continue lobbying for better traffic management on Brigalow Street to improve pedestrian safety around the carpark adjacent to the Brindabella Christian College.
- We are seeking further assistance for holding the Light Up Lyneham community festival this year.

Watson

WCA Happenings August 2022.

A win for Watson and the Inner North!

Well done Watson residents! We've got our Community Playspace!

Watson Community Association, residents and many other groups have been campaigning for this for 4 years. In the recent ACT Budget, Chief Minister Andrew Barr confirmed 3 year funding to make it a reality.

"A destination style playground and recreation park will be built in Watson, costing \$2.6 million. The 22,000 square metre park, to be built near the shops and Majura Primary School, will feature climbing structures, nature and water play, as well as barbecues and toilets – all things the community said they wanted. Asphalt tennis courts at the site will be modernized. Until now, the inner north has lacked a large community destination play space, and Mr Steel expected the new park would attract people from all over Canberra."

This is a big win and includes toilets, which we were told over and over again would never happen!! A huge shoutout to everyone, from a range of different groups, who kept plugging away to make this happen.

A win for Community Power!

Active Travel Consultation

The WCA is making a submission to this consultation. We believe there is a lot of work to be done in the Inner North before the aims of the document can be realised. The infrastructure to support the aims is poor or doesn't exist and community need is growing.

Planning

Very little seems to be happening with planning at the moment.

2022 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards

We have nominated our "Living Streets Youth" organisation for the group section of these awards. They have done a lot of work in raising community awareness of the issues around the Section 76 development. Have a look at the video they have produced.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRNxM_lp5Tw