

*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: General meeting 7pm 20 July 2022 Held online via Zoom

### **Minute taker for the meeting: Ernestine Kirsch**

**Attendance:** Chris Finnigan (Acting Chair), Marcus Hipkins, Jane Goffman, Ernestine Kirsch, Margaret Dudley, Marianne Albury-Colless, Leon Arundell, Simon Clarke, Gordon McAllister, Margaret-Ann Henderson, Catherine Cronan

**Observer:** Paul Costigan, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Shane Rattenbury MLA, Ian Ross

**Apologies:** Sue Dyer, Geoff Davidson

### **Guest presentation**

A presentation was given by Ms Alice Hathorn, convenor of ACT Urban Woodland Rescue on her work restoring local biodiversity of the Fowles Street park in Weston.

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

- a. The May 2022 minutes were confirmed.
  - i. Jane Goffman will be overseas for four months (not one month as noted in the May minutes).
  - ii. Marianne Albury-Colless updated the meeting on a letter received from the Minister Gentleman re: DV369 and Heritage Precincts. The letter confirms that the 40% tree cover in Heritage Precincts is not over-ridden by DV369. Marianne will circulate the letter.

### **2. Acting Chair's Update**

- a. Chris gave an update on the [response](#) from Minister Berry and Minister Vassarotti to the NCCC letter relating to public housing evictions.

The earlier opt-in model for re-locating tenants under the *Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program* has been removed. The NCCC supported ACOSS's open letter and wrote to Ministers Berry and Vassarotti. The reply provides reasoning for why the model was changed from a voluntary opt-in program (due to insufficient numbers opting in).

Rebecca Vassarotti confirmed that there will be renewal of 1000 properties and addition of 400 properties. In Australia ACT has the second highest proportion of public housing compared to housing built, but it is acknowledged that the population of Canberra is increasing.

As a requirement of the ACT Government Land Release program, 15% of units have to be for affordable purchase. The proportion of housing that is affordable, and whether this should be applied to all developments, could be explored during the review of the Territory Plan. A question about salt and pepper distribution of social housing was raised.

**Action item:** Rebecca committed to finding, and reporting back, the history of the policy of 15% of all new developments including social housing and affordable housing. Further, Rebecca will provide further information on the current policy regarding salt and pepper distribution of public housing.

- b. Chris outlined concerns about a consortium approaching the ACT Government about using part of EPIC – Shane Rattenbury was not aware of this and suggested this was potentially under the unsolicited bids process.
- c. Chris raised the issue of Canberra Airport being curfew-free. Qatar Airways is proposing departures from the airport at 2am. Shane recalled the Curfew4Canberra campaign from the early 2000's which was resisted by Canberra Airport, the freight and tourism industries. Shane noted he is supportive of a curfew.

### **3. Treasurer's Update**

- a. In Bruce Smith's absence, Chris shared a list of recent bank transactions and noted that there is \$4,289.71 in the bank.
- b. Funding proposals for next year are due on 12 August 2022.

### **4. Other business**

- a. Active Travel Plan – Ernestine Kirsch will draft a submission on the TCCS Active Travel Plan, circulate prior to the next meeting and seek endorsement at the August 2022 meeting. Submissions due 24 August.
- b. Garden City Cycle Route - Chris will look into getting a presentation on the Garden City Cycle Route for the September 2022 General meeting.

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

- a. Jane noted a recent request from City Renewal Authority to join a consultation meeting about community engagement on a weekday, during business hours, at short notice. The constraints on volunteers should be considered by the ACT Government when consultations are being undertaken.

### **Close of meeting**

Committee meetings and general meetings are held on alternative months. The next General meeting will be held on 17 August.

## **Attachment A - Residents Association Updates**

### Braddon Collective

**City Place Manager** – Braddon and Civic have a new Place Manager, Kristy Clark from Dionysis, who starts in the job on 11 July. Dionysis have won the new Place Management contract for the city renewal precinct.

**Role of CRA v TCCS** – City Renewal Authority (CRA) have confirmed that the Place Managers are focussed on engagement – if infrastructure issues are raised with Place Managers they pass this on to the relevant project managers. TCCS are focussed on new infrastructure and maintenance of existing infrastructure; CRA are focussed on placemaking, land sales within the city renewal precinct and urban upgrades in the city renewal precinct.

**Lonsdale Street and Mort Street upgrades** – CRA are working through procurement issues. Alternative procurement methods are being prepared but it is still intended to undertake the upgrades as planned with no reduction in project scope. The designs for Mort Street are underway for pedestrian improvements. CRA will take these designs to the community later this year.

**Braddon Busking Festival** – planned for October 2022.

### Campbell Community Association

The CCA is awaiting a response from Chris Steel MLA regarding the CCA's petition to the Assembly (February 2022) around community concern regarding the adequacy of parking in the suburb's streets and shopping centre. This will be exacerbated when work begins on the Campbell Shops upgrade

There is remaining concern about the inability to access the car parking at the Mica development for patrons and staff of the businesses to be set up there. Although there was a requirement to increase the number of car spaces under the building for this purpose, Chris Steel has informed the CCA that they cannot compel the owners of the building to provide access. The CCA will write to the owner's corporation seeking clarification of the parking arrangements.

Poor mobile phone and internet access for Telstra customers continues to be a problem across Campbell. The CCA Chair will contact Senator David Pocock's office for advice as to how to progress this issue. It will also be suggested that affected Campbell residents contact the Telecommunications Ombudsman's office for a response. It has also been noted that the ACT Government has installed free WiFi across Hassett Park, but there are continuing problems with internet services in the apartments on Constitution Avenue.

Work continues in the park behind the Campbell shops with a successful planting day being carried out on 17 September with 100 new plants being added. Conditional approval has been given for a grant to provide a sign for the park setting out the aims of and community involvement in the project

Sign has gone up at the Campbell shops informing the public that work is to commence on the upgrade. No definite start date has been provided

The Coffee Club and Tai Chi continue to be popular albeit with fluctuations in the numbers of attendees

#### Downer Community Association

The Downer Community Association is employing a new centre coordinator, and is also considering an upgrade of its website.

We are currently auspicing government grants for a bicycle “pump” track, and for improvements to the Berry Street park.

The committee will hold a special meeting on 21 July to consider a possible new constitution, that could be provided to members for comment, and could potentially be voted on at the next AGM.