



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 18 October 2023 Held online via Zoom

Minute taker for the meeting: Ernestine Kirsch

Attendance: Ian Hubbard (Acting Chair), Marcus Hipkins, Ernestine Kirsch, Margaret Dudley, Marianne Albury-Colless, Leon Arundell, Simon Clarke, Bruce Smith, Peter Callan; Margaret-Ann Henderson, Geoff Davidson.

Apologies: Jane Goffman, Jochen Zeil.

1. Confirmation of previous committee meeting minutes

- To be added to the August 2023 minutes:
 - *Jochen Zeil to talk to Peter Elford about membership of the Energy Reference Group to ascertain whether another community council representative is required. Leon Arundell offered to be on the reference group if another rep is needed.*
 - Balance of the bank account as at August 2023 meeting to be added to the minutes as follows: *The current balance of the NCCC account is \$5,294.*
- The August 2023 minutes (version circulated to committee members by email on 16 October 2023) were confirmed.
- Proposed by Ernestine and seconded by Simon.
- It was agreed by members present that information captured by Ian Hubbard relating to the DA for 90 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon (presentation at August 2023 meeting) should be published on the NCCC website as a case study highlighting community concerns.
 - Ernestine noted we could publish the representation made on the 90 Northbourne Avenue DA on the NCCC website. This representation is publicly available.

2. Acting Chair's Update

- Ian Hubbard provided a recap of current live issues for the NCCC including:

- no decision yet made on the DA for the 90 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon, development
- a pre-DA consultation is currently open for plans for the former City Bowls Club site in Braddon (Elder Street side of the block)
- Marcus Hipkins attended the meeting with Rebecca Vassarotti on 13 October 2023 on the behalf of the NCCC to discuss the new planning regime; purpose was to seek feedback from community councils; new planning regime will be in place on 27 November 2023; the Minister discussed the new Design Guides (not mandatory but taken into account in the assessment process).
 - Thank you to Marcus for attending the meeting
 - Marcus was able to raise the issue of the removal of the public land overlay from the Ainslie and Braddon ovals; coal fire power stations in public open space; assessment of DAs for large advertising signs.
 - Ernestine Kirsch asked if the NCCC members present want training on the new planning regime? Preference for a Zoom meeting. Ernestine will follow up with EPSDD.
 - Geoff Davidson raised the issue of developments that are submitted for DA assessment are not compliant with the planning regime. Concerns about compliance as the current rules are not being enforced.
 - EOIs are due to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services by 27 October 2023. All residents' associations are encouraged to submit an EOI.
 - Concerns raised about adequate staffing for the assessment for DAs. Reliance on the submissions from private town planning companies and not enough EPSDD staff to scrutinise DAs.

3. Treasurer's Update

- The annual grant from the ACT Government has not yet been received.
- Account balance as at 18 October 2023: \$4,348.92
- Proposals from residents' associations for 2023/24 are over budget for the expected grant. Total projected expenditure leaves a projected balance of \$714.
- It was noted that the grant from the ACT Government has not kept pace with the cost of living. Marianne Albury-Colless suggested that the Combined Community Councils should request an increased grant. Leon Arundell confirmed that the grant had not increased significantly over the last 10 years.
- The Committee approved the forward budget (as circulated by the Treasurer on 17 October) subject to ongoing review and amendment as necessary to ensure sufficient funding for high priority NCCC activities.
 - Ian Hubbard proposed and Marianne Albury-Colless seconded.

4. Other business

- Geoff Davidson suggested that a DA checklist be available online (see comments in Item 2 above) and that an applicant for a DA be required to complete the checklist to ensure that the DA is compliant.
 - Geoff and Marianne worked on a checklist which would be provided to developers presenting to the NCCC.
 - **Action item:** Geoff to circulate the DA checklist to the NCCC.
- Inner South Community Council held a meeting to discuss testing the new planning regime through case studies.
 - If members are able to access these case studies it was requested that these are sent around.
- Suggestions for the **forthcoming AGM** were discussed. Ian suggested that Minister Vassarotti and Jo Clay MLA are asked to present on the impact of the new planning regime in relation to housing affordability and climate impacts.
 - Ian also raised the re-development of the University of Canberra site. Proposal to plan a new residential development on site to build a community.
 - **Action item:** Ian to follow-up on speakers for the NCCC AGM.

Close of meeting

Committee meetings and general meetings are held on alternative months. The next General meeting will be held on 20 March 2024.