



Newtown Residents' Association

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Minutes of the Newtown Residents' Association Meeting October 20th 2014

Present

Claire Pettigrew (Chair), Ken Allen, Rhona Carson, Mark Coburn, Carol Comber, Peter Cooke, Steve Cosgrove, James Coyle, Steve Dunn, Paul Eagle, Peter Frater, Tom Law, Kevin Lethbridge, Martin Hanley, Anna Kemble Welch, Jeanie McCafferty, Don McDonald, Don Mackay, Patrick Morgan, Laura Newcombe, Stephen Pritchard, Effie Rankin, Cheryl Robilliard, Michael Scott, Jonathon Sharp, Dave Smyth, Andrew Turquet, Ralph Wilkinson, Kate Zwartz.

Apology – Celia Wade-Brown

1. What is happening around the Basin Reserve?

- A brief report and discussion of the appeal the New Zealand Transport Agency is taking to the High Court against the decision to decline the Basin Flyover proposal. Save the Basin and the Architecture Centre are fundraising for the legal costs of being represented at the hearing. There is no date for this yet.
- Martin was the NRA representative at a meeting called by Grant Robertson to discuss next steps of the development of transport solutions for Wellington, in particular in the area around the Basin Reserve. Martin had some plans for suggested changes to traffic and bus lanes leading off Kent Tce that the Urban Activation Lab has been working on, and had copies to show tonight's meeting.
- Outcomes of Grant's meeting
 - A letter to the Mayor, NZTA and Regional Council, to be signed by a wide range of community groups, asking for more community involvement with the development of plans for the Ngauranga to Airport corridor. Mt Cook Mobilised have suggested some wording changes to be less adversarial, these are being incorporated.
 - A follow-up meeting with the Regional Council on Friday Oct 24th.

2. Cycleway update.

- Wellington City Council has engaged Aecom to do further study and analysis of the Berhampore/Newtown section, working towards more detailed plans for community consultation next year.
- After a reminder to WCC the much-delayed leaflet drop is happening now.
- Jeanie proposed forming a sub-group to work together on cycleway issues. Volunteers from the meeting were Laura, Effie, Martin, James, Anna, Kate, Patrick

and Tom, who will be the convenor. Among issues to look at will be how best to consult with residents and how to manage disagreements.

3. Newtown Parking Issues

- There is a lot of discontent at how congested the parking is on many Newtown streets. This is due to commuters (especially hospital staff), and multi-occupier housing without off-street parking. Possible solutions could include residents' parking zones, time-limited parking, and/or coupon parking. People with disabilities needing to park near home could apply for a disability parking space to be gazetted outside their house.
- Paul Eagle reported that some residents have already raised the parking issues and Council is working on them.
- Andrew, Claire, Paul, Stephen and Carol will form a group to work on this further. To consult with other residents – via NRA Newsletter, maybe letter drop.
- Peter reported that Mt Cook Mobilised have the same issues, and he proposed advocating for car-free living. Acknowledgement that need good public transport for this to be feasible.

4. Wellington City Council Consultations

- Urban Growth plan. Martin spoke to the NRA submission – in general terms approve of the plan, but have to be cautious about how it is implemented.
- Long Term Plan. The Council staff are asking for submissions as soon as possible about what the Newtown community wants in the plan. The ideas should be incorporated before the plan is written – there will be consultation next March/April after it is written, but change rarely happens at this stage.
 - Tom, Claire and Jeanie to do further work on this.
 - Ask people on the mailing list for feedback
 - Invite a Council person to come to the November meeting to discuss it further.
 - Caution that the cost of pursuing the WCC '8 big ideas' might lead to rates rises or to losing some of what we already have.
- Suburban Reserves Management Plan. Cheryl spoke to this, and is taking the lead in preparing a submission – due on 5th December. The areas involved are the Hospital Road Park, Mercy Park, Carrara Park and the playground at the corner for Constable Street. The plan recommends everyone having access to a park within 600 m or 10min walk. If the Town Belt is included this is mostly so for Newtown, but concern about the impact of increasing intensification – eg Adelaide Rd. Only one small park in this area, and no access to the Town Belt.
 - Meeting raised need to protect small areas that aren't official reserves – eg Quirke's Cnr, the green space on John Street.
 - Cheryl happy to hear from anyone with ideas to contribute to the submission.
 - Paul reported that the plan is to decommission a playground in Jeypore Street in Berhampore. The residents are protesting against this and there will be a meeting at the playground on 1st November, 10am.
 - Discussion of the status of other parks –eg Basin Reserve, Newtown Park, Truby King Park. The Council are interested in using Truby King House for more community events. There will be an open day before Christmas.

5. Other business.

- Query – why is there a security guard in the Newtown library? Answer – response to assaults on staff. All libraries now have guards.
- Don McDonald informed the meeting about the WCC Fixit app. Useful way of contacting Council about problems.
- Don McKay proposed cleaning up the empty section on the corner Daniell St and Newtown Ave and planting flowers - 'seed bombing'. The back of the area is being used by the Newtown Community Garden group, but the front needs attention. People can contact Don at newtownseedbombers@gmail.com - plan to work on it on Labour Day, 27/10/14.
- Paul Eagle alerted us to 2 other WCC Consultations – Social Housing Policy, Psychoactive Substances.
- Basin Reserve – Steve Cosgrove has emailed Paul about issues with lighting etc, Paul has passed these on to the WCC CEO.
- Newtown Festival/ Celebrate Newtown.
 - James outlined the proposed programme of events 13/2/15 – 23/3/15 and asked for ideas about other possible events.
 - Festival Fair Day 8/3/15. Stall bookings already up to 220. The site will be bigger – agreement to close Riddiford St up to Rhodes St, plan to have another stage at this end of the street.
 - Sponsors needed.
 - Don McKay suggested having Newtown Municipal Honours for notable people who need acknowledging. General approval of this idea, with suggestion of having presentations as part of the Festival opening.
- Mike Scott would like to talk about the Living Wage at a future meeting – general agreement.
- Don McDonald alerted us to the Berhampore Film Festival to be at the Newtown Community Centre on the 8th November.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Next meeting November 17th 2014