

Minutes of the Newtown Residents' Association Annual General Meeting 21st September 2015. [This is the first part of the AGM: the meeting was adjourned before the business was completed and will recommence in October.]

Present: Claire Pettigrew (Chair), Rhona Carson (Secretary – minute taker), Ken Allen, Carol Comber, David Wilcock, Megan Mcluskie, Andrew Hartley, Jonathan Sharp (Police), Kevin Lethbridge, Steve Dunn, Cheryl Robilliard, Kate Zwartz, Jeanie McCafferty, Steve Cosgrove, Effie Rankin, Laura Newcombe, David Lee (WCCr), Martin Hanley (apologies for lateness).

Apologies: Peter Cooke, James Coyle, Anna Kemble Welch, Keith Powell, Daphne Pillar, Neville Carson, Peter Frater

Presidents' Report: Claire circulated her written report. Jeanie moved, Steve C seconded, that the report be accepted. Carried with thanks to Claire.

Discussion arising from the report, on the topic of new developments in Newtown:

- Nothing further heard from the Salvation Army
- Work seems to have started on the old Tip Top site in Hanson being developed by Ryman Healthcare – an old house has been removed. Paul Eagle was to have been in touch with the developers – needs follow up.
- Unconfirmed reports that the old Caltex site will be used for apartments – suggestion that the NRA be proactive in contacting developers when we know who they are – if they don't contact us first.

Minutes of the 2014 AGM: Moved Jeanie, seconded Rhona that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record. Passed.

Matters arising: the two history projects. South Wellington Licensing Trust – Steve Dunn reported material prepared and ready to be made available via a website, still working on this final step. Laura Rosier History project – the material is still being edited, progress is being made on turning it into an e-book.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer was absent from the meeting so this could not proceed.

Election of Officers:

Discussion - Claire has decided not to stand for President again; she has more demands on her time now with a full-time job, and will be unable to attend meetings on Mondays. Also some concerns about the place of the Festival within the Association and the financial policies. Meeting raised option of sharing the load, meeting on another night – reluctant to see Claire go. She could be willing to co-share the Presidency, but no other candidates were forthcoming.

Kate Zwartz, previously a Vice President, has too many demands on her time to contribute adequately to the role. Kate was thanked for her work on submissions and other contributions to NRA.

Ken Allen, previously on the Executive, also has many demands on his time, has the definite opinion there should be separation between Festival and NRA, and prefers not to continue with current arrangements.

Nominees

President – there were no nominations.

Secretary – Rhona Carson

Treasurer – Peter Frater, in absentia, subject to his agreement

Vice-President – James Coyle (no nominees for the other 2 possible VP roles)

Past President – Claire Pettigrew

Executive – Carol Comber, Kevin Lethbridge, Steve Dunn, Cheryl Robilliard, Jeanie McCafferty, Steve Cosgrove, Effie Rankin, Martin Hanley.

Steve Cosgrove moved, Rhona Carson seconded, that the people nominated be declared elected unopposed. Carried.

Newtown Festival

Discussion continued on the prospect of the Newtown Festival separating from the Residents' Association. The 2014 AGM agreed to explore establishing a Trust and there were subsequently some discussions about this, but there has been no real progress. A discussion paper and/or some expert advice on the best way forward were suggested. Paul Eagle had earlier made an offer to the Festival Committee to contact appropriate consultants; David Lee undertook to follow this up.

Newtown Festival Appointments

Festival Director: Martin Hanley

Festival Committee: Anna Kemble Welch, James Coyle, Tom Law, Rhona Carson

Festival Review Team: Steve Dunn, Peter Frater (if he continues as Treasurer), Claire Pettigrew, with power to co-opt. Ken Allen said he could be willing to be co-opted.

The motion to empower the Festival Committee, as passed at the 2014 AGM, was read out.

“Newtown Festival authority: The AGM empowers the Director to manage the Festival budget and to make payments and funding applications for aspects of the event. The AGM also resolves that the detailed Festival Operating Budget (which identifies all costs and likely income) is subject to final confirmation by the executive with an email “paper” trail before it is implemented [in November /December] Then again in early February as the event approaches the Executive re-authorises by email the updated budget circulated by the Festival Director – matching event scope to actual income, compared in a summary table mapped against the expected income outlined in the earlier operating budget. Approval is on a ‘break even’ basis. Philanthropic Trust applications are similarly subject to final confirmation by the executive, done by email before they are submitted.”

Before the motion was put to the meeting a disagreement arose over the definition of the ‘event’ covered by this authority – is it the period in February and March known to all as the Newtown Festival, or does this motion empower the Director to organise events at other times of year?

As the AGM needed to be adjourned due to the absence of a financial report, Rhona Carson moved and David Wilcock seconded a motion to adjourn the AGM at this point and to resume at the time of the October meeting. In the interim the unfinished business, including the above motion and the Presidency, can be thoughtfully considered. The authority granted at the last AGM will be considered as still in place

and the Festival Committee will seek approval for any funding applications needed before the AGM resumes. Agreed – AGM adjourned at 9.15pm.

Other Business - the business of the regular September monthly meeting.

Verandahs – a discussion prompted by the observation that the verandah on the electricity sub station has been removed. The NRA supports having verandahs, but the owners of buildings are having difficulties with the earthquake risks involved.

Safety on the Streets – there has been recent email correspondence prompted by concerns expressed by a Newtown resident (not present at the meeting) about men begging for money and hanging around the ATMs intimidating people. The correspondent also reported that a young girl had been grabbed and hassled for a cigarette. Jono Sharp from the Police spoke to this – it is a recognised problem but no offences have been committed unless and until people are harassed and intimidated. If people are having trouble they are advised to speak to the Police about the incidents. The Police do what they can to monitor the situation. Some of the men involved are thought to live at Te Menenga Pai Trust in Mansfield Street; Jono has visited there and Carole and other staff members are addressing the problem with their residents and are very happy for other members of the community to visit. Jono offered to join residents on a visit to TMP if wanted. David W spoke of keeping an eye on people in the street – not all trouble makers are from TMP – would like to see more Police on the beat. The Police are looking into having a greater presence.

Next meeting – Monday October 19th 7.30pm.