



Minutes of the Newtown Residents' Association Meeting – 21st November 2016

Present: Rhona Carson (Chair), Steve Cosgrove (minutes), Ray Tuffin (WCC), Bessie Fepulea'i (WCC), Carol Comber, Keith Powell, Melelisa Togatama, Peter Frater, Hariata Hema, Belinda Yeates, Cr David Lee, Jane Patterson, Stephen Pritchard, Effie Rankin, Penny Buckmaster, Alison Borbely, Meta Beyers, Rick Sahar, James Fraser, Don McDonald.

Apologies: Martin Powell, Tom Law, Daphne Pilaar, Martin Hanley, Anna Kemble Welch, Steve Dunn, Cheryl Robilliard

Annual Accounts

At the time of the AGM in September the accounts were still with the auditor. It was agreed that they would be presented at a later meeting. They are now available, and were circulated. They show a healthy surplus for the 2015-2016 year.

Moved: That the annual accounts be accepted – Jane Patterson / Peter Frater - Carried

Recent actions

- Submission on WCC Draft Playspaces Policy – submitted 18/11/16
- Airport runway extension S274 Notice placeholder – ready, to be submitted before 25/11/16
- Rhona on behalf of NRA nominated Dave & Liz O'Sullivan (SB Maintenance) for a Wellington South Rotary Pride of Workmanship award for their work with Keep Newtown Clean –accepted, to be awarded on 23/11/16. Congratulations and applause from the meeting.
- Wellington Water holding a public open day 3.30-7pm on 24/11 at Massey University Executive Suite, consultation on the Prince of Wales Park Reservoir. Steve asked what the DHB was putting towards the reservoir - we are not sure of answer.

Introducing Ray Tuffin

Ray is the Newtown Community Liaison Officer, has been in the job 3 weeks – employed by Wellington City Council. A new position, a pilot which could be extended to other communities. Ray is the link between Community and Council. He outlined his role and some current WCC projects coming to Newtown -

- Blindsquare - App helping blind people navigate around business area and shops based on verbal directions.
- Eyeson - Retail security program to link businesses with other support to prevent shoplifting.
- 8 Constable Street will be Ray's base, also available for other community use
 - Organising leases and fit out delayed by the Earthquake
 - Will be a system for booking for free community use.
 - Previously announced a shop in Newtown Mall building as planned office, but was going to cost too much to bring it up to standard. A plan is being developed to make

this space available as well over the next few months, with NRA holding the lease, funded by WCC.

- Ray plans to be at City Council on Thursdays, Newtown other week days
- Observation that there may be fewer people sitting on footpaths asking for money. WCC City Hosts are spending more time in Newtown, working with people involved to assess their needs.
- Other things Ray has been involved with:
 - flooding
 - vegetation
 - roading
 - Council funding for shop strengthening
 - Council allocated \$400,000 for Newtown Pool
- Berhampore was anticipated to be included, but Council decided to start smaller.
 - Recent changes to Newtown boundaries
 - Population of Newtown is approx. 8000
 - Look up <http://profile.idnz.co.nz/wellington> for more demographic information.
 - Query from meeting about amount of traffic passing through - Traffic information might be held by Traffic (from traffic light sensors)
- New Council contractors for cleaning and roading starting January
- Cycling is back on the agenda. Public input shortly. Ray was with Effie and Stephen Prichard on citizen panel for Berhampore and Newtown so has a good background with this.
- To work with WREMO on emergency preparations for Newtown

Emergency Response

Ray and Bessie were among the WCC staff on duty at the WREMO centre 24/7 since the earthquake on 14/11. They described how this unfolded and the many tasks they were involved with in helping people – eg finding emergency accommodation.

A general discussion about people's experiences. Hariata was active in the community as a civil defence volunteer. The power of Social Networking in disasters - twitter and Facebook. WREMO is @WREMOinfo on Twitter (Clarified after the meeting – uncertain at the time.)
Recommendation that "I, Daniel Blake" is a movie worth watching

Issues for the 2017 Annual Plan

Missed out discussion at the start of this year, so we will start thinking about this now for 2017.

Suggestions:

- Carrara Park facilities - drinking water and toilet
- General beautification - particularly trees
- Support laneways project - currently in CBD, extend to Newtown?
- Perhaps include signage too
- Query about whether WCC 'Placemaking' project is still current
- Love the Bay has found people want spaces to rest and watch
- Reclaiming poster bollards
- Sculptures about the place – would Wellington Sculpture Trust operate in suburbs?
- Working with Newtown School on plans for the swimming pool -Berhampore School Pool is impressive - worth a trip. Alan Chambers pushed that project.

Final meeting for 2016

This was the last formal meeting for 2016; the next one will be on Monday 15th February 2017. There have been some discussions about possibly putting up Christmas lights and having a sing-along in Carrara Park in December – if this eventuates we will let people know.

The meeting ended at 9pm.