



Minutes of the Newtown Residents' Association Meeting 16th October 2017

Present: Rhona Carson (Chair), Steve Cosgrove (Minutes), Alison Borbely, Jane Patterson, Cr David Lee, Keith Powell, Evelyn Hopkins, Bernard O'Shaughnessey, Peter Frater, Effie Rankin, Don McDonald.

Apologies: Sam Somers, Daphne Pilaar, Cheryl Robilliard, Steve Dunn.

Auditing accounts

Jane Patterson (Treasurer) reported that this is in progress, after a delayed start. Will probably be able to present the annual accounts at the next meeting.

Prince of Wales Park Submission

Wellington City Council have issued a public notice that they intend to go ahead with constructing the reservoir at Prince of Wales Park. We have decided to make a submission about this, in order to keep involved in the process. This will make similar points to our submission on the resource consent; this time the emphasis is on the earthworks. Jane, who wrote the original submission, will do this. There was some discussion of the construction process and the inevitable problems. A one-way system for moving trucks has been proposed. Some soil can be left on the site, as was done at Macallister park.

Liquor license applications.

There has been an application to establish an off-licence called The Black Bull at 236 Riddiford Street - the current Silk Route Spices site on the corner of Gordon Place. Should the Association lodge an objection? The discussion was inconclusive, but Rhona will bring the application to the attention of other organisations and neighbours who might have concerns.

Noted that a few years ago applications for an outlet opposite Newtown School, and another in Newtown Avenue, were both withdrawn by the applicants after widespread community protest.

We are waiting for the next moves in the Zoo Bar licence application – our Association objected to the extended hours requested. The applicant for extension of the Zoo Bar license has written to objectors saying he recently purchased the business, and is tidying up the place. Bernard has looked into his other bars and doesn't think they are equivalent to the Zoo Bar.

Newtown has a liquor ban in force – this runs right through from the Wellington CBD. Rhona mentioned there have been recent breaches of the alcohol-free zone at Mercy Park and St Thomas'. There aren't many signs about the ban – we will ask Ray Tuffin (WCC Liaison Officer) to look into this. Bernard noted that the daytime security guard at the Library has been keeping an eye on people drinking or causing concern around the Library and on the corner with Riddiford St – the meeting expressed our appreciation for this.

Workingmen's Bowling Club

Rhona and Jane have had a discussion with the Club Secretary and Treasurer about their lease problems. The WCC officers' opinion is that they should not get a new lease because "the current circumstances of the club do not meet the Assessment Criteria" under the Town Belt Management Plan. We think that the Club is a valuable community resource, and want to support them to increase their community connections.

The Club had a very successful open day on Sunday 15th October, which increased membership significantly. They have a lot of community support.

The matter will be discussed at the WCC Regulatory Processes Committee on 15th November and we have asked for permission to speak at that meeting.

Meet the Candidates Evening

With a By-Election coming up we need to plan for another Meet the Candidates meeting. So far we know of three people who have indicated they could stand. Nominations close on 26th October. Rhona will proceed with planning for this.

Voting starts on 30th November and closes 22 December.

Our new Member of Parliament

Discussion of the By-Election prompted expressions of appreciation for the work Paul Eagle did in representing Newtown on Council. Rhona/Bernard proposed a motion thanking Paul for his contribution and welcoming him as our new MP. Passed unanimously and enthusiastically.

Neighbours Day 2018

It is time to apply for a WCC grant if we want to have a neighbours' Day function. Last year we got the maximum (\$500) available, and provided an evening of activities in Newtown Park. Rhona suggests doing it again - agreed.

Parking

Car parking is already very difficult and is going to get worse next year.

- New children's hospital will take away a lot of hospital parking – and hospital staff parking on surrounding streets is already causing major problems.
- David W and Tom went to see the DHB many years ago. They had a transport plan for the new hospital, which was not complied with. David described issues in his street.
- David L pointed out that lack of capital funding at the DHB is a cause of much of these problems.
- Effie noticed that Countdown have put up P120 parking signs. This seems to be motivated by hospital staff parking all day there.
- DHB has acknowledged there is a problem. We want to know what plans they have for ameliorating it.
- It was pointed out that people in the CBD get to their places of employment without car parks being provided.
- Do we want to promote coupon parking in Newtown? Residents parking and time-limited parking is another option. This works in Colombo Street.
- Rhona reported that Ray Tuffin at Kia Ora gets numerous complaints about parking issues, and is initiating a major project exploring parking options.

Next month's meeting is on Monday 20th November. We expect to designate this a Special General Meeting, and to present the Annual Accounts.

Meeting finished at 8:55