



**MINUTES**  
**Ordinary General Meeting, Tuesday 16 April 2019, 8.03pm**

**Present:** Kevin Chamberlin, Emmy Chung, Bill Cook, Stephen Farrugia, Peter Gerrand, Valerie Gerrand, Janet Graham, Stephen Hatcher, Michael Horscroft, Jan Lacey, Dan McDonnell, Jane Poynter, Duncan Rouch, Sue Scarfe, Lorraine Siska, Jacqueline Stevenson and John Widmer

**Apologies:** Nicholas Atkins, Sebastian Clark, Jenny Cook, Jacques Péril, Margaret Péril, Madeleine Scully, Geraldine Suter and Carolyn Thompson.

**1. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

*Moved Jane Poynter, seconded Peter Gerrand:*

That the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 19 March 2019, having been circulated by email and taken as read, be confirmed.

*Carried.*

There were no matters arising.

**2. Committee report**

**(a) Changes to Spring Fling**

The Centre is proposing to hold the 2019 Spring Fling in Errol Street north of Queensberry Street and in Queensberry Street between Errol and Leveson streets, as it is prohibitively expensive to get the trams closed down for the day. It has been suggested that the community groups that participate in the Spring Fling combine their presence in a 'village' as a way of reducing costs. Jane thought the traders would have mixed opinions about this — some benefit from the festival, others don't. For instance, the number of food vendors has grown over the last few years, and this suits people who watch bands performing on the stages, whereas sitting in a cafe does not. It is unclear if the new 'village' format will prevent the Association from fundraising at Spring Fling.

**(b) IT upgrade**

Kevin said the Committee was working on the Association's IT. The current system of circulating information is no longer compatible with modern requirements and the new legislation regarding spam. The system also needs streamlining. Budget for a website upgrade was included in our Community Services Grant for 2019, which we are obliged to use by 31 December this year. Geraldine Suter is looking into what we can and can't throw out in terms of archiving. Jane asked everyone to look through their storage boxes for important NWMA material, so the archive can be made complete and duplicates discarded.

**(c) Presenter at next NWMA meeting**

Nick Parissis from the Melbourne North Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC) would be speaking at the May meeting about policing in the North Melbourne community. Everyone was asked to think of issues to raise with him. Kevin commented that during Jon Faine's segment with the Police Commissioner someone from a different area had rung in about motorbike noise. The Commissioner said he would look into it. Motorcycle noise would definitely be on the agenda for Nick Parissis.

Another matter to pursue with Nick was the status of the Docklands Security Group, which seemed to be concentrating on security issues in Docklands with little focus on West Melbourne. Bill Cook commented that this left West Melbourne out on a limb. There had formerly been a West Melbourne PCCC but it had been railroaded by the superintendents of police. The group was now

meeting in Docklands but ignored West Melbourne. We could start by mentioning it to Nick and also check with the Docklands Security Group.

**(d) Speaker from EPA or Council on noise pollution**

There was a suggestion that a speaker from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) be invited to respond to a concern about a disturbing buzzing noise probably emanating from the plant on the roof of 4 Miller Street. One member had had a good response from Council and thought a Council representative might be a better option — it needed to be a young person with sharp enough ears to hear the noise. It should be possible to address the issue. Kevin noted noise problems with roads and air-conditioners.

*Moved Jane Poynter, seconded Michael Horscroft:*

That the Committee report be noted.

*Carried.*

### 3. Reports from affiliated organisations

**(a) Rail Projects Victoria (RPV) — Arden & Parkville Community Reference Group (CRG)**

Peter Gerrand reported that he, Kevin, Janet Graham and Mary Kehoe (Mary also representing Hotham History Project) had gone to RPV's offices at 80 Collins Street (former Nauru House) on 14 April to be briefed by RPV and Cross Yarra Partnership (CYP) on the **Legacy Art Program**. CYP had provided a good overview, explaining that the program covered two themes: to reflect the industrial, manufacturing and railway heritage; and to be a catalyst for urban renewal. Another positive plan was the Indigenous theme with artwork linking all five stations. They gave a broad timeline for appointing the artists — only established artists would be considered. Kevin regarded it as a generally successful meeting.

Peter then showed a photo he had recently taken of the **History of Transport** mural in the Spencer Outlet Centre. From this angle it looked as if an air duct was jammed into the mural. The mural was in a very poor and dark location for viewing. Kevin commented that Margaret Cowling and Mary Kehoe had both worked on the mural project at the State Library in the 1970s.

Peter said there would be six major works (one at each station plus the Indigenous artwork) and the budget for North Melbourne was \$655,000.

Discussion followed. There was a suggestion that residential themes, such as the timber houses built for miners during the gold rush, be included in the artwork. What about prominent people from North (and West) Melbourne — parliamentarians and businesspeople? Peter said there might be opportunities in plaques placed around the Arden site, similar to those at the Queen Vic Market and along city streets. The NWMA group had also mentioned the Blue Lake at the RPV meeting. We needed to write a submission that captured the imagination. This would include the historical and industrial background (HPP), the Blue Lake and the contribution of residents.

*Moved Duncan Rouch, seconded Lorraine Siska:*

That Peter Gerrand be appointed coordinator of the group that attended the meeting on 4 April (Peter, Kevin, Mary and Janet) to address the offer made by Cross Yarra Partnership and Rail Projects Victoria that the NWMA send a submission about the Legacy Art Program at the North Melbourne site by 30 April 2019.

*Carried.*

**(b) Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FMPC)**

John Widmer reported on the current (at 16 April) state of Moonee Ponds Creek (MPC), having missed the FMPC meeting on 15 April. He said Fran Araneda had attended a West Gate Tunnel Project Community Liaison Group (North group) meeting on 21 March on behalf of the Kensington Association. John reiterated that the City of Melbourne (CoM) had very little control over MPC and said that none of Melbourne Water's planting was still alive, even the banksias opposite the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) site. The litter traps had been emptied and were starting to refill — this was not predictable. FMPC just had to keep up the pressure.

He also had a concern about road noise. He and Enid had engaged the consultant used by the CoM for their East West Link submission. John believed the CoM was sitting on some data. The

consultant clarified three matters: (1) Noise between midnight and 6.00am is discounted. (2) It is permissible for there to be a number of isolated events that exceed the noise limit but are not continuous exceedence. (3) Telephone lines have nothing to do with road noise.

This needed to be dealt with in a scientific way, with Australia moving to an international system. More columns were going to be constructed in the creek with no sound barriers. John drew a comparison with the CityLink columns between Dynon and Macaulay roads. Where the WGTP tunnels exit there will be no sound barriers. We need to force the State Government to redefine what noise is. More cars will be driven into the inner city.

Multiple authorities have jurisdiction over MPC. The Council is going through a consultation process for the creek between Kensington and West Melbourne over which it has no control. Moonee Valley and Moreland councils are ripping concrete out to return the creek to more like the chain of ponds after which MPC was originally named. John had been going to the Greens' office and showing them photos of the creek. The former Kensington Garden Centre land on the corner of Macaulay Road and Stubbs Street could be used for valuable open space.

Kevin thanked John for his report and noted the ongoing campaign. He suggested getting a guest speaker from the EPA or Cathy Oke from Council to talk about the noise issue. In response to John's comment that there are multiple agencies with authority over the creek, making it hard to know who to talk to about these issues, Sue Scarfe suggested he start with the Crown lands minister, as it is Crown land and all responsibilities are delegated from that office. Peter added that it would be desirable for NWMA to find a way to interface with the West Gate Tunnel Authority, analogous to the Community Reference Groups for the new Metro Tunnel.

*Moved Peter Gerrard, seconded Lorraine Siska:*

That the Chair write to the West Gate Tunnel Authority and the Responsible Minister to enquire about the current public consultation on this project for the North and West Melbourne area. The NWMA notes the success of the consultative process currently in operation with Cross Yarra Partnership and the Metro Tunnel Project.

*Carried.*

#### **4. Discussion of correspondence circulated in the past month**

There was no discussion.

#### **5. General business**

**Affordable housing:** Jan Lacey said that in the middle of last year the Victorian Government had inserted a definition of 'affordable housing' in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The benchmark set out in supporting documents is that, to be affordable, housing should not cost more than 30% of gross household income. Grants were offered to help councils develop appropriate expertise to negotiate for affordable housing to be included in local developments.

Glen Eira Council produced explanatory material and a comprehensive survey for locals to provide input to its deliberations, and it has been reported that Darebin Council is exploring ways to include public housing as part of the program. The CoM, however, does not appear to have taken up the offer, and Jan believes we should enquire about its plans for including affordable housing in new developments in the city.

*Moved Jan Lacey, seconded Stephen Hatcher:*

That the NWMA write to Tallia Gilarry, Community Engagement Partner at the City of Melbourne, asking for an update and any available policy documents on Council's current position on affordable housing.

*Carried.*

#### **6. Time, date and venue of next ordinary general meeting**

Tuesday 21 May 2019 at 7.30pm, at the Bastow Institute, 603–615 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. The guest speaker will be Leading Senior Constable Nick Parissis, Community Liaison Officer and Secretary of the Melbourne North Police Community Consultative Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.