

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 71ST MEETING HELD IN
CANBERRA ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY, THE
6TH AND 7TH SEPTEMBER,.....1948.

The Committee met at 9.30 a. m.

PRESENT:

Mr. B. J. Waterhouse (Chairman)
Mr. C. S. Daley (Executive Member)
Senator C. A. Lamp (Chairman of the Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Public Works)
Mr. R. J. Keith Harris
Mr. H. M. Rolland
Mr. F. J. Walters

CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the 70th meeting were confirmed.

NOTIFICATIONS:

The Executive Member made the following announcements:

- (a) That Professor Lewis had been ill and had not, therefore, been able to forward or submit to the Committee his further studies for development of residential buildings on the National University site;
- (b) That the Minister had decided to refer for consideration by Cabinet the general policy as to the granting of permission for the provision of a Memorial in Canberra to Australian-American cooperation in the war.

NARRABUNDAH
DEMOUNTABLE
HOUSING AREA
ADDITIONAL
HOUSES: NEW
SUBDIVISIONS:

Consideration was given by the Committee to Drawing No. A.C.T. 17930 forwarded by the Director of Works with his memorandum of the 3rd September, 1948 - Reference C. 25381 - and illustrating the suggested siting of an additional 43 demountable cottages in Sections 113, 114, 121, 122 and 123 Narrabundah.

The Committee noted that the layout was based on a subdivision of which it had already approved and it resolved that the layout now presented was in its opinion a satisfactory basis for development.

NARRABUNDAH
DEMOUNTABLE
HOUSING AREA:
RECREATION HALL:

A communication was received from the Director of Works - Reference C. 235034, with which was forwarded a Drawing No. A.C.T. 17842 indicating a proposal for the provision of a Recreation Hall in the area designated for a Community Centre in the Demountable Housing Area, Narrabundah.

The memorandum indicated that the hall was to meet recreation needs of the community in that area and would be built with econo steel framework sheeted externally with asbestos cement.

The Committee noted that the arrangement provided for a kitchen and men's and women's lavatories opening off the entrance hall and it considered that this might not be found convenient in working.

The scheme was discussed with the Acting Principal Architect, Mr. Litchfield, who attended the meeting, and he advised that since submitting the plan a proposal had been made to include in the accommodation some facilities for the Canberra Mothercraft Society.

The Executive Member reported that he had suggested to the Department of Health that the Mothercraft Society might occupy portion of a building to be erected for use as a Pre-School Centre. It was thought that if such a building were erected to the full size, that is, two units, one unit might be occupied by the Mothercraft Society until

such time as the space might be needed to meet expansion of pre-school work. It was also thought that the building might be a convenient meeting place for parents and committees of various kinds, thus avoiding the necessity to erect a recreation hall or other buildings at the present time.

Mr. Litchfield said that the matter had been considered by the Department of Health and it was thought that in view of the fact that the Minister for Works was anxious to provide a recreation hall, it would be more convenient for mothercraft activities to be located near the shops and the community centre rather than at the site for the Pre-School Centre which it was now proposed to erect, not at the Community Centre but in the park belt in a position where it would be reasonably equidistant from all parts of the demountable housing area, without the necessity to cross any traffic roads.

The basis of suitable re-arrangement of the accommodation to provide for the needs of the recreation hall and also the Mothercraft Centre was discussed with Mr. Litchfield and it was agreed that the plan would be revised accordingly, having in mind also the general layout of the community centre and its various requirements.

A communication from the Director of Works was received - Reference C. 22451 - covering Drawing A.C.T. 17929 which illustrated a proposal for fencing the tuberculosis and isolation wards of the Canberra Community Hospital.

The Director of Works indicated that the fencing was desired to keep vagrants and undesirables from the precincts of those wards and to do so it was proposed to fence the front of the buildings with a light park aris rail fence with intermediate strands of wire. A suitable hedge would be planted behind the fence and the latter would be removed when the hedge became fully grown.

On the eastern side of the isolation ward it was proposed to carry out the fencing with pipe posts and wire netting infilling carried up to a height of 6'.

The Committee discussed this matter with the Acting Principal Architect, Mr. Litchfield, and it was generally considered that there was no necessity to carry the aris rail fence to a point in front of the tuberculosis block but that it would be preferable for the fence to be set back from the apex of the triangle approximately 50' and construct it in a line parallel to the building, retaining the fence on the actual street boundary where this line intersected the public footpath to the north.

An inspection of the site was made as a result of which it was resolved that the proposal to erect fencing be approved subject to modification of the aris rail fence by setting it back in front of the tuberculosis ward and carrying it past that building parallel to its axis. This, the Committee thought, would leave a triangular expanse of lawn area which would harmonise with that already existing in front of the hospital generally.

The Executive Member submitted for consideration by the Committee a proposal for locating a Pre-School Centre in the Demountable Housing Area, Narrabundah, indicating that the original proposal was to co-ordinate this and similar activities in the section designated in the layout plan as a Community Centre.

As this Centre, however, was situated towards the north-western part of the area it had been suggested that a better arrangement would be to provide for the Pre-School Centre in a central position in the park strip which traverses the whole length of the area in a medial position.

He mentioned that a proposal had been made to the Department of Health that two units of the Pre-School Centre be built in the first instance and that one of these be made available for use by the Mothercraft Society.

B/W

CANBERRA
COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL:
FENCING
ISOLATION
BLOCK:

NARRABUNDAH
DEMOUNTABLE
HOUSING AREA:
PRE-SCHOOL
CENTRE:

It appeared, however, from remarks made by the Acting Principal Architect, Mr. Litchfield, that the Health Department would prefer the Mothercraft Sub-Centre to be located at the present stage of development in association with the public hall. In these circumstances the construction of the Pre-School Centre would be confined, at the present time, to one unit.

The Committee was of the opinion that it might be preferable for the Mothercraft Centre to be located near the Community Centre and shops.

It concurred generally in the proposal for locating the Pre-School Centre in the park belt approximately as shown on the plan submitted, subject to further consideration of the actual site after investigation of the suitability of the area on the ground.

WORKMEN'S
HOSTEL,
TURNER:

Further developed sketch plans for the proposed Workmen's Hostel, Turner, were received from the Director of Works under cover of his memorandum of the 2nd September, 1948, Reference C. 25253 and the Drawings were numbered A.C.T. 17931 to 17933.

It was noted that the accommodation provided would be for 324 persons inclusive of hostel domestic staff and also in addition for a hostel manager and canteen officer; that the guests accommodation would be in single rooms in pavilions with ablution and toilet blocks provided at convenient intervals; that recreation and lounge facilities consisted of 12 small lounges in the pavilions and a principal recreation room and billiard room in the central block.

It was also noted that the construction would be in econo steel framing, faced externally with impregnated fibre board finished cement rendered and coloured and that the roofing would be with stamped metal tiles.

The plans were discussed generally with Mr. Litchfield who gave details of the roofing construction indicating that the dimensions were conditioned somewhat by those of the units of the econo steel framing which was being adopted. In reply to criticism by Mr. Harris that it would be better aesthetically to roof the building with corrugated fibre cement than with stamped metal imitative tiles Mr. Litchfield explained that it was very difficult to obtain corrugated fibre cement roofing and that the Department already had a supply of metal tiles which it had intended to use for cottages but which he was replacing for this purpose, and it was thus available for this temporary building.

The Committee agreed that this was an economical proposal and that it would be preferable to allot roofing of better aesthetic quality to permanent cottages.

The Executive Member raised the question of the proximity of some of the pavilions to the roadway and the possibility of setting back such pavilions by decreasing the distance between the pavilions internally.

Mr. Litchfield thought that this might be accomplished without interfering with the dimensions of the lavatory block units and he promised to go into the question accordingly.

The Committee resolved that the scheme as indicated in the plans be approved subject to reconsideration in some details as a result of the discussion with Mr. Litchfield .

MINOR INDUSTRIAL
AREA, TURNER.

Consideration of the proposal for providing a design for the area allocated for Minor Industrial purposes in Turner was resumed on the basis of further advice from the Director of Works in his memorandum of the 3rd September, 1948, C. 25379 covering Drawings Nos. A.C.T. 17934 and 17935.

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Mr. Hamilton thought that his Association would like to see the Memorial located in a position in the City where it would be seen constantly by a substantial number of passers-by. In view of the decision of the Government to institute a wing of the National Library as a memorial to the late American President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Executive Officer had suggested that one of the features in the centre of Kings Avenue opposite the proposed Franklin D. Roosevelt wing might be a suitable location for the symbolic group of statuary which the Association had in mind to erect.

During the tour of inspections the Committee noted the feature and considered that it might be favourably regarded as a possible site for the Memorial if the scheme be approved by the Government.

FAIRBAIRN
AERODROME:
CANBERRA:
WAITING SHED:

For the Committee's information the Acting Principal Architect, Mr. Litchfield, submitted plans showing the additions that were being made to the waiting shed at the Fairbairn Aerodrome, Canberra. He explained that such additions and improvements were merely a stop-gap to provide some measure of comfort for travellers pending the erection of permanent airport buildings which it was intended should be provided as soon as this might be practicable.

The details of the scheme were noted by the Committee which also discussed the general question of improvements to the Aerodrome and the necessity for submitting, for its consideration, a complete scheme for the design of the Civil section of the Aerodrome on a permanent basis.

SECTION 26,
FORREST:
ALLOTMENT FOR
ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH
PURPOSES:

At the request of the Surveyor-General the Committee gave further consideration to a proposal that Section 26, Forrest, should be leased to the Roman Catholic Trustees for the Diocese of Goulburn for use as a site for a residence for the Archbishop of Canberra, Goulburn, and for other parish purposes.

The Committee referred to its previous consideration of this matter and its view that the area should be developed for more intensive residential purposes in keeping with the treatment generally approved for the Avenue and provided for in buildings already erected and other projects approved.

In relation to the present proposal for the erection of a residence for the Archbishop the Committee was of the opinion that such residence should be part of development of the site specially granted for the purpose of a Cathedral and residence under the provisions of the Church Lands Leases Ordinance and up to the present only slightly improved from the building point of view.

INSPECTIONS:

In addition to inspections related to specific projects as already indicated the Committee inspected generally the development of housing provisions in Ainslie, Turner and O'Connor, Griffith, Narrabundah and Deakin. It noted the commencement of the work of providing for portion of the shopping centres at Wakefield Gardens, Ainslie, and at Narrabundah Workmen's area, and also observed that a number of the houses were under construction by private enterprise. It was decided to complete the inspection of private enterprise houses, if practicable, during the Committee's next visit.

NEXT MEETING:

It was suggested that owing to the arrangement for the Committee to meet Sir Patrick Abercrombie on the 20th October it might not be desirable to hold the usual monthly meeting on the 7th and 8th October. The Executive Member stated that these days would be difficult for him owing to the fact that the Council of the National University would be meeting on the 8th, as the second Friday in the month.

It was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Executive Member to convene an earlier meeting if urgent matters arose for consideration. All members except Mr. Harris indicated that they could be present on the 20th October, Mr. Harris advising that his University commitments would preclude his absence from Sydney on that day.

The meeting terminated at 5 p. m.


Chairman 21/10/48