

Combined Community Councils of the ACT

Meeting: Saturday 18 May 2013. 1000 – 1300.

Venue: Uniting Church Hall Parkinson Street Weston.

Minutes

Present: Tom Anderson WCCC, Pat McGinn WCCC, Jenny Stewart WVCC, Ewan Brown GCC, Robyn Coghlan BCC, Damien Haas BCC, Geoff Davidson NCCC, David Johnston ISCCC.

Apologies: Leon Arundell NCCC, Gary Kent ISCCC.

1. Draft Minutes from previous meeting held on 2 March 2013: accepted.

2. Matters Arising/Issues Identified at last meeting.

Jenny was advised to talk to Gai Brodtmann re a new community centre for Woden. She suggested using the Callum Offices (the old CIT). Ewan agreed that a unified approach was needed re the use of old buildings. Non-profit organisations need a place to live.

Unfortunately, it is easier to get money from the Feds to build anew than to refurbish. Jenny is to co-ordinate a list of buildings to be recycled.

3. Review of Operating Parameters for CCC.

- **Housekeeping Issues:** Raising CC profile in the community is always a problem. Ewan explained that the GCC banners he had brought along were created for that purpose. The stand-up banner cost about \$900 and the two teardrop banners cost \$800.
- **Alternative to “Council”-** This matter was discussed in the last PDF meeting. While there was agreement that problems exist with the name ‘Council’, no suitable alternative could be suggested.
- **Are we Chair or President?** - Different Councils use different terms.
- **Constitutions:** to be circulated.
- **Resourcing and Responding to Government Requests** - CCs should respond that they do not have the resources to do everything.
- **CCC strategy & statements including development of policy positions on key issues** - CCC could query the relationship of the town centres to the city centre in the context of the City Plan. Suggestion to invite Tony Powell to talk about planning. CCC needs an employment-focussed growth model to present to Barr, with regional centres being self-sustaining. Jenny is prepared to write a letter to

Andrew Barr re the imbalance between town centres and the city centre. Pat suggested CCC should send a letter to all MLAs. Lobbyists know about pressure points. We need to identify people who can help apply pressure. It is time to get back to the provision of jobs where people live. Ewan also raised the question of how the CCs should deal with the PDF. Pat suggested advising the PDF that Jenny would present a paper on reusing buildings.

4. Sub-Committee Reports, actions arising & appointment of chairpersons (where necessary).

- **Transport** - Glen Bain, Project Director of Capital Metro, has declared that the Metro will be sold on development merits, not on transport merit.
- **Local Government issues** - Jenny spoke about WVCC's submission re number of members of the ACT Legislative Assembly. She indicated a need for a 10% variation in required number of electors to get electorates based on natural divisions. The allowance is currently 5%. Jenny to ask Chris Erett to do a new map of electorates for consideration.
- **Planning** - The recent call-in of the Thynne St development in Bruce was an outcome due to agreement between residents and developers. Corbell simply agreed. This shows that mediation can work. LDA is driving the planning process – beancounters vs entrepreneurs in the ACT Treasury. Damien mentioned that he and another BCC member had spoken to LDA when it was decided to rezone the Geocon block in Belconnen (site of a proposal for 35-storey tower). A real estate company had approached Geocon, having put together the entire plan – who directs LDA? Talk to local MLAs re relationship between LDA and ESDD.
Main points:
 - appreciate need for money;
 - how does ACT generate income once land sales dry up?
 - look at Quinlan Review (Pat offered to do this);
 - need master plans with community input;
 - identify gaps in services due to increased population density.
- **Major changes to the Territory Plan (issue raised by Leon Arundell)**
Precinct plans can be changed by Technical Amendment.
- **Belconnen 35 storey development** – BCC lodged a submission, main points are lack of community consultation re change in acceptable building heights, lack of overall vision for number and placement of tall buildings, lack of parameters for assessing criteria.
- **DV 306** – David to send link to Russell Morrison's report on website.

- ***Planning & Development Forum update*** - Representatives of the HIA and MBA attended the April meeting but it was disappointing in that two presentations were made which were essentially information-giving sessions rather than consultation sessions.
- ***Pre DA Consultation & exemptions*** - Geoff referred to a neighbouring single-storey house that is building a three-storey extension in RZ2 which does not require submitting the full DA to the community. The problems with private certifiers were raised at the PDF some years ago. Engineering Australia is having a go at it at present.

5. Round Table Discussion on Sharing Information

Tony Gill ACT Roads: bus-only lane on Northbourne Avenue, Russell Morrison's report, amenity and use of buses in Parliamentary Triangle.

6. Appointment of CCC Chair/Convenor - no action.

7. Next Meetings and Plans/Schedule for 2013.

Jenny Stewart is to host the next meeting in July at the same venue in Weston. Pat stated that we need agreed actions and the actions must get done.

8. Other Business