

Old Narrabundah Community Council Inc

Monthly Meeting

Monday 11 October, 7 – 8.30 pm

via Microsoft TEAMS

Chair: John Keeley

Attendees: Crystal, Dave and Alayne, Nikki, Victoria T, Rik, John, Tony L, Bron, Beatrice, Andy, Gary, Mark

Apologies: Nil

MINUTES

Tony opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of Country, in his Wiradjuri language, wishing to acknowledge the Ngunnawal people and nation on whose land this meeting is held – and paying respects to their ancestors past and present, as well as his own ancestors past and present, and all other nations present.

Item 1. Previous minutes and matters arising from March 2021 meeting

Bron moved (seconded by Tony) that the previous minutes be accepted, with no amendments.

Re. the item on seeking a quote for pruning and/or removal of trees across the whole site – John reported that he had sought two quotes: one couldn't do it until end of year; the other turned up and walked the site with John. John was impressed with some of the initial prices floated e.g. \$1,800 to fell the tree just outside court 2 (although we would have to then chop it all up, grind the stump, and take everything away to green recycling); \$100 each for the two juveniles near the olive tree outside. However, the arborist advised that he would not do the worst tree overhanging the hut (major risks with proximity to electrical wires) and that we would need an approved EvoEnergy person to do it. He thought it would cost around \$700 just to prune the branches back 2m from the wires, and possibly \$5-6,000 to remove the whole thing. Andy suggested we could follow up with EvoEnergy. The meeting agreed to wait for the arborist report, and deal with next steps out-of-session.

Re. the new combo lock – it has been purchased and installed, with a new code in operation. John noted that bookings from the chemist would now cease, with all bookings now going solely through the website.

Re. tennis coach – John advised he had written to Mike accepting his proposal to use the courts next year for tennis coaching.

John also advised he had responded to the letter from the individual in the community, suggesting he come to ONCC meetings to help take forward some of the issues he had raised.

Item 2. Tennis courts and update on grant spending

Andy advised that the major plumbing works and new toilets at the hut had been completed. With the new power board and wiring also complete, this just left the Sports Clean renovation of Court 2 as the outstanding action under the grant funding. This will be done after border restrictions are lifted. Andy noted that lots of people had been booking and playing tennis. This is very likely testament to the new signage, the easy booking system and the upgraded condition of Court 1. John noted we had spent \$13,746 of the \$20,000 grant to date.

Item 3. Community gardens update

Rik noted that garden activities had been very limited, due to the combination of saturated grounds and lockdown constraints. However, he has had some good conversations with a promising group of new people who showed interest in the gardens, including some with mobility issues. Rik raised the possibility of making greater use of the garden beds inside the tennis court area. Andy advised he had spoken to Rik and Vic about the need to work up some placeholder text for the website, to provide further guidance on how to get involved with the gardens (given our new signage directs people to the website for gardens information).

Andy advised that work on the Site Management Plan (for the whole tennis/gardens site) had stalled, due to Covid, but that the work remained in good shape, with Vic's draft framework ready to be taken forward as soon as conditions allow.

Item 4. Wetlands report

John advised he is in close contact with the Molonglo Conservation Group (MCG) about the funding they had received from the Manuka developer, and was waiting on Karen Williams to get back to him. ONCC has also supported MCC with their larger application for further government funding – and, as a result, John noted that if MCC was successful with their funding proposal, ONCC would need more people actively involved – we may need to establish another sub-committee.

Tony noted that Eleanor had pulled out of leading the Friends of Narrabundah Wetlands group, but would still be involved with the group. Tony and Sarah had taken over leadership again, as caretakers, until such time as a new leader steps forward. Waiting for lockdown to finish so we can re-start the volunteer groups and re-engage with TCCS again.

John noted that the blackberry outcrop at the wetlands had almost doubled in size. John will write to TCCS to see if they would prioritise eradication.

Item 5. Compendium issues

Derelict/unused social housing properties - John will draft a letter to Housing ACT to advise them of houses needing attention.

Footpath connection from Narrabundah wetlands to Jerrabomberra wetlands – John raised this issue, suggesting we needed to start the conversation and push things along, working with entities such as ISCCC and pedal power.

Street crossings to access Narrabundah wetlands – John noted how difficult it was to cross over Matina Street to access the wetlands (at a point on the road that is both a bend and a crest of a hill). Bron suggested that if the earlier letter to TCCS had not been sent – re. better crossing solutions for Sturt and Canberra Avenues – we could include this request alongside it. **John will follow up and write to TCCS.**

Applying for floriade garden beds next year – John suggested we would need another sub-committee to take it forward, noting that there were lots of spots around where we could place them (including around shops and playground). Rik suggested the former sensory garden could be utilised. John noted that many of the bulbs/flowers had been stolen last time they were planted there. Tony suggested we could use pallets to lift them in and out of spaces (as they do around Fyshwick).

Better pathway connections from Nyrang Street to the Railway – **John will include this request in his letter to TCCS.**

Toilets near wetlands – **John will follow up his earlier request for weekend openings, in his letter to TCCS.**

Dog park in our area – John raised whether this was of any interest, noting we already had a companion dog club in our area. If so, it would need people to put their hand up to take it forward.

Reactivating dryland ovals – John noted we could work with ISCCC and if money became available, it could be a good project to engage in. We need to keep an eye on Boomanulla Oval – we don't know what is planned for future sporting – are the Boomanulla Raiders coming back? Or can it be leased out to other local sporting groups e.g. Narrabundah Football Club, Eastlake Football Club, St Edmunds sporting teams. **John will include this issue in his letter to TCCS.**

Item 6. Light Rail

Light Rail Stage 2b (from City to Woden) was discussed again, going over much the same ground as in previous meetings. ONCC will continue to keep abreast of developments and be ready to discuss in more detail and provide input once the EIS comes out (which won't be for a while).

Item 7. AGM

The Committee will discuss timing (aiming for November), and make a decision in the next few weeks on a date for the AGM (taking into account level of Covid restrictions).

Item 8. ISCCC

Gary spoke to the key issues being discussed at ISCCC, including:

- The district strategy being developed under the Territory Plan Review. ISCCC provided comprehensive input, covering every aspect of life in the inner south including a focus on increasing Indigenous participation (ISCCC submission is on their website).
- Light rail – there are differing views, many members don't want it to go ahead, but its hard now to change the decision. Discussion is ongoing but ISCCC's main focus will be on trying to get the best outcome by engaging in the EIS process.
- Keeping an eye on processes around the development of the Kingston Arts Precinct (a Geocon development), to ensure best outcomes for inner south.

Gary thanked ONCC for its continued support.

Item 6. Other business

Alayne raised the issue of carp in the wetlands.

John confirmed that the new public notice board had been installed, but that we needed the key to open it. John will follow up.

CLOSE