

Your local voice



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Minutes of the WCCC General Meeting Wednesday, 31 March 2010

Woden Seniors Development Proposal and the Future for Seniors

1. Meeting opened

Chairman Tim Dalton opened the meeting at 7.40. Twenty-five (25) persons were present.

2. Apologies

Received from Tom Anderson, Simon and Charlotte Hearder, Katy Gallagher, Jeremy Hansen, Rosemary Drabsch.

3. Presentation

The Chairman welcomed Anne Murray, President of Woden Seniors Club, and Neil Stevenson. Ms Murray gave a presentation about the Club and its proposed development.

Woden Seniors Development Proposal and the Future for Seniors

- The Woden Seniors Club was established in the early 1980s. A group of concerned citizens convinced the Commonwealth Government that a Seniors Club was needed, and the Government gave the land and constructed the first building.
- The Club has about 800 members. Members look after each other, and the Club expresses its value to the community as providing:
 - Community Spirit
 - Communication
 - Companionship
 - Confidence
 - Consolation
 - Competition
 - Conviviality.
- The Club is open from 9am till 4pm, Monday to Friday. It may be used by others when club members are not using it, and hiring generates between \$35,000 and \$38,000 each year for the Club. Among other groups, the Seniors Club hosts U3A.
- Six years ago the Club applied for a government grant to do a Strategic Plan for the next 10 years. This became an important document for the Club, and is still very useful. Two former Brigadiers with planning and project experience were consultants, and a 3-part plan was produced, containing:

- Strategic Plan
- Organisational Plan
- Facility (Building) Plan.
- An architect was engaged and drew up a 3-stage plan to improve the building. The ACT Government provided \$50,000, and Stage 1 and part of Stage 2 have been finished, but funds of \$1.8 million are needed to complete the building. The Club is considering what to do, and whether to take out an overdraft.
- Possible Relocation: Two years ago, the Seniors Club was approached by a business consortium which offered a purpose-built facility, adequate for the next thirty years, at a new location closer to government buildings in Woden, in exchange for the Club's current site. Consideration of this offer is continuing.
- Special events to be hosted by the Woden Seniors Club in 2010 include:
 - Mini Fete 22 May
 - Gilbert and Sullivan Afternoon 18 July
 - AGM 20 September
 - International Day of Older Persons 1 October
 - (to be held at Parliament House)
 - Melbourne Cup Lunch 3 November
 - Christmas Fair 27 November
 - Christmas Party 6 December
- There is an Art Gallery within the Club where paintings done by members are hung. It is open to anyone and paintings can be bought.
- Woden Seniors Club has an active Business Friends Program and several business sponsors.
- Fees are:
 - Membership \$10 per year
 - Parking \$20 per year
 - Each activity \$4

There are four Seniors Clubs in Canberra, at Woden, Turner, Belconnen and Tuggeranong (which has land by the lake but no facility yet).

The Chairman thanked Ms Murray for her presentation and there was a short break for tea and coffee.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes as distributed were approved. (Moved: Trevor Wilson; Seconded: Mal Ferguson)

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that WCCC has received a grant of \$5735 from the ACT Government. As a result, the current bank balance is \$8833.01.

6. General Business

1. Briefing on the Working Group for the new Community Park – Tim Dalton and Kersten Linton

Tim Dalton introduced Ms Kirsten Linton, who has agreed to chair a working group on development of the former CIT garden. Kirsten began by outlining a number of questions / issues / actions that will need to be considered.

- WCCC has written to thank the ACT Government for allocating the land to be a community garden and park.
- The Working Group will need access to the garden. Perhaps this could be via a new gate on the path above the site.
- A new car parking area will be needed.

- WCCC will need to get the Government to allocate some funding immediately/
- We will need to find out what the Government will take responsibility for, for example, will it undertake to remove dead trees, clean up old bricks, etc? WCCC could do some of the cleaning up, but would need help with the big jobs.
- Would Rotary or other community organisation help?
- Would Stromlo High School students be will to help, or TAFE horticultural students?
- What action will need to be taken about insurance for volunteers who work in the garden? Would the insurer of WCCC be willing to do an inclusion in WCCC's insurance policy?
 - How is it dealt with by TAMS?
 - We could ask the Friends of Cooleman Ridge.
- What structures will the Government provide? Will it provide a toilet block, for example?

Tim Dalton has suggested that WCCC sponsor a Weston Creek Autumn Festival, to be held in March 2011. This would set a date for opening the garden/park to the public.

Barbara Brinton said Clean Up Australia Day is in March each year, and perhaps WCCC could ask for help from the Clean Up Australia organisation. Such activities might be covered by their insurance.

Community garden: We could establish a garden within the site. There are still apple and pear trees in the garden, and there used to be herb garden. Some of the trees need pruning. We could arrange gardening workshops, pruning demonstrations, etc.

Could we tap into a local Men's Shed?

Buildings: Would be good to have a small building with toilets at one end and a meeting room plus workshop as well.

Security: Need to keep the fence, to prevent vandalism. May need to add some gates, to allow increased access.

Glasshouses: The Islamic School has indicated it will recycle the material from the glasshouses. Probably better not to have glasshouses in the Community Park.

Watering: Need to find out what provision has been made for watering. At present, the same watering system is used for the school and the garden. The system will have to be separated. WCCC will need to find out about access to bore water.

Working Group:

Volunteers should email Kirsten. Please let her know if you have specialist skills.

Need to decide when and where to have the first meeting.

Need to develop a strategic plan.

Name of the garden: One member suggested that the word 'Horticultural' be included in the name, to reflect the history of the garden.

WCCC webmaster, Lance Williamson, said people should use the On-Line Contact Form on the WCCC website, and he will add a drop-down menu for 'Garden' so that all emails about the garden will be sent on to Kirsten.

2. Multi-storey building in North Weston: One member asked if anyone had heard of a multi-storey building to go up in North Weston. Someone said there is to be a building over the

other side of Cotter Road that may be multi-storey.

3. The **Caretaker's Cottage** has been vandalised, but is to be preserved.

4. **Parking:**

Q: has anyone raised the idea of a 2-storey building for car parking at Cooleman Court?

A: Mirvac owns NO parking area at Cooleman Court. The parking area is the responsibility of ACTPLA.

5. **Cabinet in the Community:** Tim Dalton said the ACT Government would hold a Cabinet in the Community meeting on Saturday, 17 April, from 10.30 till 12 noon, at the former Stirling College. He said it would be a good opportunity to raise some of these issues.

6. **Playgrounds in Weston:**

Q: When will work on the playground at former Weston Primary School begin? Members were angry that two playground in Weston were removed in 2008-2009, despite promises to retain them until the new playground was completed.

A: Tim said work at Rivett had begun, and Weston will not be done till later. WCCC will email to ask what is the new timeframe for completion of the playground.

7. **North Weston:** The Development Application for North Weston was approved on Friday, 26 March 2010. All traffic will enter from Unwin Place. This means that all heavy traffic will have only ONE entrance. WCCC would like to remind the ACT Government that shortly there will be traffic from two schools, as well as construction traffic, all using the one entrance into Unwin Place from Streeton Drive. This junction is already a problem in morning peak hours.

8. **Closing of Brierley Street:** It has been suggested that it might be a good idea to consider closing off Brierley Street, Weston, from outside the National Bank down to just below the pedestrian crossing outside Target, to stop through traffic. This could create a space for pedestrians and street cafes, etc.

9. **Consultation:** It was suggested that WCCC might like to think about what constitutes a good consultation process—what are the general principles, how is it best to implement these? Perhaps the WCCC could write to the ACT Government about what are good and bad consultations, in the light of WCCC's experience.

10. **Views of members:** One member suggested that WCCC should take into consideration views of its members that may differ from those of the majority and include mention of opposing views in accounts of WCCC activities that are published in the media. Tim Dalton responded that the WCCC tries to find out what Weston Creek residents want and what is good for the Weston Creek community as a whole. WCCC has no control over what is published in the media. He pointed out that there is a space on the WCCC website for comments and feedback. All topics that WCCC is currently working on are on the website, and anyone who would like to contribute their views is welcome to send their comments to the committee.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday, 28 April 2010, at 7.30pm