



MINUTES
ARO VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING
DATE: 01 February 2017 7.30 pm

Topic for meeting: Victoria University of Wellington properties in Aro Valley declared surplus to the University's requirements.

Present: Luke Allen (Co-chair), Brent Efford, Heather Mackay (Secretary), Daniel Brown, Rachel Griffiths (Treasurer), Krissy Cloutman, Madeline Rashbrooke

Apologies: Hilary Unwin (Co-chair), Nicole Benkert, Roland Sapsford, Jo Brien, Sacha Green, Chris Carey-Smith, Catherine Carey-Smith, Zeke O'Connor-Sapsford.

Members of the community attending were encouraged to sign the attendees register.

Luke welcomed everyone and acknowledged that Victoria University had been proactive in contacting the Aro Valley Community Council AVCC about their intention to sell the properties.

Data show presentation titled "Southern Precinct Properties" from Victoria University of Wellington's – Steph Forrest, Associate Director of Facilities Management and Erin Shillington, Asset Management Analyst.

5 properties owned by Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) have been declared surplus – considered to be topographically isolated from their property portfolio and there is also the issue of some deferred maintenance. Properties are at: IA Holloway Road land only, I Holloway Road house (earthquake prone), 227 and 229 Aro Street land only and 225 Aro Street the closed former Wesleyan Mission Hall (earthquake prone).

VUW Property is separate from the Academic side of the University and its purpose is to financially support the University so that it can deliver its programmes. VUW are looking to provide good quality accommodation and student accommodation generally is a big issue for the university.

Immediately properties are declared surplus a legal process starts which is run by the Secretary/Ministry of Education. The legal process includes Treaty Settlement considerations and those under the Public Works Act. There is also the possibility that another public entity or former owners will put their hands up. The end result may be an open sale process after legal obligations have been met. At the time of this meeting the process is not very far advanced as the November earthquake has impacted.

Questions/Issues raised from the floor and some information from the VUW staff.

Around use of IA Holloway Road - formal legal right-of-way questioned. All of the different uses of the land over the years must be made clear. Contact council David Chick at council if any questions.

VUW contacts some government departments as they may have an interest in the land but they don't contact every government department. This process is not fully triggered yet.

Trailbuilders representative interested in the parking area on Aro Street.

Original properties acquired under the Public Works Act and now there is a legal process for sale.

Lack of maintenance to the VUW properties should be noted and in the past some properties VUW sold took 20 years to sell?

Is the WCC interested in buying these – are they part of the process? Don't know what the Council intentions are – only a preliminary meeting has been held.

Feeling of the meeting that the properties should be used for the public good.

Lack of student accommodation is a good reason to keep the 1A Holloway Road house open even though it is considered topographically isolated from the rest of VUW property portfolio.

I and 1A Holloway Road – could be on 3 or 4 titles. Possibility that it may go back to the original number of titles. Process is still in progress. Historic process around case law that needs to be sorted out. May take 6-12 months. Steph and Erin are happy to come back when the process is a bit further along. Wellington City Council are doing due diligence on their interest in the properties.

Dog training area needs the parking area to provide access.

WCC councillors and Members of Parliament could help with negotiation with the University as it is not only about the University making the maximum out of the property sales but the University's relationship with the community, residents and the city. Councillor Iona Pannett made a statement that the University had responsibilities in all of these areas.

VUW staff are happy to come back and update on the process. A communication channel would be useful in the first instance. Suggestion that AVCC umbrella the discussion. As the AVCC we are also residents of the valley and interested in the use of buildings and houses.

Suggested action: form a communication conduit with the council so that interested people can state their concerns and interests and see what is happening with the process. This could be the WCC or AVCC. Interested people could email AVCC. Email address is on the website.

Minutes from previous General Meetings

Meetings of the 8th of June 2016 and the 8th of November 2016. Proposal for both sets of minutes to be accepted was put to the meeting – Luke Allen. Seconded by Madeline Rashbrooke. Unanimously agreed

Update on AVCC activities

Luke gave a brief summary of the \$1.2 million upgrade to the community facilities including the hall and surrounding area. He outlined the engagement process workshops, one was delivered in 2016 and one is planned for early March. Updates can be found in normal communication channels, website, Facebook.

Question was asked about whether we should use half the money on the upgrading facilities project and another half for other things such as property as the facility is already good enough.

General business

Wellington Housing Action Coalition is having a meeting next Wednesday if anyone is interested in attending.

Topics for future general meetings

Possible topics for future general meetings

Road safety, public transport, bikes, car parking, skateboarding, living wage and AVCC as an employer, quality of housing, Community resilience which could be facilitated by WCC to make a community plan – contact WREMO, tangata whenua of the area, history of Aro Valley, vandalism. These topics to be added to the topics already existing.

Urgent general business

There was none.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm and everyone was invited to stay for refreshments.