

13 April 2016 AVCC General Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Present: Luke Allen (Co-chair), Roland Sapsford (co-chair), for others, see attendance register.

Apologies – Krissy Cloutman, Jo Mackay, Eliza Avery, Karen McIntrye

1. Community centre site development update and results of survey at Aro Fair

Luke outlined the Community Facilities development project. The project brief is to upgrade the community facilities including the hall, basketball courts, bunker old CAB buildings and garages.

The AVCC has asked that the park, the egress between the park and Palmer Street and the preschool and preschool playground be added to the project. As all of these areas are covered and managed as different entities within WCC, this will require further discussion. It may be that there is an overall plan that involves these aspects but that the first phase only covers the initial facilities.

The WCC has asked the AVCC to consult with the community to create the overall design and establish the best use of the funds.

The AVCC would like the project to encompass the views of all the stakeholders within the Aro Valley and surrounding area. It intends to employ a community engagement specialist to run the process so the final plan reflects the needs and wants of the community.

The WCC has set aside \$1.3 million for the project over the next 3 years.

16/17 - \$50k is set aside for community engagement and creation of the initial design.

17/18 - \$100k for design, planning, project management

18/19 - the remainder of the funds for construction.

It was suggested from the floor that the repair of the basketball hoops and court were part of the WCC's general maintenance and should be fixed without using these funds.

Iona Pannet said she would see if there were maintenance funds available for this.

It was noted that the carparks by the Garage Project were created specifically for staff and visitors to facilities on the community centre / pre-school site and should be available for that purpose.

It was asked whether the project could be extended to collaborate with the MoE and the WCC to create a sporting facility for all users, including the school and university students. It was acknowledged that Te Aro School is definitely one of the stakeholders to consult with and was noted that the school does not have a school hall and does use the community centre at times for school events.

Martin Wilson suggested the funds could be used to create a sports hub/gym complex. He noted that VUW needs a lot of recreation resources, and that Te Aro school has lost its pool, and has no gym or halls, and abysmal pedestrian access. He believes that the WCC is looking for partnerships to provide community facilities.

Comments on this proposal were that:

- The Aro Valley doesn't need a sports hub – it is very close to all the amenities in the city
- It would create an issue with cars in the valley
- There isn't any specific need for this.

Luke said it could be possible to collaborate with other entities but that we didn't want to lose the money to a bigger project with indefinite outcomes and timelines. We need to consider the wider context and the needs of the community. The AVCC's role is to first identify the needs of the stakeholders and then create a design/plan that best addresses those needs.

It was asked who is included in the Aro Valley community? In general there are official suburb boundaries but the approach taken is an inclusive one which looks beyond these lines on a map.

We discussed the initial AVCC survey results, these results are based on 80 people who filled out a questionnaire at the Aro Valley Fair.

Luisa Beltran- Castillon explained that results identified a general consensus that people like and use the park and facilities, but that they would like to improve the aesthetics and functionality.

The survey results are available on the website.

2. New Incorporated Societies Law - what does it mean for Aro Valley?

Roland noted that the law does not intend to change the unique nature of incorporated societies but the main change is a procedure for resolving disputes. There is also a tidying up provisions relating to rules and bylaws and membership registers.

The AVCC is not required to comply with a standard constitution but there were some bits that we could include to make it more compliant.

The AVCC would draft a submission, the main focus would be on the voting process as the community generally likes to do things by consensus.

Notes on the draft will be presented at the next general meeting in June. Closing date for submissions is June 30th.

Following consultation on the current exposure draft, an Incorporated Societies Bill is intended to be introduced to Parliament in 2017.

The AVCC will wait for the bill to come out before resolving its own constitutional issues.

Martin raised the issue of decision making, he believes that decision making powers between meetings is given only to the committee. Roland explained that the Council took legal advice on this which had previously been sent to Martin. This covered all of the issues.

It was asked that the general meeting minutes be available on the website, and that the draft minutes be available before they are approved.

3. Minutes of previous general meeting

Accepted and approved

4. Update on Committee activities

Krissy and Lexi provide an e newsletter with an update on the Community news and the actions of the Council.

The Committee noted their appreciation for their work.

A quick run down of the Council's activities:

- School holiday programme
- Fair – huge success
- AroOlympics – great hit
- A lot of volunteer work
- Christmas Tree Fundraiser
- Consultation on flies issue
- Annual accounts are looking good
- Christmas in the Park
- Easter Egg Hunt

A question was raised about the solar energy project –there is only 1 external meter on the site instead of 3 separate meters previously. Electricity from the solar panels is used on site as much as possible, with first call being power for the Aro Valley pre-school. Solar generation is well ahead because of the great summer. It is set up to avoid buying electricity as the resale value is low.

5. Topics for further general meetings

Living wage for Holiday Programme Staff – explanation that this is not suitable for public discussion as it involves discussing pay rates of people who are also members of the community.

The AVCC sees it as an ideal, but at this stage we don't have the funding to support it.

Mountain Bike use on the tracks

Asked that Iona convey to Parks that the community would have liked to have been consulted and informed regarding the re-sowing of the grass. It was a shock for everyone, Krissy and Lexi were only told 2 days before it happened.

The community would like to know what the process was.

6. Urgent General Business.

Iona said that the WCC needs feedback on whether the dog exercise area at the entrance to Polhill Gully should be removed.

General points raised were

- Lots of people use it
- Useful for early morning walks and after dark
- Urged the WCC not to make a rash decision
- Dogs walk around the tracks and worry the roosters
- Women feel safe in that area
- It is too small and unsafe for dogs

Motion: that this meeting supports the retention of the area at the base of Polhill Gully as a dog exercise area

16 voted yes

3 abstained

The motion was agreed.

Martin suggested that when the AVCC is not unanimous, he believes the AVCC should be expressing that split opinion, or no opinion; not expressing a unanimous decision.

Meeting closed 9.50 pm