



MINUTES
ARO VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING
DATE: 8 September 2019

Topic for meeting: Declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency

George Sapsford (co-chair) opened the meeting and welcomed all attending. Apologies: Luke Allen.

Members of the community attending were asked to sign the attendees register and note the requirements for voting (living, working or owning property in Aro Valley).

Presentations

Dr Sea – Showed a presentation of facts about our changing climate and discussed the need for community decision making to make up for political lack of courage.

John Mitchell – discussed the natural effects of the changing climate and the conflict that will create. What does Climate Emergency legislation mean? It means what the body (local or national) decides it means. This legislation can provide powers and resources to do things.

Ollie Langridge – Calling himself a typical suburban dad who is raising awareness of the climate emergency. Like a fire alarm, his actions (standing in front of parliament as protest for 100 days) are alerting us all.

Sophie Handford and Molly Doyle – These students spoke about the Climate Strike planned international (taking place in NZ on Friday, 27 Sept) and the importance of everyone getting involved.

James Shaw – As the Minister for Climate Change, he spoke about the actions of the government on the issues New Zealand faces with carbon emissions and climate change.

Iona Pannett – Pointed out that lots of good things have and can come from the WCC declaration of climate emergency that was passed. But that more needs to be pushed for. It is not a binding declaration that WCC has made, there has not been enough planning to make it meaningful, and nothing has really happened since. Climate denial is now about silence on the issue, ignoring it is the bigger issue than people actively arguing against its existence. The political class will not lead the way on this, the people need to – by voting (studying candidates' voting records) and understanding the critical role of local government in this (specifically the control of infrastructure, marching on the 27th, and holding WCC to account.)

Motion and Discussion

Liam Hunt addressed the assembly to formally make the motion of declaration. This declaration was projected for all audience members to see and read out by Liam. Martin Wilson seconded. Liam then led the assembly in a discussion. He stated what Aro Valley was already doing – Solar Panels on the Community Hall, community composts and gardens, the Share Shack. Then he led an open discussion that resulted in a list of actions AVCC could consider taking.

- Work for a 50% reduction in car trips over the next 10 years and that of all remaining car trips, 50% are done in electric vehicles.
- AVCC should request traffic calming designs along Aro Street – make it clear that the street is not just for cars and that we prioritise other modes of transport.
- Reduce the speed on the whole of Aro Street to 30 km/hour
- Launch a campaign, akin to a stop smoking campaign, against the use of petrol and other carbon emitters.
- Do not allow vehicles in the Community Centre precinct any longer – keep the chain up at all times and place the bollards back next to the public toilets
- More gardens, grow our own food.

- More tree planting and pest trapping – and how to get the word out on what is already happening around the Valley
- Encourage 100% renewable energy use in Aro Valley households
- A micro grid for our electrical energy use

An amendment to the wording of the declaration was suggested by Dr. Sea and motioned by Ingrid Downey (Co-Chair, no second required) to change the language of the declaration from “global warming” to “global heating” and from “climate change lens” to “climate emergency lens”. This amendment was approved by the members with no abstentions or oppositions.

The motion with this amended language was presented again by Liam. Georgie asked for a show of hands of those members present in favour (many hands went up, over 25). Georgie then asked for a show of hands of any member who wanted to abstain, and then a show of hands of any member who wanted to oppose the motion – no hands were raised for either. The motion passed

Resolution of the Aro Valley Community Council:

We, the members of Aro Valley Community Council:

- 1. Acknowledge scientists’ warnings* that urgent action to limit global heating is required immediately.**
- 2. Urge residents, businesses and organisations in Aro Valley to place a climate emergency lens on everything we do - e.g. reducing food waste, plastic use and carbon footprint**
- 3. Will prepare a plan of community resilience to safeguard and protect the residents of Aro Valley from the increasing risks of climate change, including: forest fires, land slips, drought, flooding, sea-level rise, biodiversity loss and species extinction.**

*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports <https://www.ipcc.ch/reports/>

Other Business

Ingrid Downey (Co-Chair) allowed those who need to leave to do so and then brought the meeting back in order to conduct the following business:

1. Confirmation by the members of the Co-opting of Co-Treasurers – Liam Hunt and Luca McDonnell. The AGM did not result in anyone being named Treasurer, so the Committee at their first meeting co-opted two Committee members to act as Treasure (job sharing allowed by the Constitution). This was approved by the members present.
2. Report the decision of the Committee to appoint an auditor (Accounting for Charities, the organisation used by AVCC for the past number of years) and to not appoint an honorary solicitor, noting that when the Committee has legal questions, they will seek help from Community Law.
3. Announcement that the recruitment process continues with progress being made to appoint a Community Developer and Coordinator. Currently we have a temporary employee, Emma Reid, working for AVCC to cover both roles. A question from a member clarified that Emma has been hired to work 10-25 hours a week to keep up the work of the AVCC and to put processes in place for the new staff, but that at times she has been allowed to work longer hours, in recognition of the work that needs to be done during this time of transition.
4. Announce that more information will be coming soon from the WCC regarding the playground refresh and that they landscape designer will hold an open house to discuss what will happen. Stay tuned for a date and time for that event.
5. Announced the signing by the Co-Chair of the new 3-year funding contract granted to AVCC by the WCC and noted the reporting requirements we hold for that contract. And thanked the AVCC for their continuing support.
6. Motion to accept the minutes of the last General Meeting (31 March 2019 on the Site Redevelopment process and selecting a preferred conceptual design). Moved: Roland S. Seconded: Tahiti S. Accepted with no objections by those present.