**Aro Valley Community Council (AVCC) General Meeting Minutes**

Aro Valley Community Centre, 48 Aro Street

**Saturday 22nd February 2020**

Start: 19:20pm

**Present:** AVCCC; George Sapsford (co-chair), Liam Hunt (treasurer), James Woods (until 8:30), Martin Wilson.

WCC councillors: Tamatha Paul, Iona Pannett (19:23pm).

Members: Jane O’Shea (facilitator), Ayse Altin Wohlleben, Angus Loni, Faye Tobyn, Melanie Vautier, Malcom Frazer, Meg (Megan) Lewis, Peter Smeaton, Jaqui Tutt, Bicycle Pete, Nathan Filler (19:43pm), AJ Jacobson (19:43pm)

Tui Climate Community (operating from our hall) volunteers: Kieran Martin, Cally O’Neill, Payal Ramrit

Facilitator: Jane O’Shea

Co-chair: George Sapsford

Minutes: Payal

Apologies: Ingrid, Helen, Luke

**Previous GM minutes**

8 September 2019: Declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency. Motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting with the amendment to correct George’s name. Moved by Martin, seconded by George.

**Treasurers report – Liam**

Report ending January 2020, may be a profit with the assumptions that about 7k from last year is not written off, that the Christmas tree program performed slightly worse and the Aro Fair will make a profit.

Motion to accept the treasurer’s report moved by James, seconded by Martin.

Martin thanked Liam for the great job he had done on the report.

**AVCC Policy Change – Martin**

At an AVCC committee (AVCCC) meeting held on 20 October 2019, AVCCC decided by unanimous consensus to change the following AVCC policy by removing Part 1:

**AVCC Code of Conduct: Meeting attendance and conduct**

**Version 2.7 2/3/2014**

**PART 1: Presence at AVCC Committee meetings**

1. Committee meetings are attended by AVCC officers and committee members (including the Aro Valley Pre-School and Te Aro School representatives) and those invited to attend.
2. Members of the AVCC who wish to contribute to, or are interested in a particular topic can contact the Co-Chairs and request an invitation to a Committee meeting.
3. Standing invitations exist for the AVCC coordinator, the Valley Voice editors and the Lambton Ward Councilors.
4. The AVCC:

* supports inclusiveness and transparency, and will endeavor to grant all reasonable requests by members for attendance on specific topics other than in such circumstances as discussed in PART 3 below;
* reserves the right to decline requests if, in the opinion of the Co-Chairs. They interfere with the ability of the democratically elected Committee to undertake its functions.

1. Guests attending meetings can be required to leave if strictly committee-only topics need to be discussed (e.g. those of legal or employment issues) or if in the opinion of the Committee this is otherwise appropriate.

The change means anyone can turn up as an observer to a Committee meeting now, but they do not have speaking rights. Participation of members is preferred over exclusion of members.

Question from Iona about what happens regarding issues that need to be discussed as committee of the whole? Will people need to leave the room during these discussions?

George answered that items that need to be discussed in committee of the whole will be in a separate part of the meeting at the start, which will not be open to everyone.

Martin answered that the chair can invite/allow people at the meetings to speak but they will not have voting rights.

No motion was made for the AVCC to endorse this policy change. Further discussion tabled until next GM.

Iona mentioned that councillors would like to be invited to AVCC meetings.

**Co-opting of new committee member Ayse Altin-Wohlleben**

Ayse lives in the art deco building in Aro Valley, they moved here from Christchurch, where they were involved in community activities. They love community work and have an interest in the TUI climate community operating out of the Aro Community Centre.

Motion to ratify Ayse as a committee member moved by Liam, seconded by George. Passed by unanimous consensus.

A count of the attendees register recognised that meeting quorum was reached. Motions to accept the minutes from the previous GM meeting, and to accept the financial report, moved by Martin and seconded by George. Passed by unanimous consensus.

**Proposed change to AVCC Constitution**

At an AVCCC electronic meetingheld open for 24 hours from 7 to 8 February, those attending (7) agreed this change in the constitution, and to bring it to the next GM for consideration.

**8. i).** Any committee member absent without apologies from three consecutive scheduled committee meetings shall be deemed to have resigned from the committee.

Jaqui believed the proposed change was expensive, and too heavy handed, and that there were more subtle ways to resolve issues. Martin stated that changes to the constitution are free. Liam stated that the committee had been full, there had been trouble getting quorum for meetings and that they had made many attempts to meet with members who had not been attending meetings. Ayse clarified that the proposed change applied to those who were absent without sending apologies and that it was always an option to send apologies for a meeting. Martin stated his opinion that the constitution should be a living document updated every year and that the current constitution had not been updated for over ten years. Martin also pointed out that there were new legal requirements likely to come in the future and that three meetings was a significant part of the year. Megan asked if the wording could be changed to “can be” instead of “shall be”. Peter agreed with Martin that three meeting was a significant part of a year and joining the committee was a big commitment. Peter was in favour of keeping the wording as “shall be” as failing to show up to three meetings without apologies was rude. The facilitator Jane summarised that the proposed change was heavy-handed, needs to be done, and more discussion was needed, suggesting the change be passed in the next meeting. There was lots of discussion, and consensus was sought. An indicative vote was held: 12 voting members were in favour, three were not, and two abstained. A declaratory vote was deferred by the presiding co-chair, George, as per the constitution, to a meeting in 30 days.

**Redevelopment and Resilience**

Steering Group member Jaqui Tutt gave a summary of the redevelopment process to date.

James asked what the issues with the current plan are. Martin answered that climate change was important and that both the Wellington City Council and the AVCC had declared a climate emergency. Martin said the current plan almost certainly could not be built within budget, and that at any AVCC GM can overrule any earlier GM decision. Jaqui said many people had contributed to the plan and they may not have used the word “resilience” but the agreed design was the result of highly committed individuals with an interest in the community over a number of years. James stated the plan was decided by the community and that sustainability was very important to the community of Aro Valley. James believed the decision making was robust and had concerns about changing the plan as it was already in WCC hands. Liam asked when the plan was made, Jaqui replied it was agreed upon over a series of general meetings. Liam stated the IPCC report on climate change came out in May 2018 and the AVCC has agreed there was a climate emergency since then. Liam said at the time the plan was agreed, they may not have had all the information required. After further discussion, it was agreed the committee would come up with questions for the steering group to ask the WCC.

**Presentation from George**

Cally (consultant employed by the WCC at the start of our redevelopment project, but here as an interested individual and TUI volunteer), explained that resilience was definitely considered and part of the upgrade plans. Cally said they had noticed that the process seemed to go well when with the community but when the plans go to council and then out for tender, the result seems to be a disconnect between the community and the architect. Cally suggested having an update on where the project is at on every meeting agenda. Iona, a city councillor, said that perhaps too much was promised to the community and that Aro Valley was fortunate to have a hall when many other suburbs did not have facilities. Iona recommended the AVCC spend the money they currently have set aside for the upgrades as other things such as infrastructure spending are likely to be prioritised in the future. Iona also suggested some things on the list of resilience measures could be dealt with by fundraising or means other than council funding. Martin expressed his view that if both buildings are upgraded, neither will be done well and that there are fundamental issues regarding the buildings that are not being addressed. Megan said the current traction as a result of the basic yet functional space available currently is amazing and that amazing things can continue to happen in the space. Jaqui stated all the suggestions brought up had been considered when making the plans. Peter said lots of work had been done so far and the project is well down the pipeline. Peter also asked why a new steering committee was needed. George said they put that in the presentation because they thought more active engagement was needed and acknowledged that liasing with the council was taking longer than they realised. Martin said it was to reinvigorate the steering group and asked how often members were appointed to the steering group and who should be selected. The Terms Of Reference call for the co-chairs and the treasurer to be the SG reps. Malcolm asked if the plans for the tennis pavilion were based on opinion or scientific fact. Iona said that costings for the tennis pavilion were yet to come in and they would inquire about the situation and let the AVCC know. Cally said the concrete from the tennis pavilion cannot be used for anything else if demolished and that the earthquake risks of the bunker needed to be addressed. Malcolm raised the point that the plan on the wall had been decided through general meetings but was by no means what the majority wanted. Several opinions on if the current plan was what the community really wants/wanted were expressed. Jane clarified the need to get the costings for the hall and the pavilion back, and it was agreed that a general meeting with the architect and council staff would be held when the costings are back.

The meeting ended with everyone being thanked for their passion and thanks given to Jane for the meeting facilitation and training prior to the meeting.

**Meeting ended at 21.20pm**