# **Aro Valley Community Council Monthly Meeting**

Date and time: 26 April 2022: 7-9 pm

Venue: 25 Epuni Street

Present: Roland Sapsford and Madeleine Rashbrook (Zoom) : Lisa Thomson, Jaqui Tutt and Heather Mackay (in person)

Apologies: Mattie Timmer, Bridget Stocker, Phaedra Brice-Chen, Richard Skinner, Sarah Jane Parton, Vorry Mahal

Welcome to us all.

## **Minutes**

Minutes of previous meeting on 22 March were accepted

Actions reviewed. All sorted.

**Financial report**

Lisa reported that she and Richard have discussed the hall costs -we will need new things for the new spaces. Richard has prepared a budget for some refitting once back in the building.

Budgeting for payrises for staff and for refitting the building are key items.

Grant application has been accepted by Wellington City Council and is being reviewed now. Big thanks from the rest of the AVCC to Lisa and Richard and Vorry for this work.

Richard had presented two documents (normal financial report and Y23-25 budget) prior the meeting which were distributed. His overview is below:

* Financial reports at 31 March 2022, including performance for the month. Things to note:
  + Cash position of $106k at the end of March
  + $1k net loss in March due to very little hall hire income
    - FY23-25 budget which went into our application for the operational grant. Note this includes the provisional result for the year ended 31 March 2022.

**Action**: Heather to advise Richard that we have looked at both and are happy with both.

## **Community development** (Lisa to review this section)

Lisa gave an overview of progress.

Vorry and Lisa met over Easter to discuss and timetable tasks for the first six months for the Community Developer role. Basically a community assessment is needed. High level plan is below:

1. Review all historical information on website (Lisa) and in files (Vorry – previous surveys have been found). Don’t want to reinvent the wheel.
2. From the outcome of the research develop a plan to timetable: starting to look like:

* Design and draft collateral for survey (ideas: capture people in the valley with a QR code for people waiting also via website and at community centre)
* Target focus groups e.g. interest groups gardening, bikers, basketball court users. Qualiatitve/qualitative
* In person sessions in the park with sausage sizzle to find out what they want to see – also some events for Aston Towers, preschool etc.
* Engaging with mana whenua – want to ensure bicultural engagement. Plan to approach Victoria University of Wellington as it is closest marae. Vorry will lead this work.
* Timeframe: consultation June, back for comment July and done by September.

Beautiful poster designed for the fair. We need to have a polished output for the Council and Lisa suggests we engage the artist to work on the website and other collateral to set a strong platform to build on.

Vorry has limited experience in managing social media or a website and we need to assist where necessary or hire the help so that we can move the plan forward. We could ask for help from the community – could be advertised on the front page of the Valley Voice (if possible) ... volunteer social media support intern!

**Action**: Lisa to approach the poster designer to use the concept design for the consultation and to look to advertise that we need support with social media/website.

**Decision**: the meeting endorses the overall approach presented for the community development role and looks forward to engaging with the details.

## **Community Centre update**

Internet connectivity has been an issue – has been disconnected. Chorus haven’t been easy for Vorry or the project manager to deal with. The old copper wire network is causing a problem but will hopefully be sorted today. The relationship with builders and Vorry and preschool is working well.

Building gets moved then building extension starts. Relocation is happening as soon as the new piles are put in.

Jaqui is concerned that the kitchen on the plan is not as well appointed as the exisiting one e.g. only one sink and not so much storage.Those details are probably not yet fixed and we could make changes to address these issues especially if the new plan is not an improvement.

**Action:** Jaqui to research the feedback that we had on the existing kitchen problems then do a comparison of what was existing and what is planned.

**Action**: Jaqui will work with Lisa and Vorry and the site manager and ask for a little liaison meeting. Probably need Lisa, Vorry, Brent, Jaqui to sort this.

Original site development committee is now defunct.

## **Planning issues**

Roland has talked to Iona Pannett and the concern is that it will be difficult to get any changes to the draft plan. Try and engage with council officers over specifics e.g. not a good idea to put an 8 storey bulding next to Aro Park.Tamatha Paul may be willing to support some of that if not couched in terms of heritage. Changes proposed don’t reflect what people said in submissions.

Formal submissions open in June and the AVCC will need to be prepared with someone to take ownership of this. Useful for us to talk across Wellington on this as it is a very difficult time all round. Stay connected and keep talking to people. Newspapers won’t cover it but RNZ and others are starting to fill the gap. Roland will do his best to document some stuff and share what he knows over the next month.

## **Valley Voice**

Lisa was hoping to see it this morning but Vorry was away.Volunteers are being sought for delivery. Lisa will follow up with Vorry. Dani’s partner Immon Ahmen is helping Vorry with the content setting. Lisa may send it around if she gets a draft. Proofreading needed probably this weekend. The very talented Madeleine will help with this.

**Action**: Lisa to keep the committe advised about what support needed and when.

## **Any Other Business**

There is a group hanging out drinking alcohol in Aro Park. Lisa is concerned about this behaviour as it is regular at the moment and Vorry told her that it was scary at the park yesterday – the behaviour was aggressive. Neighbours have been calling the police but when the police arrive the drinkers hide. We need to support Vorry if she is feeling unsafe because of this behaviour and it is generally not a good situation in the park.

We need to step in here and ask for a meeting with community policing and Wellington City Council’s city safety officers. Since the recent demonstration at Parliament there is more activity around town.

Jaqui happy to be an extra physical presence for Vorry by popping in more regularly. If Lisa is aware there is a need she will message us.

**Action**: Lisa to email Donna (Wellington City Council) in the first instance as this is becoming an urgent issue. Other factors add to the risks – building off foundations, children in the park, childcare centre etc.

Meeting finished at 8.25 pm with a closing checkin round.

**Next meeting**: 24 May, venue Heather’s place 119 Aro Street 7 pm.