



Special General Meeting of

the Aro Valley Community Council Inc

Sunday, 17 October 2021, 2:00pm, Aro Hall

Motions

1. That the members endorse the Committee's decision to move the operation of the Community Centre to a newly created Charitable Trust.
2. That a transition period to the Aro Park Community Centre Trust operating the Community Centre begin now and be concluded as soon as possible, guided by the outgoing AVCC Officers working in partnership with the newly elected AVCC Committee. The objectives of the transition process are to reach an equitable separation of resources between the two organisations and efficiently transfer the Community Centre's operational contract with Wellington City Council to the new Charitable Trust.

Background

Aro Valley residents value our Community Hall. We are proud of the residents who created the Park and brought in the Hall which created a lovely green welcoming space at the entrance to our valley. We acknowledge that the Aro Valley Community Council Inc has operated the community centre for many decades and served the community well.

By mid 2021 the AVCC Committee recognised that the Community Centre needed to be better managed to improve its financial viability and ensure the health and safety of workers, volunteers and users.

This decision was informed by an independent Operational Review which found that:

....things have not been going well. At present the main (almost entire) focus [of the AVCC Committee] is running the community centre in an attempt to meet the contractual commitment to Wellington City Council. However, there has been one difficulty after another with the Committee and running the community centre that has consumed a considerable amount of time and energy. Although some positive steps have been taken, things overall remain unresolved in a number of areas. This, along with delays to improvements to the community centre have frustrated progress and impacted negatively, with the end result being an inability to operate the community centre in a safe and efficient manner.

The Committee discussed the issues and options and we feel a separation provides for the best future for both the Community Centre and the Aro Valley Community Council Inc.

The change to how the Community Centre is operated will not change the purpose or values of the Aro Valley Community Council Inc. The Council will continue as an Incorporated Society, created to fulfil its charitable purposes as set out by its Constitution.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is it necessary to make such a big change?

For some time, it has been extremely challenging for the AVCC Committee (a group of volunteers) to run the community centre. While the AVCC Constitution provides a clear mandate and a framework to operate a resident's association, it does not provide the same level of clarity for the operation of the community centre, which is the main activity that the AVCC Committee works on. Interest in amending the AVCC Constitution is low. After assessing the recent Operational Review, the current AVCC Committee believes the risks involved in managing the Community Centre with the existing governance framework are too high and changes are needed to reduce those risks. Both the AVCC Committee and the funder, Wellington City Council, believe that a Charitable Trust is the best way to move forward with the kinds of improvements that are needed.

What will happen to the AVCC once the motion is passed?

The AVCC will continue to exist, and a new Committee will be elected at the AGM. This new Committee will maintain the focus and good work of the Council, however it will not be responsible for running the Community Centre and will no longer have a contract with Wellington City Council for that work.

How will a new Charitable Trust be formed?

A small group of AVCC Committee members are working on that now, preparing the Deed and papers to register the Aro Park Community Centre Trust. It is hoped that the AVCC Committee will assist the outgoing AVCC office bearers to set up the Community Centre Trust.

Once the Trust is formed, a Board of Trustees will be created. Nominations for Trustees will be invited and advertised in the Community Centre newsletter as soon as the Trust is registered.

What is the difference between Aro Valley Community Council and the proposed Charitable Trust?

AVCC is an Incorporated Society and Registered Charity which is a membership based, governed by an a Committee of volunteers who are elected each year at an AGM. The proposed Aro Park Community Centre Charitable Trust will also be a charity. Charitable Trusts are governed by Trustees who are appointed by the Board of the Trust. Nominations for Trustees are invited as vacancies occur, and Trustees are usually selected by the Board for the skills they bring to the operation of Trust.

How will the 2 organisations be separated?

The current Officers of AVCC are stepping up to establish the new Trust and are keen to work with the new AVCC Committee to discuss all issues of separation, including assets, intellectual property and branding. Each organisation will need resources to operate in the future and by working cooperatively the two groups can make good decisions about the separation.

Will the two organisations work together?

Yes, we see great advantage for the Council and the Trust to work closely to make sure that Aro Valley gets the best of both organisations – A Resident's Association with a strong, clear voice for Aro Valley and a community centre that is well managed, much used and loved because it responds to the interests and priorities of residents.

Who will put on the Aro Fair?

This will need to be decided, but rest assured, we are all dedicated to the Fair continuing and we will work hand in hand with all interested parties (including the Aro Valley Preschool and Te Aro School) to continue this tradition.

Who will organise the Xmas Tree fundraiser this year?

The current AVCC Committee has given notice to the Aro Valley Preschool and Te Aro School that we will not be able to be involved with the fundraiser this year, but fully support them in holding it. The newly elected Committee can revisit that decision if they choose.

Who will employ the staff?

The current AVCC staff will be employed by the new Charitable Trust. The paid employment at the Community Centre is funded through the operational contract with Wellington City Council and is central to running the Community Centre. The AVCC will no longer have staff, however, the new Committee can revisit that decision if they choose.

How can I get involved?

Nominations for the new AVCC Committee are being taken now, and nominations will be allowed from the floor at the AGM.

The Charitable Trust will invite nominations to Board of Trustees once it is registered.