

Auckland City Centre Resident's Group

Meeting Minutes 3 August 2020

Betty Wark Room, Ellen Melville Centre, commencing 5.30 p.m.

Present: Noelene Buckland, Adam Parkinson, Sri Maxwell, Antony Phillips, Tom Morton, Jenni Hiller, Michael McKeown, Kathy Ross, Joe Rich, Graeme Doherty, Julie Gunn (AT), Tiffany Robinson, Frederick Conglor (Beam), Steven Glasker, Timothy Hannah, Richard Northey, Ardeth Lobet, Shaun Sutton (CRL), Tika Hasan, Shamila Unka, Stephen Edwin, Sri Maxwell.

Apologies: Audrey van Ryn, Stephen and Julie Coates, Marjorie McLean, Bryce Bartley.

Chair: Noelene Buckland

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Recommendation

That the minutes of the 6 July 2020 meeting be approved as read.

Noelene Buckland/Sri Maxwell - CARRIED

Item for Decision

CCRG have set the date for the General Election Forum as Tuesday 1 September, Pioneer Women's Hall, Ellen Melville Centre, 6.00 – 8.00 p.m.

Antony Phillips and Mik Smellie are leading the organising team, the venue has been booked, tasks and roles allocated, draft questions prepared for candidates and five candidates have confirmed attendance. The invited candidates this year include the Tāmaki Makaurau candidates so a real opportunity for us to consider how we contribute to the Annual Plan and CCMP Māori Outcomes.

The organising committee members will update the meeting and discuss some final decisions around the event hosting.

Recommendation

That the draft programme for the Tuesday 1 September 2020 Election Forum be received.

Noelene Buckland/Antony Philips - CARRIED

Financial Report:

Data for July Balance as of 3 August \$2,400.50. 2 x Memberships total \$45.00 less ASB fees \$0.80

Our previous Treasurer, David Roos, no longer lives in the city centre and Sri Maxwell, our Secretary, has kindly volunteered to pick up this role.

An ASB Visa Debit card account has been opened as agreed at the July 2020 CCRG meeting, permitting CCRG to pay bills requiring a credit card, instead of relying on individuals to pay & then claim back from CCRG. The only monies in the Visa debit account will be those approved by meetings, and transferred from the CCRG

current account into the Visa debit account, by the usual two-person authentication process (and after having been approved).

1. Reimburse Adam for G Suite 2 Feb to 2 Aug 2020 incl : \$283.11
2. Approve payment of G Suite CCRG email accounts for the next 12 Months - using the new Visa debit. This is paid monthly in US\$ (varies btw NZ\$32 and \$35), but exchange rates vary, so transferring an exact amount from CCRG current account to the CCRG visa debit account is not going to be possible ... So let's say NZ\$35 per month x 12= \$420

Recommendation

That the financial report for July 2020 be received and that -

1. CCRG reimburse Adam for G Suite 2 Feb to 2 Aug 2020 incl : \$283.11
2. Approve payment of G Suite CCRG email accounts for the next 12 Months x \$35.00 per month- using the new Visa debit.

Jenni Hillas/Antony Phillips - **CARRIED**

Guest Presentation:

Daniel Newcombe, Senior Transport Planner and Pete Moth, Manager PT Network Development from Auckland Transport, made a presentation about the bus routes around the city centre now and in over the next few years of the CRL construction.

This is part of the work now underway for the Access for Everyone Pilot on Queen Street that has been a part of the discussions around the City Centre Master Plan Refresh (CCMP) - <https://aucklandccmp.co.nz>. The Auckland City Centre Advisory Board discussed this at their meeting on Wednesday 26 - a copy of the agenda item can be found on page 61 of the agenda – see link below. https://infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Open/2020/07/CEN_20200729_AGN_9635_AT.PDF

AT intend to divert more buses along Waihorotiu/Queen Street Valley (W/QSV) following the closure of the Victoria/Albert Street intersection from 31 March 2021. This was confirmed as some 60-80 diesel powered buses per hour on the street at peak times which will clearly impact on Councils adopted commitment to the C40 Cities Group - <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15> - and Zero Emissions Area (ZEA) in the CCMP.

Concerns were raised by those present as to the environmental impact these proposed arrangements will have on city centre residents. This particular part of the city centre already has very poor air quality that is caused by diesel engines on ships, ferries and buses. It was noted that although still emitters, most petrol engines are relatively clean burning compared to any diesel ones and electric engines are by far the best option.

Recommendation

The Daniel Newcombe and Pete Moth be thanked for their presentation.

Noelene Buckland/Adam Parkinson - **CARRIED**

Items for Decision.

Access for Everyone – Waihorotiu/Queen Street Valley (W/QSV)

Following the Covid19 Emergency social distancing measures along W/QSV, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) has allocated funds from their Innovating Streets programme toward the A4E project on W/QSV. The quantum of funds is unclear but likely between \$600,000 and \$1m. The Auckland City Centre Advisory Board (ACCAB) have also voted \$600,000 for an A4E pilot programme on W/QSV.

A major Communications/Marketing/Engagement project, led by Auckland Council, is underway and the council family team leading the pilot project have extended an invitation to up to 10 resident representatives and would like to work with CCRG on identifying them through our networks. They have identified the following resident categories

- Live and rent
- Live and own
- Student residents
- Residential landlords

The pilot team were advised that the universities prefer to correspond directly with their students rather than through a third party like CCRG so three categories were used to select CCRG’s nominees.

The Co-Design workshops are not the only opportunity for input into the designs. Supporting these are a wide range of engagement activities that include Reference Group check-ins, one-to-one and one-to-few meetings to discuss specific details and provide technical review as needed, and Social Pin-Point, Intercept & Sentiment Survey’s to gain a wider representative view.

One of the key A4E programme aims to reduce traffic across the entire city centre, based on the concept of eleven zones that people can drive into, and within, but not through to the next zone without going back to a main arterial road such as Mayoral Drive. However, with the current and proposed street closures associated with the CRL these patterns may not be possible until the CRL is complete.

From the material available to date, a key driver of the prioritised A4E programme on W/QSV appears to be the need for AT to maintain bus schedules. This is currently challenging because of other traffic on W/QSV and the proposal is to remove/minimise all other traffic on this street so that buses have priority. While this is a desirable outcome for AT, it is the worst outcome for residents. Wall to wall buses, all of whom need to stop when buses pick up/drop off passengers, emit the worst toxic gases when they are idling and are always noisy.

As representatives on the ACCAB, the Chair and Deputy Chair have supported a long term vision for W/QSV built around a pedestrian mall type of place that was consulted on for the CCMP refresh. This vision reflects our human history, has no traffic other than light rail or electric shuttle buses and complies with council carbon neutral commitments.

This will require clean and quiet public transport that does not interfere with the concept of safe pedestrian spaces, gardens, trees, tables and chairs and most importantly clean air.

It was agreed that the first priority for all parties is to ensure that nothing occurs that may endanger people’s health. On that basis CCRG agreed that it is residents who should have the loudest voice in these discussions, not business or buses.

Recommendation

That CCRG agree that a pedestrian mall arrangement is the preferred short and long term status for Waihorotiu/Queen Street Valley and that vehicles using this space need to be emission free.

That CCRG nominate the following to represent the resident voice on the Waihorotiu/Queen Street Valley co-design workshop to be held at Ellen Melville Centre on Thursday 13 August from 5.00 – 7.00 p.m.
Adam Parkinson, Antony Phillips, Tom Morton, Michael McKeown, Kathy Ross, Jenni Hillas, Rochai Tairaoa, Andrew Murray, Joe Rich, Tika Hasan.
Noelene Buckland/Adam Parkinson - **CARRIED**

Items for Discussion

Trees in the City Centre

Members noted a lot of missing trees in the city centre. Recent discussion with council arborist and tree maintenance people have confirmed that the majority of these trees will be replaced in the next few months. The three key trees on Aotea Square were planned for replacement in February but issues around supplies delayed the planting with Covid19 creating further delays.

Council Owned Property Sales

The Waitemata Local Board asked CCRG for input into the proposed future sale of council property. In particular they have concerns about some properties between Mayoral Drive and the Town Hall on Mayoral Drive. This includes properties from 313 – 327 Queen Street. It was agreed that these properties have both place making and heritage values. Adam Parkinson and Antony Phillips agreed to work with Richard Northey on a proposal to be submitted to the next CCRG meeting on 7 September.

Myers Park

Both the WLB and the ACCAB have committed funding to the final works on Myers Park around the area leading to, and beneath, Mayoral Drive. Members agreed that this was a priority area of spend for the city centre and further work will be done to ensure that it is included in the ACCAB capital works programme.

Emergency Budget

It was noted that council has reduced funding to Ellen Melville Centre and the WLB has agreed to fund this shortfall from their budgets. It was also confirmed that the annual Myers Park Medley will not take place in 2021 due to budget cuts.

Members agreed that the Chair write to the WLB expressing appreciation for the additional funding for the Ellen Melville Centre.

Local Board Plans 2020

The Waitemata Local Board have produced three-year plan outlining the key initiatives to focus on to help communities thrive and support the recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. Plan proposals are open for feedback from Monday 13 July to Thursday 13 August.

It was agreed that Noelene Buckland and Adam Parkinson would prepare a submission on behalf of CCRG. <https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waitemataplan>.

Local Board Grants

Applications are currently open for grants between \$500 and \$7,500 and it was agreed that Antony Phillips make an application on behalf of CCRG for financial support with community engagement initiatives.

General Business

Signage Bylaw Review - Adam Parkinson advised that he had written to Regulatory Committee Chair regarding CCRG's concerns with LED Billboards and our intention to be further involved when submissions open - currently proposed for September 2020.

Bowen Street Urban Farm proposal – Adam Parkinson advised that work is continuing with this proposal and that Sarah Smuts-Kennedy from the “For the Love of Bees” project is supporting the initiative.

Local Alcohol Policy Update – The LAP has been appealed by the two major supermarket chains and been partially successful, so will need to be revisited and/or revised.

Adam Downtown Programme Update – Quay Street works are running 8 weeks behind schedule. Investigations are being made as to whether closing the East bound section of Quay Street from Lower Hobson Street to Commerce Street will allow 8 weeks to be saved. The proposal will require a variation to the Resource Consent which may or may not require notification. If notification is required, it is understood that the proposal will not proceed given the time required for the notification process.

Families In The City Centre – Feedback from a previous CCRG committee member as to the reasons they left the city centre was discussed. The major concerns were around the lack of enforcement around vehicle behaviours, and the time required to get any projects underway.

Adam Bonus Floor Provision Update – an item will appear on either the September or October agenda outlining the current situation with these and means of protecting them – more information on these are available on the link below. Adam to follow up on rumours that the viewing platform at the end of the Hilton/Princes wharf has been kept closed even though there are no longer managed isolation clients staying at the Hilton.

<https://cdn.auckland.ac.nz/assets/creative/schools-programmes-centres/architecture-and-planning/An%20assessment%20of%20bonus%20floor%20spaces%20in%20Auckland%202016%20.pdf>

Queens Wharf East – Adam Parkinson has been working on getting this opened up for the past two years. Currently the space is used for managed isolation purposes but, when it is opened up, it will apparently require ladders into the harbour in case anybody falls in. It is unclear why this is a requirement given that no similar facilities appear to be needed anywhere else on the waterfront. Further information will be provided when it is available.

Update Offer of Service: Victoria Quarter Tactical Urbanism Project – Adam Parkinson updated the meeting on work being done on the Nelson Street Slip Lane project and this will be reported on our September agenda.

Pot Luck Dinner – Antony Phillips has made arrangements with the EMC staff to hold a Pot Luck Dinner in the facility on Friday 28 August from 6.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome and bring a plate of food to share.

Commercial Bay – Members asked if enquiries could be made for a private viewing of the Commercial Bay Tower development for residents living who have been living with the disruption of construction for several years now. Noelene Buckland to follow up with Precinct Properties.

Meeting Closed: The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.