

Auckland City Centre Resident's Group

Meeting Minutes 7 December 2020

Betty Wark Room, Helen Melville Centre, commencing 5.40 p.m.

Present: Noelene Buckland, Adam Parkinson, Richard Northey, Susan McKendrick, Michael McKeown, Ardeth Lobet, Clive Harvey, Jennifer Hillas, Michael Sharp, Trish Maryatt, Robert McFarlane, Hazel Anson, Audrey van Ryn, Bruce Ross, Mik Smellie, Graeme Doherty, Marcus Sietinger.

Apologies: Antony Phillips, Tim Hannah, Helen White

Chair: Noelene Buckland

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Recommendation

That the minutes of the 7 September 2020 meeting be approved as read.
Nbuckland/AParkinson

Item for Decision

WLB Funding for database development

The Waitemata Local Board granted CCRG \$1,000 for the purposes of organising a meeting to facilitate the development of databases in the city centre for Emergency Management purposes. This is a challenging issue and involves the Unit Titles Act, Emergency Management, the Privacy Act, CCRG and the Body Corporate Chairs Group.

Progress to this point suggests working with the BCCG and the Waitemata Ward member on the best means of achieving the outcome required. Currently, as many are aware, Council's Emergency Management website provides very little advice to residents living in apartment buildings and seems totally unprepared for emergencies in the city centre that some 40,000 people call home.

The Unit Titles Act does require Body Corporate Chairs to maintain an owner's database but that is for internal body corporate purposes only. Incorporating a requirement to provide access to the database in times of emergency is an opportunity also being discussed in terms of possible amendments to that legislation and/or regulations.

Recommendation

That the Chairperson work with the Waitemata Ward Member, the WLB Chair and the BCCG on the development of a shared database of city centre residents that can be updated regularly and used for emergency management purposes.
RNorthey/NBuckland

City Centre Targeted Rate Renewal

Over the past two months, the Auckland City Centre Advisory Board established a working group to consider whether they would support a recommendation to Auckland Council for the renewal of the City Centre Targeted Rate. This rate was established by the former Auckland City Council in 2004 when they reduced the differential general rate on business properties in the city centre. There was general consensus that businesses would pay the difference between what was the existing differential general rate and the reduced rate via a City Centre Targeted Rate. Residential properties would also contribute to this targeted rate but on a Uniform Annual General Charge rather than on property value. Initially this was \$52.00 per residential property per annum and is now \$65.00 per annum. Currently the rate collects around \$23m annually.

The original council resolution dated 23 June 2004 provides –

That all funding received from the CBD financial contributions in accordance with the Central Area Plan be applied to prioritised projects as identified in the CBD Streetscapes and open space upgrade plan.

CCRG need to consider whether they are comfortable with retaining this as the purpose of the CCTR in order to ensure that it is focussed on delivering City Centre Master Plan streetscape and public open space projects, along with destination marketing funding for the two business associations, and resident engagement purposes for CCRG is the best means of ensuring that the CCTR is used for the purposes it was originally designed for.

The meeting noted that the appropriate engagement with the process would be through a submission to Councils Long Term Plan around February 2021.

Waihorotiu/Queen Street Valley Pilot

This project has now completed the three co-design workshops and some minor initiatives will now take place as per the attached. It was very pleasing to see such wide support for the pedestrianizing of W/QSV using only electric link buses, along with the necessary delivery and service vehicles during specified times.

CCRG are seeking information on how the W/QSV Pilot exercise has been funded as the ACCAB allocation of \$600,000 was specifically for the A4E aspects of the Innovation Streets project only.

We are also seeking further information from Auckland Transport on why, and how, they can support the need for some 80+ diesel buses per hour to travel down W/QSV during the period that the Victoria/Albert Street intersection is closed. CCRG are concerned about exposing residents and pedestrians to vehicle and noise emissions that damage their health.

Recommendation

CCRG request that, in the interest of resident and pedestrian health, the Auckland Council family specify that all buses using Waihorotiu/Queen Street Valley from March 2021 be electric in accordance with the agreed, and adopted, Zero Emissions Area and A4E in the City Centre Master Plan, Auckland Councils commitment to the C40 protocol, and WHO guidelines.

CHarvey/MMcKeown

EMC Market/Freyberg Place Management and Operations Plan.

It is now two years since the Ellen Melville Centre upgrade was completed and the street that runs across Freyberg Place was created into a pedestrian mall. The Management and Operations Plan prepared for this space was carried out by Auckland Transport with almost no public input and does not include the neighbouring Ellen Melville Centre.

In the intervening period, a number of critical issues has arisen that need addressing. The most important of these is the disconnection between the management of Ellen Melville Centre and the public open space on Freyberg Place. People wanting to use both spaces are faced with an unnecessarily complicated, and often expensive, process around access and what can be done within each of the spaces.

Recommendation

CCRG present to the Waitemata Local Board Public Forum on 4 February 2021 requesting that the Board initiate a review of the Freyberg Place Management and Operations Plan to incorporate the Ellen Melville Centre and provide for the cohesive and connected use of both spaces by one entity. It is recommended that this entity be the Ellen Melville Centre staff with appropriate delegations.
MSmellie/AParkinson

Financial Report:

Income			
Grants Received:			
Akl Council	701.24		
Membership			
Annual Fee	25.00		726.24
Other Income:			
Nil			0
Total Income			726.24
Distributions			
Marketing			
nil	-	-	
Meet the Candidates			
Flyers	-		
Food	-	-	
Expenses			
Operating			
Bank Fees	0.20		
Dropbox - Doc Mgmt	-		
G Suite - Software	-		
Squarespace - Software	-		
1st Domain- Domain Name	-		
NZ Post - Post Box	-	0.20	
Total Outgoings			0.20
Surplus of Funds			726.04

Statement of Financial Position		
As at 30.11.2020		
Current Assets		
Bank- Main 00	12,425.85	
		12,425.85
Non-Current Assets		
Nil		
Current Liabilities		
Nil		
Total Liabilities		0
NET ASSETS		12,425.85
Represented by:		
Total Funds		
Accumulated Funds		12,425.85
TOTAL FUNDS		12,425.85

Statement of Accumulated Funds			
As at 30.11.2020			
Accumulated Funds - Opening Balance			
			11,699.81
<u>Comprises:</u>			
Grant - Victoria Street Quarter		10,000.00	
Surplus - YE 30.6.2019		1,755.87	
Surplus - YE 30.6.2020		600.43	
Deficit- ME YTD 31.10.20		(656.49)	
<u>Revenue</u>			
Net Surplus - 30.11.20	726.04	726.04	
Total Recognised Revenues & Expenses for the Year			
			726.04
Accumulated Funds - Closing Balance			
			12,425.85

Recommendation

That the financial report to December 2020 be received.
SMaxwell/AParkinson

Guest Presentation:

Chloe Swarbrick, MP for Auckland Central, addressed the meeting and covered a range of key issues for the city centre.

The new Electorate Office is proposed to be located on the corner of K’Road and Symonds Street and will open early in 2021.

A formal working relationship will be established with CCRG to ensure that current issues of concern are addressed with the assistance of the Auckland Central MP.

Formal consultation on the various CRL stations and surrounding streetscapes will begin in early 2021 so CCRG needs to be prepared for this. Initial meetings with CRL staff have taken place and CCRG is engaged on the streetscape/planting suggestions.

The K’Road area is experiencing a range of issues with street people, including some petty crime. For a range of reasons, some of the homeless who were housed in temporary accommodation at the start of the Covid19 outbreak in March, have now been removed and no alternative accommodation is available currently. Requests have been made by local businesses for more Policing, but Chloe advised that she would prefer to see a more practical approach. Maori Wardens are connecting with their whanau but receive virtually no funding, so all are volunteers.

The Downtown area work is proposed to be completed no later than mid 2021 so after a huge amount of disruption that milestone will be a relief to many. Some changes to designs were noted due to both safety and budget constraints. The two small islands that were proposed to be built in the ferry basin to protect



the Quay Street Public Space are considered a safety hazard and will not now be built. A number of Nikau trees that were to be planted outside the ferry building have been deleted from the programme for budgetary reasons.

Businesses in the city centre have expressed their concerns about the impact the works on Waihorotiu/Queen Street Valley are having following the two Covid lockdowns. Chloe noted that banks are prepared to lend more housing investors than they are to businesses and that is a negative influence on both sectors of the economy. More work needed to be done on the concept of shared housing which is relatively new in New Zealand compared to other countries.

The issue of funding for local government was raised noting that in New Zealand local government only gets 11% of government funding whereas in the EU the figure is 25%. Chloe advised that local government does not appear to be politically important to the current government so would not expect to see any additional funding provided in the short term.

Investigations are also underway to consider a possible location in the Domain on the west side of Bowen Street. The Love of Bees and planting projects could be accommodated in that area and be within walking distance of the most residents and students.

A specific request was made for continual support to CCRG for the development of Queens Wharf to be an extension of Waihorotiu/Queen Street Valley and essentially a public open space that provided 24/7 access to the northern end of Queens Wharf for the public.

Recommendation

The MP Chloe Swarbrick be thanked for her attendance and presentation.
Nbuckland/AParkinson

Items for Discussion

Wynyard Quarter

Adam Parkinson updated the meeting including an update that the Headland Park concept plans are making good progress and the 4ha of land involved is being protected as public open space.

Future Meetings

Antony Phillips has requested that the format of CCRG meetings be reviewed to allow more time for CCRGF business. This item is to be included in our first agenda for 2021.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m. noting the next meeting at 5.30 p.m. on 15 February 2021.