

Auckland City Centre Resident's Group

Meeting Minutes 7 September 2020

Helen Clark 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, Richard Northey, Ardeth Lobert, Tika Hasan, Robert McFarlane, Trish Marryatt.

Apologies: Audrey van Ryn, Stephen and Julie Coates, Marjorie McLean, Bryce Bartley, Bruce Ross, Shamila Unka.

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Resolved

That the minutes of the 3 August 2020 meeting be approved as read.
Kathy Ross/Sri Maxwell - Carried

Financial Report:

Current account balance is \$12,499.90 which includes the \$10,000 WLB grant for the Victoria Quarter project referred to in a separate item in these minutes. Seven membership subscriptions were received during the months.

Resolved

That the financial report to 7 September 2020 be received.
Adam Parkinson/Sri Maxwell - Carried

Items for Decision

Due to Covid 2.5 restrictions on event numbers, CCRG have had to change the date for their General Election Forum again. The new confirmed date is now Friday 2 October, Pioneer Women's Hall, Ellen Melville Centre, 6.00 – 8.00 p.m.

The organising committee updated the meeting with the programme and candidate questions for this event. It was agreed that changes be made to the question on the Ngahere Forest Strategy for the organising committee to approve prior to circulation to candidates.

Resolved

That the draft programme for the Meet the Candidates Election Forum on 2 October 2020 be received.
Noelene Buckland/Antony Philips - Carried.

Access for Everyone (A4E) : Waihorotiu Queen Street Valley.

Following the presentation to the 3 August meeting, more research was done on what is being proposed for Waihorotiu/Queen Street Valley (W/QSV) through the A4E/Innovating Streets programme. The information available suggests a move away from what was consulted on for the City Centre Master Plan (CCMP) refresh.

The CCMP made reference to W/QSV as a *'pedestrian friendly, vibrant core to the city centre with quality and zero-emissions public transport i.e. light rail'*. The refreshed plan makes reference to a *'transit mall condition within a zero-emissions zone'* which is a very different concept to what was consulted on. It also provides decades of excuses as to when the ZEA will apply to W/QSV with the use of unquantifiable words such as *'condition'* *'within'* and *'low-emissions'*.

A co-design pilot project has been developed for W/QSV and is being managed by Auckland Council and Auckland Transport with involvement of NZTA. The Auckland City Centre Advisory Board (ACCAB) agenda of 29 July 2020 quotes, *"The pilot will use a co-design approach to work out how to improve the quality of Queen Street within agreed parameters"* and that *"Queen Street will need to accommodate over 50 buses per hour (one way) diverted away from the CRL construction"*.

The climate impact statement on the same agenda comments *'The pilot, being based on Access for Everyone principles, is intended to help work towards a Zero Emissions Area in the Queen Street valley and support a move towards increased take-up of electric vehicles and active transport modes. This will result in better air quality and support healthier streets'*.

This too suggests a considerable lack of will and intention from both Auckland Council and Auckland Transport to do anything with W/QSV other than to develop it as a bus motorway and for as long as they think it is necessary. That brings increased pollution from both diesel engines and noise into what is already a heavily polluted space.

CCRG members consider that these proposals represent a very negative outlook for the development of what should be New Zealand's premier street - a place where people from every walk of life should be able to engage in shopping, visiting, attending events, hospitality venues, celebrate, protest and most importantly do so in a safe and healthy environment.

At the CCRG 3 August meeting it was resolved –

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.

Members discussed the item again and agreed that the CCRG position should not change from what was resolved at our 3 August meeting. There was a very strong consensus that only emissions free vehicles should be permitted on W/QSV and that the health and well-being of residents, workers and visitors, must have priority over bus timetables, noting that this may require bus passengers to walk a little further than they currently do.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.