

Auckland City Centre Residents' Group

Meeting Minutes — August 2nd, 2021

Betty Wark Room, Ellen Melville Centre, commencing 6pm

Present: Antony Phillips (chair), Oscar Sims, CV Shastry, Richard Northey, Chloe Swarbrick, James Hamill, Joe Rich, Julie Coates, Stephen Coates, Jim Familton, Maxine Pfannlich, Michael McKeown, Ardeth Robet, Mik Smellie, Trish Marryan, Robert MacFarlane, Marjorie MacLean, Jeff Hayward, Bhav Buthadia, Danny Hayes, Sri Maxwell, Bruce Ross

Apologies: Noelene Buckland, Helen White, Adam Parkinson

Meeting opened at 6:04pm

1. Financial Report

- Treasurer Sri Maxwell gave a brief verbal update confirming that the financial situation has not changed materially since the previous meeting.

2. Report from Chair Noelene Buckland in absentia

- Light rail team - coming to present in the Helen Clark Room 19th August
- Met with Chloe Swarbrick at Queens Wharf for discussion, along with Robert MacFarlane
- Noted that the light rail team will be attending 8:30 - 12:30 on 21st August at City Centre Markets

3. Decision Items

The three agenda items relating to **CCRG vendor and partnering opportunities, light rail,** and the **city centre bus plan** were read by the chair. No decisions were taken at this meeting.

Some brief discussion over the **city centre amenities plan** was held. Several members present expressed support for the need to provide more comprehensive amenities, including showers. It was noted AT is currently resistant to changes to the plan.

4. Information Items and Updates From Elected Officials

- An update from Auckland Central MP Chlöe Swarbrick was given.

Queens Wharf & Waterfront: On the eastern side of the wharf encroachment of the ferries and fencing is currently occurring. Signage has been changed to allow people to actually go inside the fence. However the fence is still pretty imposing. Chlöe's opinion is that the fencing should

be removed entirely. Currently Panuku are dragging their heels on this because of perceived safety concerns.

Council has been invited to the September CCRG meeting to speak. The Cloud is to be removed this year, Chlöe to follow up with MBIE about what the plans are for the cloud. A public meeting is being held **upstairs in the EMC at noon on Saturday, 14th August** to discuss the future of the waterfront.

Albert Street Businesses: Engaged with the Minister of Transport and the Mayor around the level of disruption that is occurring on that site at the moment. Rates and rents are going up despite the work that has been occurring. Big commercial landlords have not been actively involved in discussions. Question around whether there's an ability to support businesses without them just being gouged by landlords & what form that compensation will take.

City Centre School: Ministry of Education currently being engaged around the future of a city centre school.

- An update from Waitemata Local Board Chair Richard Northey was given.

Queen Street: Board has given feedback on the state of Queen Street - want to bear in mind the long term plans in the CCMP. Current plans don't provide for active transport modes other than walking (e.g. cycling, e-scooters). This is a concern. Richard's opinion is to put light rail up Symonds St and then get the cars out of Queen Street.

Buses: Currently a tradeoff between the number of buses and number of cars. Richard wants to see electrification happen quickly.

- An update from Helen White MP was given on her behalf by Danny Hayes.

Unit title reform: Still progressing. Queensland legislation being used as the model statute

Policing: Helen is currently following up with the Police Minister about city centre policing. Says there is a desire to provide wraparound services - the Rotorua model is currently being looked at. Issue of thefts occurring at the moment.

Helen to attend city centre markets at 9:30 - 12:00 Saturday August 3.

City centre school: Regulations (including number of accessways etc) currently challenging for a 'brownfields' city centre site.

5. General Business and Discussion

Discussion item from Sri Maxwell:

- On policing: desire to see police back in city centre, and particularly being visible
- Chloe says she has spent time with police overnight on Friday night, and found their siren use to be conservative and police to be quite responsive overall. She wants to see Fort St closed off late at night from cars.

General business from Robert MacFarlane:

- August 3rd at 5pm - meeting at Fort and Queen in front of Walker and Hall: walking hui along Queen St - feedback for the changes along lower Queen Street

Discussion item from Michael McKeown:

- Positive to see the images on the windows at Blackett's building to block out vacant tenancies. General agreement that this scheme is a success.

Discussion items from Mik Smellie:

- Vertical Voice
 - Reminder to subscribe to newsletter
- 'Alcohol evening'
 - Panelists are currently being organized for a discussion regarding how applications are made for alcohol licenses etc. Will be an evening event, time TBA.
- Emily Place
 - Residents encouraged to contribute to activation of that space

Discussion item from Julie Coates:

- Old Yates building adjacent to what was Food Alley: question about what is going on there. Project is currently stalled; a bit of a deathtrap with children climbing on it etc.

Meeting closed at 7:03pm