

# Western Adelaide Residents' Association Inc

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 27th September 2017 at the Henley Town Hall

**Attendance:** 22, as per Roll

## **APOLOGIES**

Lisa Brien, Michelle Tucker, Lynn Walsh, Paul Laris, Richard Smith - Received Julie Whitehead, Seconded Angela Vaughan

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Balance at the bank on 7th July 2017 was \$3,454.41 however an un-presented cheque for \$1950 meant we had \$1504 in the bank. Memberships and donations for the last 2 months brought in \$165. Our expenditures totalled \$974 with the major expenses being \$500 donation to Heather Flanagan to help with the Telstra Tower, \$129 for membership to the Conservation Council and \$100 as a Deposit on the Reedbeds Community Centre Hall hire. Our current balance is \$710 and we have \$3000 in our Term deposit.

We are having a film night in November and a Quiz night at the ReedBeds on 10th February 2018.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted - Moved Theo Ellenbroek, Sec Julie Whitehead - carried unanimously.

**The minutes of the Previous Meeting were approved** - Moved Pedro Schultz, Seconded Bert Brown, Carried.

## **Waste Management Presentation**

We were fortunate to have a Presentation on waste management around the world by Guest Speaker Fiona Jenkins, Coordinator Waste + Sustainability for the Charles Sturt Council. Fiona gave a fascinating talk with slides about her visit to Portland Oregon and Flanders Belgium reviewing their systems and how they can be applied here. The presentation will be made available on the WACRA website .

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Henley Library Report**

Pedro Schultz gave a short but triumphant report on the Henley Library and how his actions to form a group called CLAG (Community Library Action Group) had stirred up so much public anger at the proposed shifting and down-sizing of the library, the Council had been forced to back-down and: a) the library will remain in its current site b) there will be no further talk of shifting c) they will explore further uses. The Clag group included 5 WACRA execs and 2 library users and the tactics used to force the back-down were very effective. WACRA was a useful conduit for community consultation.

### **Discovery Trail**

The Coast Park Bike Path has hit a speed hump when a group of residents north of Tennyson Dunes took the Council to the Supreme Court and won. The court ruled in favour of the group based on technicalities - the Council's decision on the placement and direction of the path could not be shown to have been decided in a consultative way. Wacra late last year created a discussion paper that called the path a 'Discovery Trail' which would not be 3m wide or made of concrete but only the Tennyson Dunes Group were prepared to discuss it. The Minister Ian Hunter greatly supports the Tennyson Dunes Group. The State Government is putting up 50% of the cost of the pathway, the rest will be borne by the various Councils.

We would like to have a discussion with Paul Sutton and the Mayor to see if we can help them engage better with the community. Paul Laris can help and many of the committee have been to workshops on community engagement run by Barbara Chapel. Kelvin Brown was worried about damage to the dunes but the state government is committed to having a continuous pathway. There were concerns about pedestrians but there is no option for the path to go down along Military Road for a short distance.

### **Telstra Tower**

Heather Flanagan gave a report on the 10 metre tall Telstra Tower being proposed in East Tce and unfortunately we lost. We want Telstra to disguise the tower. We ended up providing \$1000 to the cause and contributed to an Heritage Architect Report that cost about \$4,000 but we suspect the report was not even read by the ERD Court after Council pulled out of the case. Heather thanked everyone and especially Jim for all that Wacra did.

### **Silting up of the Boat Harbour**

There was a huge public outcry when the Barcoo Outlet and the West Beach boat harbour were built in the late 1990s and we predicted then that the inadequate design and poor science would lead to the boat harbour being choked with seagrass and silt. The govt budgeted for \$750,000 annually to dredge the boat harbour in 1999 but now it runs at an annual cost of \$1.8m. An horrendous waste and cost to the taxpayers. The boat harbour needs to be re-modelled to prevent grass that is being removed simply being brought back in. A study paid by the Council (\$20,000) and the Coastal Protection Board (\$50,000) has been underway to see what can be done to save the sands at West Beach but for much of the time, the data provided by the Coastal Protection Board turned out to be simply wrong. The data has now been fixed and a report is due by the end of November. The issue will be the cost and the looming election. Sea Rescue established their headquarters there but they are now also losing money - it is estimated that it costs \$80 for every boat being launched there. Kurtis Eichler of the Westside Weekly wants to do a story on this.

### **The Planning Act**

A petition is being sent around by Community Alliance expressing concerns with the new Planning Act - it is removing Council representation and the new charter has no community engagement. The Residential Code is simply '1 size fits all'. We have serious concerns especially since the Council would not defend its own DAP decision regarding the Telstra Tower. We need a rally.

The Baju/H2O residential and retail development at Henley Square continues to spew 82,000 litres of water onto Henley Beach daily and while the water is discoloured, it is just rust and is harmless.

### **Heritage Listing**

Theo Ellenbroek reported that there have been 17 new properties added to the Heritage Placement list - making 73 properties meeting most of the requirements. The list is on the YourSay website run by the Charles Sturt Council.

### **The Paid Parking Meters at Henley Square**

Have expired! thanks to the huge public outrage and concerns of the local restaurateurs.

### **Dredging of Port River**

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent and the EPA are having a public consultation at the Henley Sailing Club on 5th October. There are grave concerns that the proposed dredging of the Port River will result in turbid water all along the metropolitan coastline for at least a year, as has happened previously when the spoils were dumped 30 km out to sea. The spoils should be dumped on land.

**Noisy motor cycles** seem to be everywhere these days and if you have a complaint about the noise, ring the SA Police Traffic Watch on 1314444.

Meeting closed at 9:55pm