

# Western Adelaide Residents' Association Inc

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 29th November 2017 at the Henley Town Hall

**Attendance:** 26, as per Roll

## **APOLOGIES**

Barry Stanton, Julie Whitehead, Nancy Faye, Paul Caica, Julie Irwin, Lynn Walsh, David & Tina Schofield, , Andrea Rankin, Calvin and Heather Brown, Rina Cohen

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Correction to the police number for traffic infringements - 13 1444 Moved Pedro, Seconded Bert. Carried Unanimously

## **Treasurer's Report**

Balance \$710.28. We made \$431.89 for the film night. Our Balance now is \$1559.85 and our total including our term deposit is \$3559.88. We are having a Quiz Night on 10th February 2018. Treasurer's Report Accepted. Moved Fernando and seconded by Theo. All carried.

## **Anti-Poverty Network**

We had a presentation by the Anti-Poverty Network - introduced by Paul Laris. Spokesperson Pas explained that they are trying to get local government to help raise awareness that the New Start Allowance of \$269 per week has not risen in 23 years. Ten councils are assisting but the Charles Sturt Council is very reluctant to help; there are 4000 people in Charles Sturt on New Start Allowance - 4000 people who are living fairly stressful lives. Pas addressed the Charles Sturt Council on Monday night and there were 30 people in the audience, many from WACRA. The Network is trying to get local unemployed people to tell their story and want the Council to speak out in favour of increasing the Allowance. The Youth Allowance is even worse than New Start - more than 70% of their money can go on rent. Special thanks were given to Fernando for taking some great photos for the Network.

Mayor Evans said on the night that the LGA had moved a motion to support the increase and there would be no need to vote but she had her facts wrong. Lisa wondered why they did not support it - but no motion was put - Councillor Wood could not find someone to even second a motion but now that there has been more publicity, there may be some more support. Theo said that if recipients received more money that would also help local businesses - not the Stockmarket or the Caymen Islands. Richard checked whether there would be a report by Pas on our website - Pas will write one. Angela thinks that WACRA and the Network is very valuable and it would be good to have some stories about the hardship from their Facebook page. The Network is trying to get free public transport for the Unemployed. A big Vote of thanks by Paul.

**Library Consultation** - Presentation by Pedro. The community, under the banner CLAG (Community Library Action group) fought the plan by Council to shift the Henley library to Henley Square and make a smaller boutique library and CLAG succeeded. The Council caved in to the community pressure and is supposed to upgrade and revamp the library following community consultation. Nothing is happening. The Council planning to shift the West Lakes library to the new Development at AAMI Stadium. CLAG is planning action in the new year. Libraries are very useful especially for those on low income.

**Coastal Pathway** - Val Wales gave a presentation on this long running/cycling/walking drama. The CEPG took the Council to Court and won - 80% of the costs onto the Council - possibly around \$800,000!! Val is part of the Tennyson Dunes Group and they have already mapped out a **Discovery Pathway**, something WACRA has been pushing for.

Tennyson is not CEPG and is now *Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve Group* - they have a Board and a Management Plan - and now have an Aboriginal name for the Dunes meaning 'Shifting Sands' and in conjunction with local aboriginals are planning to make a rain garden. It is also now a restricted area and people must not stray from the path - the trail alignment is a maximum 2m and not concrete. Very little damage to the plants. CEPG not happy with Stephen Mulligan and hope that the Council does not come back with another plan. A big thanks to Val and her group. Theo wondered if there were any reference to tourism, interpretation and signage. Val said the plan was for lots of interpretive signs with Q-codes that can be accessed using mobile phones. The area of contention for the path is between Bournemouth St and Terminus Street and from Cormorant through to Third Avenue. The plan that the Council tried to implement would have lost at least 600 plants as it would have been very intrusive into the Dunes.

**Groundwater and the illegal extraction of water by the Bayview Development.** Paul Laris gave an update on the 7 year fight and the latest plan for the water that currently being dumped out onto the beach. Following discussions with DEWNA, Council, SAWater etc the plan is to re-inject the water back into aquifer and Mike Fuller from DEWNA has offered to come and talk with WACRA - Council is thinking of using part of the parking lane (6 car parks) on Seaview Rd to put the pumps under an extended widened path. No real news. The water is rusty but not dangerous but we want to ensure there is monitoring of the ground water and salinity.

**Civic Trust Brickbat Awards** - Richard Antunes, developer of the Bayview Apartments and Evida, has won 2 brickbats over 2 years - poor planning causing problems in the future - the first award was for not tanking the Bayview site and the one this year was for the redevelopment of Evida in Henley Square which has caused major problems for shops on the east side of Seaview Rd - obscuring their view etc and has resulted in the removal of even more car parks. You can check the Civic Trust website for examples of good developments. Links on our website and Facebook. The Evida development was approved by the Development Assessment Panel - now CAP - 3 elected members of council, 3 independent people and one independent chairman: if a development is deemed to be Category 1 then no-one can put in a submission to oppose it; if Cat 2 then only those people within a 60 metre radius can object; if Cat 3 - open slather The development of Evida was a Category 2 development and was opposed by only 2 people and was strongly supported by the planning people in Council. THE DAP has now been replaced by the Council Assessment Panel - only 1 elected people and 3 experts and 1 independent chairman. The Community Alliance opposes the new Planning Act and they want a Charter to give communities more power. Antunes is amazingly successful with his submissions and he has the temerity to oppose the nearby Greek restaurant Estia's plan to use their upper storey.

### **35 metre high Telstra Tower at 73 East Tce in the historic Conservation Zone.**

A community meeting was held to protest against the Tower which was addressed by many speakers including Paul Caica and a petition was created to put to Telstra a proposal for hiding or cloaking the tower - such as painting it sky blue; however we were asked by Council not to put too much pressure on Telstra as the Council was in sensitive consultations with them. Council spoke with Mark Bolton (State Manager of Telstra) who was concerned by all the public anger and disquiet and all the legal costs being incurred by Telstra, the council and residents. He assured Council that he would be back within 3 days however he instead went on holidays. Three weeks later the Council (Bruce Williams and Paul Sutton - chief Executive Officer of Council) managed to get in touch with the Senior Project Manager - Karen Sullivan, who is the person responsible for the construction of the tower and was told bluntly that Telstra will not be doing anything to hide the tower. Karen wanted it installed by end of January and rejected any assistance of painting or hiding, citing problems with long-term maintenance among other things. Naturally the Council was appalled and wrote a letter saying they were very letdown by Telstra who showed total lack of respect to the Council and the community. Bad words were spoken. Jim was advised of all this just an hour before this General Meeting.

Jim said it is a high-impact tower - responsibility for its location is the State Act - Jim thinks we were let down by Council's DAP in the ERD Court where they were intimidated by Telstra lawyers - reversed costs etc!!!! - Council then reversed its own DAP decision to approve the application and advised the ERD court of that. ***We want compensation for those living near the tower and some way of cloaking the tower.***

We have a letter from Mitch Fifield advising us that the Feds do not control - so Jim has suggested we should write to all the politicians (Senators Fifield, Georganis, Rau and Steve Mulligan and the Premier) now, with the State election due and see if a meeting can be set up with Telstra to resolve this.

We could also blockade the site. Maybe even taking it to the Media straight-away. The main opponent is corporate Telstra. Angela Vaughan thought any blockade should be connected though consultation using social media. Theo wondered about the tower being 'High Impact' - it is related to high frequency waves - G5 system - need more power - the phone is the most dangerous part of it. He would like to see the letter Sutton sent to Telstra. Peter queried if there were alternate sites for the tower. The Baywater Development blocked the old tower and so it was turned off. Richard said the matter should be referred to the Exec and discuss compensation.

**West Beach / Henley Beach Study** - details can be found on our Facebook page. Still awaiting a scientific report from DHL at Flinders. 30,000 cubic metres of sand has been moved recently from the Mouth of the Torrens to West Beach - unstable. Photo taken by Save West Beach Sands.

**Urban Heat Islands** - presented by Pedro who attended a conference - heat profiles taken by plane 3km up - trees make a huge difference - much cooler roads - light and dark roofs - irrigated cooler than non-irrigated. Artificial grass as hot as Bitumen. High Density development create heat islands. Great implications for tree planting etc. concern about trees within 10m of building - only Eucalyptus are protected - lots are now unprotected.

**Shine Hub** - a report by Richard Smith - it is a broker for solar panels and batteries and inverters - if you can afford to buy it straight up, it is the best option. There is a Second scheme relating to community purchase. Tesla battery has 6 month waiting list. A Conservation Council initiative but only open until 16th December.

### **Dredging of Outer Harbour - proposal by Flinders Port**

There is a plan to dredge Outer Harbour to cater for the larger container ships now able to come through the Panama Canal. It is a huge issue and is much bigger than the dredging of Port River which caused huge problems with turbidity in 2005-6 and for many years after..

They plan to dredge a huge area- 12km x 8km width and remove 1.55 million cubic metres of spoil. Tenders have been called and close 13th December 2017. *Friends of Gulf St Vincent* - Blue Swimmer No 28 has a full report with arguments for any submission that people might like to use. Please check on the Facebook. We suggest that all the spoil be put on land - not dumped out to sea. The Economics do not stack up if you take into account the environmental damage.

Marilyn wondered about the contamination of the spoils - a report by the research project on the damage caused by the previous dumping at sea is a restricted document. Jim related a priceless story about Scorseby Shepherd who was one of a dozen scientists who wrote an open letter complaining about the potential damage of the boat harbour. .

Paul Laris commented that putting spoil on land may help with sea-level rise. Also jet skis are back - within 200m - phone police after 1st December 13 1444

Meeting closed at 10pm.