

Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Association Inc

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 31st January 2018 at the Henley Town Hall

Attendance: 24, as per Roll

APOLOGIES

Paul Caica, John Howie, Angela Vaughan, Lionel Edwards, Richard Smith & Marg Easson, John Flannigan, Lynn Walsh, Bert Brown - *Apologies Received* - Moved Fernando, Seconded Marilyn, Carried.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: *Correct record of the meeting* Moved Pedro, Seconded Theo. Carried Unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Chrissy Shultz reported that our Working Balance is \$1,098.88 and our Total Balance which includes our term deposit is \$3,148.88

The Quiz Night next month looks promising with 11 tables booked. Chrissy would like the names of the attendees if possible. Many wonderful prizes. The Hall hire includes a \$500 bond in the \$675 hire. *The Report was accepted* - Moved Marilyn, Seconded Paul, Carried.

AGENDA ITEMS

Torrens River Wetlands Breakout Creek

Anne Wheaton displayed slides of the wetlands on the overhead screen to illustrate the proposed stage 3 development of the wetlands from Tapleys Hill Rd to the sea. Wacra has met with Minister Hunter, spoken to the Chairman of NRM Board and there has been lobbying.

Nothing in theory is holding up the implementation of the wetlands - It is ready to go - all obstacles have been removed but now the Govt has to fund the Concept Plan by the NRM Board - it just needs final consultation and we hope for a positive response before the election. At the moment there is 1.6km of concrete drain and general mess. The horses will be taken away from the actual wetlands and located about 300m down from the bridge, near Apex Park where some stables have already been built. There is no timeline at the moment but conditions will be attached about the horses to ensure a non-replacement policy.

Beccy said we should always involve the indigenous people when talking about environmental developments. A mapping has already been done from the 'Ranges to the Sea' by Karl Telfer and Gavin Malone and they have marked all the locations along the river that have significance. Breakout Creek was constructed in 1933. Pedro said the purpose of the Creek was to prevent flooding and can cope with a 1 in 200 year flood.

Greg Cashel said that about 200 people are involved in a Park run or walk each Saturday morning and they would greatly endorse the wetlands - the smell from the horses can be particularly strong. The Horse Arena could be transformed to perhaps a community garden, some pop-up cafes. SA Water owns the land but it is managed by Council. We may need to have a street meeting with those whose houses back up on the arena. Theo pushed for an amphitheatre at the end of the Creek. Not sure about the weir.

Paul suggested that all the candidates should be approached before the election and Rae asked about the Fish Ladders.

The Future of the Henley Library

Pedro Schultz gave an update - CLAG discovered that Councillor Randall had bragged that the Council had a 'done-deal' to move the library to Henley Square before the whole move was squashed by the community backlash. The Council's current focus is on the West Lakes library and a consultation regarding the Henley Library will take place in a couple of months. CLAG stressed the importance of the childrens' service that happens at Henley and suggested strongly that a permanent staff member be installed who is in touch with the community. Talks of an Imagination Cafe and talking to the non-users of the library.

There is a discussion paper being released on the Council's website on the future of public consultation - a WACRA subgroup will be involved.

Telstra Tower

Anne Wheaton said a petition had been put to Telstra to put up a shroud to hide the tower. A meeting was held with Bruce Williams, the General Manager of CS, along with many from Telstra. Discussion about the colour of the shroud - Heather had found there was a shroud on a pole at Semaphore - Paul Sutton chaired the meeting - our community did not want a standard mono-pole. Chrissy's mock-up of a tower was very useful. Our final colour selection was Bluebell but Telstra will only have Grey Blue, but a joinder of the action wants a Blue Grey and so a further meeting arranged. The next meeting will be on 6th February. Telstra said there will be more towers coming. Heather Flannigan said that it was unfair for the Joinder to be allowed to pick the colour. Charles Sturt Council will pay for the painting and the design. Heather Brown said the process of the power of the one-joinder was particularly galling.

A proposed vote by the meeting on the choice of colour was abandoned - the preferred colour was too difficult.

Dredging of Outer Harbour

Jim, together with FOGSV and the Pt Adelaide Environment Residents' Association, met with the EPA and were shown maps of what would happen with dredging in the summer or winter time. In 2005 dredging in the Summer had led to lots of turbidity for months right down to Christies Beach. This time there is talk of a different type of dredging - silk screening and whether the spoil which will total 1.5 million cubic metres (!!!) would it be dumped out at sea or put onto land. SCAP is the very exclusive State Commission Assessment Panel assigned to hear objections to the proposal. Pedro and Jim gave a presentation to SCAP opposing the dredging where they suggested that maybe different bigger ports could be utilised instead. The first presentation was by Flinders Ports who manage the Harbour who stressed the value of the dredging to the State and job creation - little about the environmental impact. Pedro told the committee that 'dumping at sea was last century method' and cited the Policy of the State of New Jersey that 'dredged material is a natural valuable resource'. Flinders Ports said it would be an economic disaster to try to put the spoil on land.. However, there are many places where the dredged material would be so useful on land. Pedro thought best to do the dredging small-scale and put it all on land over the next 5 years. In 2005 there was 20,000 hectares of seagrass lost - 2 km x 10km. And the seagrasses have not recovered - so Flinders Ports were arguing to reuse it again! There needs to be more scrutiny and monitoring by the EPA. There is also big concerns about the dolphins. We don't expect a response til after the election. The Committee will report to the Minister.

Jim & Pedro will meet again with the EPA, along with FOGSA and Pt Adelaide Environment group. Mark Parnell was not allowed to attend the SCAP conference as an observer, despite him believing that it should be a Major Project. The EPA Report should have been made available and is still not released.

Becky thanked Jim and Pedro for all their work and how important it is to consider other options about the dredging. Charles Sturt Council, with 11km of beaches, did not want to be involved as Port Adelaide/Enfield Council initially did not see any problems with it.

Estcourt House

Theo Ellenbroek, our Planning, Development and Heritage Officer for Wacra reported that Mr Jercovic of Royal Park Salvage wants to knock the building down and build a retirement home there. Theo has put in an objection to the Charles Sturt Council as it is a State Heritage property - it is an aesthetic important and much prized landmark. It would be a great historical item on the Coast Park.

Pedro read a letter from Stephen Mulligan saying that it was very unlikely to go ahead and included a link on his website to help oppose the demolition.

Community Alliance

There is a great concern about the current state of Planning and consultation - a rally will take place on Sunday 4th March at 1pm outside Parliament House. The Major Project Status is very problematic. The opinions of candidates will be canvassed.

The Ground Water Saga

We are still waiting to have a meeting with Mr Fuller for SA Water. Nothing has changed.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Community Engagement Policy

Becky Llewellyn talked about Community Engagement and the new policy being proposed by Charles Sturt Council and she had great concerns that the Council may be trying to shut down the consultation and engagement that occurred with the library saga. The new policy has several key elements missing such as 'Principles' and 'consultation' - all the power will be given to CEO who has denigrated the power and use of the YourSay website. There is a need to retain a lot of the existing policy. The new policy will permit the minimum consultation. Becky appealed to the meeting that we make everyone aware of what is happening to the consultation process. The Council failed to finish off properly the consultation over Coast Park and was severely punished in the Supreme Court - they are trying to make the Policy as general as possible..

We want to extend the closing date of the consultation process - we need the Mayor and CEO and the officer responsible to front the community and explain what the policy is really about. We want the consultation process to be extended by a month - moved Heather, Seconded Pedro, Carried unanimously.

The council has invited WACRA to comment on the policy.

Meeting closed 9:15 pm