

GM minutes 23 February 2021

Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Marilyn Bruhn, Marty Cielens, Cathy and Peter Crotti, Marg Easson, Lionel Edwards, Heather and John Flanagan, Alan Goldsmith, Ros and Bob Herbert, Julie Irwin, Iris Iwanicki, Tina Koch, Becky Llewellyn, Helen Manning, Tom Mathews, Pria Mitra, Geoff Short, Kate Smith, Cr Tom Scheffler, Chris Schultz, Anna Shepard, Richard Smith, Angela Vaughan, Anne Wheaton, Rick and Ros Whitehead

Acceptance of minutes

GM minutes 15 December 2020

Moved: Jim Douglas

Seconded: Pedro Schultz

Treasurer's report

Financial report (see <http://wacra.org.au/news-events/meetings/>)

Includes a donation of a crepe myrtle to Charles Sturt Council

Moved: Jim Douglas

Seconded: Deb Cashel

Chairperson's report

Thank you to the teams who have been involved in various meetings.

The AGM is 27 April – it's an opportunity to join the Committee.

Guest speakers

Proposed Henley Library and Community Hub Development and Concept Plan

Bruce Williams, General Manager City Services, City of Charles Sturt

Craig Daniel, Manager of Urban Projects, City of Charles Sturt

Jackie Stretton, Manager Community Connections, City of Charles Sturt

Yan-Yan Ho, Brown Falconer architects

A detailed Concept Plan is expected to be open for community comment end of March.

General business items

1. Climate Emergency Group (CEG)

Julie Whitehead reporting

Since the last GM, two CEG members Kate Denton and Pedro Schultz presented deputations on behalf of WACRA to the CCSC meeting of 25 January 2021. They pointed out that though CCSC has been proactive in declaring a climate emergency, this commitment was not reflected in their funding allocation. In effect there has been tree loss, reduced biodiversity and the City of Charles Sturt has one of the poorest canopy covers in Adelaide. Kate's presentation highlighted continuing effective reductions in the operational budget for greening action, and Pedro's presentation considered strategic implications for Council actions to increase tree cover. Both deputations are available on the Council's website, Agenda and Minutes for Council meeting 25 January if you wish to read them. Their intention was to try to inform and influence Council before core budget decisions were made.

Since then, CEG has written to Council requesting details of their response. Yesterday a reply was received from Sam Higgins, Manager Open Space, Recreation and Property. He advises that it is too early for details of Council action to be known as this is dependent on the Council's budget allocation. He also invited people to have a say through the Council's consultation portal www.yoursaycharlessurt.com.au. Final budget decision making is likely to be in April. Please add your voice if you feel passionate about this.

Other actions taken by the CEG include sending an email to Janet Willoughby, Open Space Community Planner at CCS, offering to work with Council in improving canopy by supporting the development of verges. She is happy to meet and assist us, especially when we have identified some areas (streets) to develop.

A positive pointer to you taking action, a local resident sent me a picture of a public space in Henley showing four dead young trees. I contacted Council who explained the background, quickly took action, and advised me of this.

CEG met a week ago and further developed plans for a 'My Tree' project to commence in 2021 with outcomes in 2022. Preparatory work this year will involve contacting schools aiming to initiate or expand their existing programs in tree planting by students. This could be at their homes, in schools, or in public places. It could be natives, fruit trees, bushes and/or other cover. Grants, donations and partners will be sought for this project. Developing verges could be included, involving raised garden beds and verge education kits. Workshops on propagation are being planned, a forum with guest speakers, and an art exhibition are also a possibility (COVID dependent). Please contact CEG if you'd like to be involved <http://wacra.org.au/climate-emergency/>.

CEG members have met with a variety of people and community groups, expanding our links and network – Council, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Unley Greening, Sustainable Prosperity Action Group (SPAG). One of CEG'S early stated goals was to work with AdaptWest on mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. At the last GM, Jeremy Miller and Janet Willoughby speak passionately about this. Jeremy mentioned a two-day workshop on how to be involved in taking action on climate change. The first Red Cross Climate Ready Community Workshop will be 27 Feb and 13 March, and another is planned sometime in April. At least three CEG members will participate in these but everyone is welcome – you can find out more and book at <https://www.adaptwest.com.au/events>.

Details of these and other upcoming events will be on the WACRA Facebook page. If you don't already like the WACRA Facebook page this is a good way to keep up to date with what's happening. Unley Voices for Climate Action are having a community forum Tues 9 March 7-9pm, speaker is Ian Tooley from Gawler Council. The focus will be getting Unley Council to declare a Climate Emergency.

On Fri 19 March 11am there will be another SS4C (School Strike for Climate) protest in Victoria Square. COTA (Council on the Aging) have formed a group similar to ours to increase community awareness and skills in mitigating climate change.

There is a growing movement amongst the community in response to the climate emergency. WACRA'S CEG is over a year old and much has been achieved.

Thanks to all the members of the CEG who are proactive, making contacts, getting information, thinking creatively and regularly contributing to the group and our community. Pedro Schultz has formally resigned from the group but remains an advisor. Thanks Pedro.

Cr Kenzie van den Nieuwelaar: Kate and Pedro's deputations were well received by Council

Raelene Marnham: regulated and significant trees need to be mapped, so it will be good to have that presentation at a future meeting

The verges policy is good – there are some useful regulations. Does Council regulate what new houses put on their verge? Residents can report it to Council.

2. Coastal Management Group

Jim Douglas reporting

Sand carting to West Beach

Where that sand will come from is still unidentified. The Coastal Reference Group (the state government set this group up at the insistence of WACRA) is meant to deal with interest groups. Meetings have been volatile at times and WACRA has raised concerns about how the project is proceeding. How will they mass fill West Beach with this vast amount of sand and how will they hold it in there as sand moves? Beaches north are wider and deeper because that is the direction of sand. The project plans to take massive volumes of sand from these northern beaches.

The state govt has been looking at Port Stanvac re sand mass fill but they don't know if it's contaminated or suitable. We don't know at this stage where the sand will come from.

Adelaide's Living Beaches: A Strategy for 2005 2025 (Department for Environment and Heritage) <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/public/coasts/coastline35.pdf> is a relevant document.

WACRA met with the Coastal Protection Board 220221 and were asked for a history of the coastal region around sand carting etc. Key questions asked:

- Have they looked at all the alternatives, the science, research papers etc?
- The presiding member was actively listening. Why don't they bring in outside experts – someone independent – to do some modelling and trials?
- Would temporary groynes be effective (as per Brighton and Hove)?

Geoff Short will report back on what is said to Reference Group (meeting 230221). They have engaged consultant Doug Lord. There is a ministerial directive that says 'there will be a pipeline'. The consultation process is flawed.

Inquiry into operations of the Coastal Protection Board – there will be a meeting 240221 with Mark Parnell and others.

Coastal shared pathway

Grange to Semaphore Park – Stages 1 and 2

State government is now involved under Vickie Chapman – they have taken over the implementation and construction of the pathway. The plan for Stage 1 is already available. It's mainly a concrete path about 3ms wide. WACRA has come up with an improved concept. There are at least 5 other groups involved, so WACRA has tried to speak to spokespeople in other groups to set up a consultation process to determine commonalities. Six groups met. WACRA and the Tennyson Dunes groups had the most fixed positions. The Discovery Trail should be retained – all groups agree.

- It was decided that there were questions to ask the Minister re proposals for Stage 1. The letter was sent 230221 with 4 major signatories representing 4 groups.
- Stage 2 – southern end – there are a couple of questions only at this stage. Difficult section to determine.

Over 70% of the community supported the pathway when a survey was done approximately 18 months ago.

Breakout Creek

Work will begin in spring. Horses will be removed through natural attrition. They have 25% of the original area (50% of the southern bank) so shouldn't cause problems for planting.

3. Council Connect Group

Planning and Design Code update

Jim Douglas reporting

The Community Alliance group have done lots of work around this – heritage, urban infill, parks, design etc. WACRA have been very active in this process and with our own Council. Once the Code is introduced (19 March is the startup date), the 2016 Planning and Development Act will be dismissed. Any development going to Council will be measured on the Code. We will see higher buildings, less tree planting, more infill, more cars on our roads. It will not be to the advantage of our society. The large changes wanted by the community were not made. Councils will have to abide by the Code which is a 'one size fits all'. Community Alliance group are meeting 250221 re the Waite Gatehouse campaign, marking heritage spaces. They will discuss targeting marginal seats in the next election. WACRA will look to support this strategy. Ugly, out-of-scale buildings are a concern. Power will be taken out of the hands of ordinary people and put in the hands of 'experts', via a portal. It is not a simple procedure and needs fixing.

Question: Categories 2 and 3 – what happens in the code?

Answer: Paul Laris and Jim Douglas don't know

Dangers on Seaview Road

Paul Laris reporting

Letter re bike rider death 010121 – Kenzie van den Nieuwelaar says an investigation is underway. Police need to advise on the outcome before Council can proceed to action anything.

4. Antunes Illegal Water Drain - Legal Action

Paul Laris reporting

Paul Laris and Deb Cashel met with Matt Cowdrey re the continuing problem with groundwater being pumped onto the beach for the last 10 years.

October 2020 – the Department for Environment and Water issued Antunes a notice (section 707) requiring action. The Dept has taken further actions but nothing has happened. Paul has asked for Freedom of Information around this but nothing has happened as yet. He has asked for an internal review. Information might be available within the next 2 weeks.

6. AOB

Telstra Tower Campaign - Grange

372 submissions will have to be addressed by the Council Assessment Panel. These submissions have gone to Telstra who comment first, then it goes to Council who action it. It could take time – April, May, June. It will be a slow process.

Vacancy on Adelaide Airport Consultation Committee

Re changes to be made at Adelaide Airport – is anyone interested? If yes, let Bert Brown know.

Next meeting: AGM Tuesday 27 April 2021

Meeting closed 8.57pm