

**Auckland City Centre Resident's Group**

**Minutes 2 March 2020**

**Betty Wark Room, Helen Melville Centre, commencing 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Tom Morton, Ardeth Lobet, Michael McKeown, Bruce Ross, Noelene Buckland, Kerrin Leoni, Joe Rich, Rosemary Wright, Daniel Twinn, Audrey van Ryn, Mik Smellie, David Roos, Antony Phillips, Adam Parkinson, Jennie Hillas.

**Apologies:** Emily Reeves, Julie Peters, Tim Coffey, Marjorie MacLean, Paul McLucke and Kerrin Leoni for lateness.

**Chair:** Noelene Buckland

**Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the 3 February 2020 meeting be approved as read with the addition of an apology from Audrey van Ryn.

**Tom Morton/Adam Parkinson.**

**Guest Presentation:**

Rick Bidgood, Manager Parking Enforcement and Alok Vashista, Parking Design Manager presented on how/why the current parking regime works in the city centre, how it is enforced and the principal design components of the system.

**Recommendation**

The Rick Bidgood and Alok Vashista be thanked for their presentation.

Noelene Buckland/Jennie Hillas

**Financial Report: Feb 2020**

Category	Total
Operational Expenses	
Administration	
Email (Google G-Suite)	(\$293.43)
<b>Administration Total</b>	<b>(\$293.43)</b>
<b>Operational Expenses Total</b>	<b>(\$293.43)</b>

The Treasurer recommended that CCRG obtain a Visa debit card to reduce time and administration delays with refunds etc.

**Recommendation**

That the financial report for February 2020 be received and the Treasurer be authorised to obtain a Visa Debit Card for CCRG purposes.

**David Roos/Adam Parkinson**

## Items for Decision.

Meeting dates for the July 2020 – June 2021 year were discussed. All meetings will be on the first Monday of the Month except for Public holidays when the following Monday will be used.

### **Recommendation**

That CCRG approve the following meeting dates from July 2020 – June 2021. 6 Jul  
2020 - 6 July, 3 August, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November, 7 December  
2021 – 8 February, 8 March, 12 April, 3 May, 14 June.

**Noelene Buckland/Adam Parkinson**

## Submissions/Consultation

Submissions/Consultations on Auckland Councils Annual Budget, the Waitemata Local Board Plan and the review of Council Controlled Organisations took place.

Information on council's annual budget is on this link - <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/topics-you-can-have-your-say-on/annual-budget-2020-2021/Pages/default.aspx>

Specific topics council has asked for feedback on before 22 March are -

1. a proposed increase to the waste management targeted rate to cover the recycling revenue shortfall
2. a proposed increase to refuse rates for former Auckland City and Manukau City ratepayers
3. a proposed increase to the targeted rate for the Waitakere rural sewerage service
4. a proposed change to the way we charge for pool fencing inspections.

The meeting considered the much broader need to focus on improved and reliable public transport with more emphasis on greener city centres. One of the issues that is of increasing concern was the unreliability of public transport timeframes with most of this caused by not having designated lanes across the region for bus services. The other issue was that the city centres was becoming more intensively developed and this usually comes at the cost of open public space and trees/gardens. These latter were noted as being the lungs of the city centres and, given how easy it is to grow trees/plants in Auckland, appeared to provide one of the best means of improving our air quality. Members also expressed a concern about noise pollution, and especially during night hours.

### **Recommendation**

That CCRG provide feedback to Auckland Councils Annual Plan on the proposed waste management targeted rate, the increase in refuse rates in the former Auckland City area, funding for more reliable public transport initiatives and for planting/greening programmes in the city centre.

**Noelene Buckland/Antony Phillips**

Information on the WLB Plan is on this link - <https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waitemataplan>

## Discussion

Similarly Board had previously identified the following questions that they would like to discuss -

1. How can we best celebrate Māori identity and culture in Waitemātā?
2. Tell us about how you get around Waitemata and any challenges you face with this?
3. How can we best support local businesses?
4. Tell us about the council facilities that you use (e.g. parks, libraries, pools, community centres, etc). What is good about them, what isn't, and what needs aren't being met at all?

Waitematā is the home to diverse communities, how do the services and events in the area satisfy you, your family and your communities' needs?

5. What can we do to protect and enhance our local environment, both built and natural, such as heritage buildings, waterways and biodiversity?
6. What more can we do at a local level to respond to climate change?

If members could bring to the meeting one written response to each of the two questions we will be able to share these at the meeting and agree on our priorities.

#### **Recommendation**

That CCRG provide feedback to the WLB on the 2020/21 WLB Plan using the Outcome headings of the Auckland Plan as the template.

**Adam Parkinson/Mik Smellie**

Information on the review of Council Controlled Organisations is on this link -

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/topics-you-can-have-your-say-on/review-council-controlled-organisations/Pages/default.aspx>

The five CCOs being reviewed are:

1. [Auckland Transport \(AT\)](#)
2. [Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development \(ATEED\)](#)
3. [Panuku Development Auckland](#)
4. [Regional Facilities Auckland \(RFA\)](#)
5. [Watercare.](#)

The independent review panel has been asked to look into :

- the CCO model, roles and responsibilities;
- CCOs' accountability and responsibility to Auckland Council and Aucklanders;
- CCOs' culture;

The panel will then provide recommendations to ensure:

- the services CCOs provide are efficient and effective;
- their decision-making has satisfactory levels of political oversight, public transparency, and accountability.
- the legislative changes made to implement the 2010 reorganisation in Auckland are complex and apply ONLY to Auckland. The focus of that reorganisation was to create one council, from the former seven, and to separate the strategic and operational functions of the CCO's from undue political intervention.

While some aspects of this have worked well, some have not been as effective. From CCRG's perspective the primary issue was that they needed to be able to hold elected members to account for the performance of the CCO's and especially if they were funded from council rates.

It was noted that each CCO is required to prepare an annual Statement of Intent (SOI). The purpose of a statement of intent is to—

- (a) state publicly the activities and intentions of a council-controlled organisation for the year and the objectives to which those activities will contribute; and
- (b) provide an opportunity for shareholders to influence the direction of the organisation; and
- (c) provide a basis for the accountability of the directors to their shareholders for the performance of the organisation.

Auckland Council, the governing body, has the opportunity to require some changes to the SOI but it is unclear as to whether, or how, this guarantees that elected members can be held accountable for the performance of the CCO's. More importantly, there did not appear to be a specific focus on who was co-ordinating the various work programmes

of the governing body and the CCO's which would be a key strategic requirement if Auckland is to become the World Class City it aspires to.

It was noted that a Drop In session would be held on Thursday 19 March 12pm-2pm (Pioneer Women's Hall, Ellen Melville Centre) and that CCRG members were welcome to attend.

It was considered useful for CCRG to establish a small team to prepare a draft submission for members to consider prior to submitting to the review panel.

**Recommendation**

That Noelene Buckland and Adam Parkinson prepare a draft submission to the CCO review for member approval.

**Adam Parkinson/Noelene Buckland**

**General Business/Discussion/Information**

Work Programmes in the City Centre.

Those present discussed their increasing concern about the quantum of infrastructure works going on in the city centre. The impact of CRL/AT's work programmes on both residents and business in the city centre needs to reconsider Resource Consent conditions around disruption, noise, and time limits with penalties for not meeting these condition.

Also of concern was the number of trees that have been destroyed (60 alone by CCRL) in the city centre. The Chair had held a number of meetings recently to determine how and when these were to be replaced. CCRL's policy is a 1 for 1 replacement within the CRL project area but no information was available on how, who, when and exactly where this is to occur. Relevant CRL staff will address our 6 April meeting to discuss the above with a request that this work start immediately e.g. trees in planter boxes, hanging gardens, pot plants, etc. to soften the harsh surrounding of the various CRL sites.

The lack of public toilets in the Britomart area was also causing issues for nearby residential properties and a proposed resolution to this will be discussed further at the meeting.

A follow up on the Laneway Event will be discussed at the April meeting, along with the Convention Centre fire and the preparedness of city apartment buildings for emergencies such as the coronavirus.

It was noted that there is considerable pressure being asserted by SkyCity to move the regional bus terminal out of their premises in Hobson Street, despite it being a condition of their original resource consent.

The meeting agreed that CCRG should support the current Bus Terminal at Sky City, which has been consented for 999 years, is on council owned land and whose existence has been factored into numerous planning decision in the city centre over the past 25 years. This position will be included in CCRG's submission to the WLB Annual Budget consultation on Tuesday 3 March.

Further information about this facility is available on these links -

<https://www.greeterauckland.org.nz/2020/02/25/aucklands-wonderful-long-distance-bus-terminal/>

<https://www.ngatiwhatuorakeiwhairawa.com/news-and-media/press-releases-and-media/our-response-to-planned-regional-bus-terminal/>

**Next Meeting**

Monday 6 April at Ellen Melville Centre starting with a committee meeting at 5.30pm, to discuss business matters, followed by the CRL presentation at 6.30 p.m.

**Members are reminded to note the agreed change of meeting format above.**



**Meeting Closed** at 8.30 p.m.