

Auckland City Centre Resident's Group

Meeting Minutes 3 February 2020

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

Present: Noelene Buckland, Adam Parkinson, Graeme Doherty, Michael McKeown, Ardeth Lobet, Tim Coffey, Jennifer Hillas, Tom Morton, Marjorie MacLean, Mik Smellie, Antony Phillips, Dan Hays.

Apologies: Emily Reeves, Paul McLucke, Bruce Ross, David Roos, Audrey van Ryn

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Resolved

That the minutes of the 4 November 2019 meeting be approved as read.

Michael McKeown/Adam Parkinson

Guest Presentation:

Kurt Timmins from Ellen Melville Centre addressed the meeting from 6.00 – 7.00 pm. on ways the CCRG might help transform the EMC from an event centre to a community centre. EMC is currently not well funded, but that is expected to change from 1 July this year. The centre opens every day from 8.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. with a demonstrated need for that to be extended as funding permits, for more staff/resources. Volunteers are welcome but they also need good facility managers to support their work.

CCRG suggestions included –

Changing the name to the Ellen Melville Community Centre

Involving CCRG in both the Operational Plan for the centre and the Management Plan for Freyberg Place and incorporating the whole area into one management plan.

Noise management conditions for EMC need to be monitored to ensure no nuisance to nearby residential buildings.

CCRG should be a part of the community hire programme not a paying hirer.

First aid courses would be useful and welcome.

More focus on a resident “drop-in” centre.

Tai Chi would be useful using volunteer coaches with timing to fit normal work schedules.

A book exchange will get underway shortly.

Involvement in the election process around enrolments and as a voting booth on election day.

Other suggestions included the Blood Bank use, Sign Week, Maori Language week.

Also suggested was a regular Pot Luck dinner prepared in the centre's kitchen.

Rooms are ideal for apartment Body Corporate meetings – Noelene to promote to the Auckland Body Corporate Chairs' Group.

Better relationships with both Auckland Universities – Noelene to provide contacts.

Resolved

The Kurt Timmins be thanked for his presentation and that the CCRG agree to work with EMC staff to realise the community centre status of the facility. That CCRG (Adam) write to the WLB in support of Residents' aspirations for the Centre.

Antony Phillips/Tom Morton.

Financial Report:

There has been no activity since the 4 November meeting so the financial report will be presented to the 2 March meeting.

CCRG financial Expenses incurred by Adam Parkinson of \$293 for GSuite account and 220.78 for Dropbox Account were submitted for reimbursement.

Resolved

That Adam Parkinson be reimbursed \$293 for GSuite account and 220.78 for Dropbox Account being expenses related to CCRG administration subject to approval by the Treasurer.

Noelene Buckland/Tom Morton

Items for Decision.

Wynyard Point Open Space: Panuku

Fiona Knox, from Panuku, presented to the CCRG December meeting about the proposed open space park at the end of Wynyard Point. Those discussions will also form a part of the waterfront strategy work that CCRG will be discussing with Auckland Council as part of our agreement to withdraw our appeal against the Quay Street Public Space.

In the meantime, Panuku framed some questions for CCRG to assist in providing feedback to them on what the preference is for the Headland Park area at Wynyard Point.

Below are the questions to be addressed and the agreed responses -

1. Character of the location that makes it distinctive – distance from other buildings, large scale with the capacity to have impact, open space on the water's edge, unobstructed views to the harbour.
2. Continuation of the green link axis from Daldy Street to the destination park – YES. A connected green corridor between two large green parks (Victoria and Wynyard) is a key aspect of this location and this pedestrian access needs to be protected at all times.
3. Coastal breeding and nesting habitat for the sea birds roosting along the western edge – encourage this as part of the environmental heritage of the area.
4. Public access at the edges and the seawall edge conditions – definitely public access to the water with either timber or rock supporting structures and safe seawater swimming space/s, e.g. Viaduct Harbour. Clarification is required as to the status of the 0.8ha of public open space proposed to be moved from the west side Wynyard Point to the East side as this appears to reduce the available open recreation space by 0.8ha.
5. Shelter from the prevailing south westerly and the north easterly winds – not critical as shelter often obstructs views but clever landscaping/planting should alleviate major wind impact on recreation use.
6. Public open space activities along the green link (0.8ha) and the park (4ha). Possibly, but it is unclear what is meant by public open space activities. The main purpose must be public open space for recreational purposes that do not require large buildings.
7. Working waterfront activities in Jellico Harbour - totally supported including the return of the fishing fleet when not being used for marine events.
8. Wynyard Wharf as a public space and the inter-tidal space (15m) between the wharf and the eastern seawall edge – Yes, although that depends on the definition of public space. A road is a public space and that is not what CCRG want to see in this area, however, it is well suited as a space for access to seawater swimming spaces and similar activities.

In addition, CCRG members felt strongly that the Headland Park and the 0.8ha connecting space to the Daldy Street Linear Park should be designated as Recreation Reserve with the current Americas Cup spaces on the East

of Wynyard Wharf, plus the Hobson Wharf Extension designated Local Purpose Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

The reasons for this are to ensure that the total 4.8ha of public open space is permanently protected for that purpose. Similarly, the area on Wynyard Wharf being used for the current Americas Cup, and the Hobson Wharf extension, need to be reserved for marine event space as and when required. Auckland should have a marine events space and the Wynyard/Jellico/Halsey/Hobson area is the right location for that activity. CCRG want this area protected in perpetuity for these uses. CCRG would prefer to see no buildings on the Hobson Wharf extension as these totally block views of the harbour from the public space on Eastern Wharf. Temporary structures such as a marine event communications centres would be considered an acceptable use on the Hobson Wharf extension.

Members are very supportive of the proposals that were outlined in the 2007 DRAFT CBD Waterfront Masterplan along with the 7 February 2005 draft Wynyard Point Concept Vision and the 2012 Waterfront Plan. There was no support for any iconic/signature building on the 4.0 ha of Headland Park space although this could be located in the commercial area to the south of the Headland Park, and be a commercial venture rather than a ratepayer expense.

The five goals of the 2012 Waterfront Plan – A blue-green waterfront, a public waterfront, a smart working waterfront, a connected waterfront and a liveable waterfront are supported by CCRG.

Owing to a lack of information, members were unable to form a view on the future of the VEC.

Resolved

That CCRG provide the agreed comments to Panuku in relation to the proposed Headland open space park at Wynyard Point.

Noelene Buckland/Adam Parkinson.

New Year's Eve Event: ATEED

Auckland Council is keen to discuss the New Year's Event together with planning for the 2020 one with CCRG. Members discussed this with a general consensus is that the event was better planned than last year but the street closures were too late and that many streets were already full of people with vehicles trying to wend their way around the people. In addition, thousands were left stranded when they wanted to return home because there were not enough buses. Feedback from members is that more streets should be open to pedestrians only, road closures should extend to 4.00 a.m. so that buses can move around the city centre, alternately that bus only streets around the city centre would allow people to disembark and embark as and when they wanted at the times they chose,

Resolved

That CCRG provide the agreed feedback to Auckland Council and ATEED on the 2019 New Year's Eve event.

Adam Parkinson/Tom Morton.

General Business/Information

Following the resignation of Deputy Chair Emily Reeves, Adam Parkinson was nominated by Noelene Buckland/Tom Morton and elected as Deputy Chair with acclaim.

Meeting Closed

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.