

NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1901; Incorporated 2004

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 13 FEBRUARY 2014

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm at the

Parish of Lower North Shore Catholic Hall, Willoughby Road, Naremburn.

1. GUEST SPEAKER

The Guest Speaker for the meeting was Ms Stephanie Croft, the Acting President at North Sydney Council of P&C's and 2013 North Sydney Citizen of the Year. Responsible for coordinating the P&C groups at 167 schools, Steph gave an informative address providing great insight into the workings of educational bureaucracy, exposing poor planning and expenditure of public money arising from a number of significant modelling errors. The good news was that the school situation on the Lower North Shore was set to steadily improve over the next few years, following a review of Department of Education capital funding plans for the area which showed minimal to nil funding planned. These plans were based on departmental forecasts that student numbers would decrease significantly from 2018 onwards, but overlooked the effect of the Sydney Metro Strategy, which forecast a population increase of 44,000 on the Lower North Shore, plus higher birth rates and a significant influx of migrants seeking to send their children to well-regarded local schools. Following a sustained campaign, Steph has been largely responsible for the NSW Government announcing 3 new schools for the area, with the potential for a further 2 schools. When responding to a question as to how can the community assist, Steph's answer was succinct: "participate".

Following a short break at the conclusion of Steph's address, normal meeting procedures resumed.

2. OPEN FORUM

(a) **Cr Gail Giles-Gidney (Acting Mayor)** – The Acting Mayor made several key points:

- I. Gail noted the need for a Mayoral election on April 12, 2014 following the sad passing of long-time Mayor, Pat Reilly. The processes required for the election were also explained.
- II. The tireless work of Cr Michelle Sloane in attempting to rejuvenate the Artarmon shopping precinct was acknowledged.
- III. The community desire to provide a suitable memorial for Pat Reilly was noted, with a commitment that the community will be invited to make suggestions as part of this process.
- IV. Special Rate Variation meeting. The proposed meeting was cancelled at short notice as Councillors proposed to conduct a service review across WCC prior to deciding any future rate impacts.

(b) **Bob Taffel (WAAG)** – Bob reported on the status of the Channel Nine redevelopment proposal in Artarmon Road. There will be a Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) public meeting held at Willoughby Uniting Church hall on Wednesday 19 February, commencing 4pm. The DOP have supported Channel Nine's revised PPR of 450 dwellings, which is a significant overdevelopment of the site involving buildings up to 12 storeys high, well in excess of the WCC's alternate proposal for 8 storeys and 300 dwellings, which has received widespread community support. Bob urged as many people as possible to attend the meeting, whether intending to speak or not.

(c) **Helen Mellquist (Waters Road)** – Helen raised the issue of the number of footpaths in the area posing trip hazards for pedestrians. Cr Michelle Sloane noted the comment and responded further by noting that improvement works were already underway. She also indicated that Paul Collings is the Acting Infrastructure Services Director, following the resignation of Steven Head.

(d) **John Owen (visitor)** – John advised that he will be one of the Mayoral candidates in the forthcoming election. John has been both a previous Mayor and General Manager of Willoughby Council.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

That the minutes of the General Meeting of 12 December 2013, as circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Proposed: Helene Kemp ; Seconded: Joann Morand.

4. NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS

None for this meeting.

5. CONFIRMATION OF NEW MEMBERS

None for this meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) **School for Naremburn** – Staus had been updated earlier in the meeting by Steph Croft.
- b) **Traffic Committee Report (RTA, Police, State Member, WCC)** – The Traffic Committee had been in recess over the Christmas break and had not met since prior to the last NPA GM.
- c) **Channel Nine** – Bob Taffel had already provided an update during Open Forum.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

In

- a) 16/12/13 – email – Julie Whitfield, WCC – Gore Hill Park – new/replacement Fitness equipment
- b) 17/12/13 – letter – D.A.R.N – re: Have Progress Associations outlived their usefulness?
- c) 19/12/13 – email – Bernard Lau, WCC – Willoughby Heritage Festival 2014 – expression of interest
- d) 21/12/13 – Cr Gail Giles-Gidney – Merry Christmas
- e) 09/01/14 – email – Peter Bower – Oxley St parking situation
- f) 17/01/14 – email – Casey Walton, WCC – Special Rate Variation meeting
- g) 23/01/14 – email – Rebecca Hill, WCC – Pat Reilly Funeral Service & Tribute Concert
- h) 26/01/14 – email – Casey Walton, WCC – Willoughby's Citizens of the Year announced
- i) 27/01/14 – email – Bob Taffel – Incinerator Café.
- j) 28/01/14 – email – Clair Rodham, WCC – Willoughby turns out in force to celebrate life of beloved Mayor.
- k) 02/02/14 – email – Bob Taffel – Channel 9/contact group/it's not over!
- l) 03/02/14 – email – Michelle Sloane – Special Rate Variation meeting tomorrow – cancelled.
- m) 10/02/14 – email – BPN – NSW Planning Reforms alert

Correspondence Out

- a) 17/12/13 – email to members – forwarding WCC email – Gore Hill Park – new/replacement Fitness equipment
- b) 19/12/13 – letter to D.A.R.N. – response to letter of 17/12/13.
- c) 21/01/14 – email to members – Mayor Pat Reilly passes away.
- d) 28/01/14 – email to members – Willoughby turns out in force to celebrate life of beloved Mayor.
- e) 03/02/14 – email to members – Special Rate Variation meeting tomorrow – cancelled.
- f) 11/02/14 – email to members – NSW Planning Reforms alert.

8. ACCOUNTS

NPA General Meeting 13 February 2014			
Financial Report - 12/12/13 to 13/02/14			
Opening Balance as at 12 December 2013			\$ 6,024.68
<u>Add: Income</u>			
Membership	\$	40.00	
Donations	\$	-	
Advertising - N.Matters	\$	1,195.00	
Interest	\$	4.68	
Other	\$	-	
		\$ 1,239.68	
<u>Less: Expenditure</u>			
Stationery/Postage	\$	-	
Meeting amenities	\$	124.17	
N. Matters Publication	\$	2,030.07	
Other	\$	50.25	
		\$ 2,204.49	
Closing Balance as at 13 February 2014			\$ 5,059.87
		<i>Variance</i>	\$ -
<u>Expenditure Approvals Requested</u>			
Xmas party supper - V Leveaux	\$	124.17	
Hall hire donation for Dec NPA meeting	\$	50.00	
		\$ 174.17	
<u>That this expenditure be approved;</u>			
- Proposed			
- Seconded			

That this expenditure be approved: Proposed – Helene Kemp; Seconded – Martha Follent.

9. FEDERATION OF WILLOUGHBY PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS (FWPA)

The most recent meeting of FWPA was held on 1st February 2014. A motion of condolence was moved re the passing of Mayor Pat Reilly.

Congratulations were extended to delegate Diana Jones on being named Citizen of the Year at the Willoughby Australia Day Ceremony and to Chris Lattimore who was honoured for her commitment to the Willoughby Arts community.

Concerns were raised about the lack of notification of large scale developments occurring in the Chatswood CBD. It was explained to those present that DA's notifications are located on the Council website.

It was also reported that WCC's Urban Plan Review is to be undertaken early this year, expected to be workshop-style. Concerns were raised that the proposed new NSW Planning Laws may make this type of review the only opportunity the community may have for any consultation.

Shop at the Railway Interchange in Chatswood are expected to open in 4-5 months.

Following continued requests for installation of a lift for disabled access at Artarmon Station, it appears likely the station access may be altered. Whilst potentially 3-5 years away, the proposal would see station access shifted to the Jersey Rd end of the platform. Local shopkeepers are concerned about the impact this may have on their businesses.

10. WARD COUNCILLORS

Council updates had been provided during Open Forum, earlier in the meeting.

11. SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS

- (a) **Development Applications received since the December meeting.** – 11 tabled.
- (b) **Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully Advisory Group** - Nil report, as no meeting since last NPA GM.
- (c) **Events** – Sporting legend Jane Flemming will be speaking during a breakfast meeting at the Concourse on March 6.

- (d) **Naremburn Community Centre** – The NCC is still temporarily closed for renovation, but the Library is scheduled to reopen on 25 March, with a soft opening of the remainder of the Centre on 29 March.
- (e) **Membership** – As at 13 February 2014, just 4 financial members however membership renewals are now due.
- (f) **Naremburn Matters** – Future editions of Naremburn Matters will not include any Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch segment, but this space will be replaced by a local Services listing.
- (g) **Open Space** – Vegetation alongside Willoughby Road between Central Street & Garland Road will be trimmed back over the coming weeks. Overgrown vegetation at 18 Park Road has been reported to WCC for investigation. Kevin FitzPatrick reported a dead tree obscuring the Naremburn sign.
- (h) **Website** – Peter Witcombe is working with Helene Kemp to action an upgrade proposal which will make the site more attractive and user-friendly.

12. **CIRCULATION OF THE ATTENDANCE BOOK** – 28 Members present, with Nil Apologies and 5 Visitors.
13. **MOTION OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN** – none for this meeting
14. **NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** - The next General Meeting of the NPA will be held on Thursday 13 March 2014, commencing immediately after conclusion of the Annual General Meeting set for 7.30pm at Parish of Lower North Shore Catholic hall, Willoughby Road, Naremburn.
15. **CLOSURE:** The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.