

INNER SOUTH CANBERRA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
14 NOVEMBER 2023, 7.00pm
EASTLAKE FOOTBALL CLUB, 3 OXLEY STREET GRIFFITH

DRAFT MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 7.00PM to 8.00PM

1. Welcome – Marea Fatseas, Chairperson

The Chair welcomed attendees and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and their elders past, present and emerging. She commented on the positive result of the referendum on the Voice to Parliament, noting that The “Yes” vote at polling booths in the Inner South ranged from 62% to 77%, with an average of about 70%. This signifies that there is, in the inner south, strong support for reconciliation.

There were 27 people sign in to the meeting and a head count of over 30.

2. Apologies

Winnunga CEO Julie Tongs OAM; Beth Sturgess; Anne Forrest, Deputy Chair; Richard Johnston, President Kingston and Barton Residents Group; Bronwyn Shirley, President, Old Narrabundah Community Council; Peter Pharaoh, President Yarralumla Residents Association; David Templeman, Red Hill Residents Group; Tim Field, Ordinary Member

3. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting

Moved John Bell, Seconded Tony Auhl - Carried

4. Chair’s report.

The Chair spoke to her report which will be made available on the ISCCC website. See www.isccc.org.au

The Chair focused on the ISCCC’s work in the past financial year and up until this AGM and drawing on the ISCCC’s strategic priorities. The Chair also reflected on some of the ISCCC’s longer term achievements,

Highlights

In the past year, the ISCCC’s key focus has been on the ACT Government’s review of the Planning System. This has consumed huge amounts of time and effort by the ISCCC Committee and member groups. At the Review’s commencement in 2019, the ISCCC surveyed inner south residents to better understand what they value about where they live. The survey findings guided the ISCCC focus in responding to the Planning Review. During the Review, the ISCCC has:

- Participated in numerous meetings with officials and other stakeholders.
- Held many public forums focusing on Planning Review issues: in Sept and Nov 2022; and Feb, April, June, Aug, and Oct 2023. In addition, ISCCC member groups, the Deakin and Yarralumla Residents Associations, addressed urban intensification issues at a public forum in February 2023.
- Lodged several submissions - including to the Assembly Inquiry on the Planning Bill; and to the ACT Government on the Draft Territory Plan/District Strategies and related Assembly Inquiry
- Participated in public hearings of the Assembly Inquiry into the Planning Bill, in December 2022.
- Engaged with media through multiple print media and radio interviews/articles.

The ISCCC has advocated strongly for living infrastructure, solar access and protection of private open space from overshadowing/overlooking. The ISCCC has been successful in securing a greater focus in the new planning system on the importance of living infrastructure, complemented by the new Urban Forest Act. On the downside, we have major concerns that protection of living infrastructure may not occur in practice due to the shift away from a rules-based to a more discretionary planning system. Also, without changes in the governance framework to provide necessary checks and balances, and without a clear monitoring and evaluation framework, we are not confident that new developments will actually deliver on the desired outcomes.

The ISCCC knows from our survey of inner south residents that they want a say about knockdown rebuilds occurring next door or nearby. The new planning system does not give residents a say about knockdown

rebuilds that are assessed by independent certifiers as meeting planning rules and hence are exempt from Development Applications. However, we are pleased that in this specific case of exempt development, there are mandatory requirements in the new Exempt Development Regulation in relation to the amount of planting area, solar access, and protection of private open space. Nevertheless, all developments, both those deemed to be exempt and non-exempt from Development Applications, should be subjected to compliance checks at critical points of construction. Furthermore, developments in Heritage Precincts should not be exempt from development applications.

We have advocated, including in our own Inner South Canberra District Planning Strategy (2021), for properly planned precinct-scale development, in close consultation with local communities. There are many precinct scale developments under way at present in the inner south.

Residents' groups take the lead on urban renewal precincts and related heritage issues in their local area e.g. the Kingston Barton Residents Group (KBRG) for the Kingston Arts Precinct; KBRG/Griffith Narrabundah Community Association/Old Narrabundah Community Council for the Eastlake and Dairy Road developments; Yarralumla Residents Association (YRA) for the Canberra Brickworks and Forestry Precinct redevelopments in Yarralumla, and Red Hill Residents Group for The Parks Development in Red Hill, etc.

We continue to advocate for the inner south's heritage values to be respected as the district changes and densifies. ISCCC public forums in February and October 2023 have addressed heritage issues. In addition, the ISCCC lodged a submission to, and appeared at public hearings on the Inquiry into ACT Heritage Arrangements, and also lodged a Submission to the ACT Heritage Jurisdictional Review.

In the past year, the ISCCC has lodged submissions on the ACT Government Active Travel Plan, and on the ACT Design Guide: Best practices for urban intersections and other active travel infrastructure. Much more needs to be done to ensure better public transport access for inner south residents, especially for the disadvantaged community of Oaks Estate, which still doesn't have a direct public transport link to Canberra. The ISCCC's public forum in September 2022 addressed light rail issues, and a joint public forum by the Deakin and Yarralumla Residents Associations in May 2023 considered public transport futures for Canberra.

In the past year or so, the ISCCC has held a mix of in-person, online and hybrid ISCCC Public forums in July, Sept, Nov 2022; and in Feb, April, June, Aug, and Oct 2023, and this AGM tonight.

Issues our public forums focused on include:

- The ACT Government's Planning System Review and Reform
- Active Travel
- ACT Heritage Arrangements
- Development of East Lake Precinct
- Transport including development of light rail.
- Social and Community Housing
- Urban intensification
- Health walk-in centre
- Suburban infrastructure upgrades
- Updates from Residents Groups and Associations

The ISCCC lodged submissions on the following issues in the past year:

- Assembly inquiry into Territory Plan and supporting documents (October 2023)
- Urban Open Space Land Management Plan (August 2023)
- Review of Integrity Commission legislation (June 23)
- ACT Design Guide: Best practices for urban intersections and other active travel infrastructure (June 23)
- Proposed Crematorium, Symonston (May 23)
- East Lake Place Plan (May 23)
- Inquiry into ways to foster and promote the significance of Australia's National Capital (May 23)
- Inquiry into ACT's heritage arrangements (Apr 23)

- Draft Territory Plan and District Strategy (Mar 23)
- Regulation of Developers (Mar 23)
- Legislative Assembly Planning, Transport and City Services Standing Committee Inquiry on Planning Bill (Nov 22)
- ACT Active Travel Plan (Aug 22)

Marea Fatseas said she was not nominating for the Chair position this year. The past 18 months have been her second incarnation as Chair, after a previous 3.5-year stint in 2017-2020.

Marea thanked her fellow committee members and member residents' groups for their support during her terms as Chair and during her time on the ISCCC Committee.

David Denham moved a Vote of Thanks to Marea. This was seconded by John Bell. Marea received unanimous acclamation.

5. Financial report

The Treasurer, John Edquist spoke to the Financial Report. The report as at 30 June 2023 was available in hard copy. It was noted that the opening balance on 1 July 2022 was \$11,602.78. Total income was \$13,048.58. This was mostly comprised of the ACT Government Grant of \$12,821.00. Total Expenditure was \$12,805.98. Key items included support for Residents Groups' communications, insurance, zoom fees, post office box, and hybrid meeting capability.

Moved Kevin Gill Seconded Colin Walters CARRIED

The Treasurer was asked how grant money was passed to the resident groups and associations. The treasurer responded that the ISCCC does have a budget, and about half the funds are received from the government are used by the ISCCC, and traditionally about 5000, \$6,000, even 7000, though it was more last year, is usually dispersed to the groups. And the amount that each group is entitled to is calculated by a complicated formula that involves the number of dwellings. The funding is to be spent on purposes defined in the Deed of Grant. This does not cover appeals to ACAT. Funds are primarily spent on communication and community engagement.

6. Elections to office bearing positions:

The meeting chair invited the Secretary to confirm the names of nominees as follows:

- Chairperson Colin Walters
- Deputy Chairperson-Anne Forrest
- Secretary-Kathie Potts
- Treasurer John Edquist
- Ordinary member Cordelia Gee
- Ordinary member Tim Field
- Public Relations officer Peta Swarbrick
- Assistant Secretary Deborah Price

The Chair declared the nominees appointed in the absence of any further nominees.

It was noted that the following positions remain vacant.

- Webmaster
- Ordinary Member (2)
- Assistant Treasurer (optional)

Paul Russell indicated that he would be happy to take on the Assistant Treasurer position. John Edquist supported his nomination. CARRIED

7. Appointment of Reviewer of ISCCC financial accounts

Marea Fatseas nominated Sue Ross as the Reviewer of the ISCCC financial accounts, Seconded John Edquist

CARRIED.

8. Accept the nominees of residents' groups for Committee membership.

The Secretary advised that she update the Committee membership as Groups advised her of their ongoing or new representatives. By the end of December, the current details of the Committee will be advised to the Government.
Moved Kathie Potts Seconded Marea Fatseas

ADDRESS BY NEW CHAIR COLIN WALTERS

The Chair invited the incoming Chair to address the meeting.

Colin also thanked Marea for the fantastic work she had been doing as the Chair of the ISCCC.

Colin has been in Australia for 30 years. For most of the time he has been a public servant. He spent most of his career in the Education space, and also did a stint in Prime Minister and Cabinet. He was very privileged to lead the team that got the Mabo legislation through.

Challenges for the ISCCC in the coming year include the planning process and the ACT election.

GUEST SPEAKERS ON PROPOSED NEW WALK-IN HEALTH CENTRE IN GRIFFITH 8.00PM TO 9.00PM

1. Health Minister, Rachel Stephen-Smith, and Lis Lopa, Director-General, Corporate Communications and Delivery ACT Health spoke at their presentation slides. These are available on our website at www.isccc.gov.au.

The reason for planning a new health centre in the Inner South is due to the demographics - 44% of the inner south residents are over the age of 45.

Once the site has been selected, there will be further consultation about what sort of services residents want provided at the Health Centre. The current preferred site is behind the Griffith Shops. This would need a variation to the Territory Plan.

2. Questions and Answers

Q. Will the new centre be limited to the existing community facility, or will it encroach on the open space?

A. They would be endeavouring not to encroach on open space but if this becomes an issue the Community will be consulted.

Q. What is the likely floor area of the new centre?

A. I will get back to you on that.

Q. The lack of transport from Oaks Estate

A. The ACT Government funds Direction Health Services to visit people living at Oaks Estates. The Government also operates a Community Transport Program. However, the Minister for Health acknowledged that this did not fix all the problems at Oaks Estates

Q. The need for adequate car parking

A. The need for adequate car parking will be addressed.

Q. whether the proposal would be open to co-design.

A. There is a new Consumer Reference Group that has just been put in place to ensure that they have consumer group feedback. The Government is open to a co-creation approach.

Q. The difficulty of diversity engagement

A. It was acknowledged that vulnerable people do not have a voice in the process as they don't engage in the usual channels.

OPPOSITION LEADER ELIZABETH LEE, UPGRADING OF SUBURBAN INFRASTRUCTURE."

The Opposition Leader spoke about the Canberra Liberals proposal to take a \$100 million policy aimed at upgrading what they call Canberra's neglected suburbs to the 2024 election in a bid to tap into ratepayer discontent about whether they are getting value for money from an "out-of-touch" Government. The \$100 million would be distributed among suburbs according to their proportion of rate payers.

3. Key Issues raised by attendees

There was a lot of frustration and discontent expressed by residents about the very poor responsiveness of the ACT Government to maintenance problems of the "fix my street" sort.

Response from the Opposition Leader Elizabeth Lee

The Opposition Leader undertook to pursue with the ACT Government, complaints made about the lack of (or huge delays in) action.

4. Other Business

Q. Why aren't community organisations being consulted in the review of governance in the planning system?

A. Rachel Stephens-Smith MLA kindly agreed to take up the issue of the review of governance in the planning system with the Chief Minister's office, to see what more could be done to give community organisations an opportunity to make input to the review.

5. Close 9.00pm