

WATSON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM
held at the Community Hall, Tay Street, North Watson
7.30pm 22nd March 2018

AGENDA

Greetings and Apologies

1. Minutes of 2017 AGM
2. Matters arising from 2017 minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Appointment of auditor for 2018
5. Chair's Report
6. Reports from Working Groups/Subcommittees
 - a) Woodlands
 - b) Summernats
 - c) Planning and Development
 - d) Watson
 - e) Survey and related issues
8. Election of new committee
9. Other business
10. Formal Q&A session
11. Close

Supper and informal discussions to follow

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approved at 2019 AGM

MINUTES of

Watson Community Association Inc. (WCA) AGM

held at the Community Hall, Tay Street, North Watson 7.30pm 22nd March 2018

WCA Chair Liz Grace (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed more than 20 people attending. She invited non members to join, noting that non members may not vote.

Present: a list of those present is available in hard copy.

Apologies: Carrie Wright, Gillian and Keith Helyar

Minutes of 2017 AGM. Max Pouwer moved they be accepted. Seconded by Leonie Watts. Accepted by consensus.

Matters arising from 2017 AGM: none

Treasurer's Report: The financial report was presented (detail in Appendix 1) which showed that balance at end of 2017 was slightly increased from the end of 2016 to \$6,395. Gethin Constable was acknowledged for again auditing our accounts for no charge, and his report (Attachment) was available at the meeting. Again, the vast majority of transactions had been in relation to the Watson newsletter. A donation of \$150 to the Watson pre-school fete, and an expense for gift vouchers encouraging participation in the WCA 2017 survey were noted. Motion to accept the report by Rodney, seconded by Richard, and a vote of thanks to the auditor. Carried.

Appointment of Auditor Motion to reappoint Gethin Constable moved by Liz Grace. Accepted by

consensus.

Chair's Report: (detail in Appendix 2) Liz summarized the year's activities and new initiatives, and thanked members of the Committee for support. She thanked the various other people who have worked on activities for the WCA. She noted that the familiar blue Watson will now be on our Website, and that the 'Welcome to Watson' initiated by Aileen Conroy in November was a great way for people to meet and chat.

Working group/Subcommittee Reports

1) **Watson Woodlands** from Richard Larson. Richard reported on the work that has been done in Justice Robert Hope Park over the period to February 2018 and the management of the Woodlands area (detail in Appendix 3). This year quite a lot of work was done by others as an obligation due to this area being regarded as an environmental offset, and in line with an established management plan.

2) **Summernats** provided by Rod Lestone (Appendix 5) Rod attended the feedback sessions at EPIC on during the event. He reported few issues, apart from toxic fumes affecting Watson residents, and a good relationship with the committee. Parking, traffic, fireworks, and leftover rubbish remain the other issues, but complaints are directed to Access Canberra. It was noted re toxic fumes that the WCA would need to act regarding the environmental exemptions granted later in the year for 2019. It was decided WCA would write a letter of concern about the fumes.

3) **Watson** report was provided by Fiona Hill-Stein (Appendix 6). There were the usual 4 editions over the past 12 months, and positive feedback was noted re color printing. Liz commended Fiona for her terrific efforts with the newsletter, and also thanked *Watson* contributors and deliverers.

4) **Survey.** Fiona Hill-Stein submitted a report (Appendix 7)

5) **Planning** was reported on in summary by Richard Larson (detail in Appendix 4). Richard noted the large number of significant planning and development issues that had emerged over the past year, and gave a brief overview of each development directly impacting on Watson. These included;

- An ACT government-initiated survey for the community to share its thoughts about the future use of Canberra Technology Park. Submissions closed on March 16 2018.
- Approval for construction of residential development on the former Carotel Motel and tourist accommodation site in north Watson. Submissions.
- Approvals for construction of residential development on the former Block 9 Section 64 site in north Watson (behind Prime TV).
- Approval for construction of residential development on Block 17 Section 64 in north Watson. This was subdivided from Block 9 Section 64.
- Approval for construction of residential development on the Channel 10 Austerio television site in north Watson

Election of Committee

Written nomination were received, all seconded and accepted. As the Treasurer and Secretary were prepared to continue in their roles they were duly elected to these positions. Newly elected were Chair and Deputy Chair. Others were elected as Committee members. Liz noted the longstanding practice of including all those who nominate for the WCA Committee at the AGM, in its work. The results were as follows:

Chair: Leonie Watts

Deputy Chair: Julie Smith

Secretary: Gillian Helyar

Treasurer: Carrie Wright

Committee Members: Liz Grace, Richard Larson, Rod Lestone, Fiona Hill-Stein, Leslie McGrane. Jon Real has agreed to continue with financial management.

Other business

1. There was a question raised about bushfire risk, planning and responses in the Watson area, and possibilities for firefighting equipment to be located in the suburb. It was observed that Watson was not considered as high a risk as many other suburbs to the west of Canberra, due to prevailing wind direction. However, Mt Majura has previously been a source of fire risk for suburbs such as Campbell and Hackett, and there is also a history of grass fires on at north Watson.
2. There was discussion about the dilapidated state of the former petrol station at the Watson shops and possible fire and other risks including for those using the neighbouring childcare centre. It was resolved that WCA would write to the lessee expressing concerns and drawing attention to the comments in the WCA survey that this was one of the most common 'downsides' of Watson.
3. WCA has been fortunate to have very useful assistance for developing its website and Facebook pages, including by the North Canberra Community Council, Stephen Rowe, and Richard Merzian. The WCA Committee will manage what material will be uploaded onto the site.

The meeting closed around 9pm and followed by supper.
