

Aspendale Gardens Residents Association Inc

Annual General Meeting

Minutes 29 August 2007

Community Centre, Kearney Drive

Meeting Open

7.35pm

Apologies

Jan Mason (AGCS), Inga Peulich (MLC), Ray Burgoyne (AEAG-VC), Jeff Shelley.

Present

About 45 people attended the meeting.

The President welcomed and thanked everybody for attending tonight. Ken said that such a strong turn out confirmed strong community support for the AGRA Committee as well as a real interest in the coming federal election. Ken also welcomed our local State MP Jenny Lindell and congratulated her as being elected Speaker of the House and welcomed Councillor Justin McKeegan (Patterson River Ward) and also local Councillor John Ronke who is of course also a local resident and will Chair election of officers tonight.

Introduction of Committee members to the meeting;

The President introduced members of the Committee to the meeting and thanked them all for their hard work on behalf of the community over the last year. Members present were John Zeccola, Serge Yan, Sam Constantopoulos, Karina Ces, Zareh Ghazarian, Graham Malcolm, Rupert Harvey and David Schmidt. Ken reported that Rupert Harvey would not be standing for re-election due to business requirements and thanked him for his work over the last year as editor of the AGRA Newsletter Ken also thanked members who have had to drop out during the year these being, Mike Ryan, Janine Howison and Phillip Birley.

Minutes of Previous Meeting 23 August 2006

Moved to accept unaltered – Russell Irvine, Seconded Cr John Ronke. Accepted.

Presidents Report

As presented in overhead form and based on the last AGRA Newsletter and tabled by Ken Carney, President.

Points of discussion arising from President's Report

1. Need for a bike/walk track on bridge across Mordialloc Creek– needed to allow people who work in that industrial area to either walk/bike to their workplace.
2. Need for red light camera at intersections on Wells Rd at Narelle and Nurten due to high incidence of traffic going through red lights. Consensus at AGM by those present was for AGRA to pursue this matter.

3. Better safety at lights at intersections on Wells Rd at Narelle and Nurten – hoon drivers disobeying laws and driving dangerously.
4. Need to reduce speed limit on Springvale Rd, between Edithvale Rd and Frankston Freeway (near Michel Angelo's restaurant precinct) to improve road safety. Consensus of those present was for AGRA to pursue this matter.
5. Need to educate children and parents to cross at appropriate crossings on Wells Rd as there have been incidences of people crossing at other unsafe places. AGRA to include such article in future newsletters.
6. Local streets, traffic issues – issue of the local Rat Run was raised. Suggestions to stop the problem included a) to have no left/right turn at Edithvale Road and Brannigan Drive during peak hours; b) have 'local traffic only' signs. Graham reported that initial analysis by AGRA of the current Rat Run carried out before the Mordialloc Bridge fiasco indicate that traffic volumes had increased substantially on the last study carried out by the COK and AGRA will be evaluating the situation. AGRA to follow up with further data analysis of Rat Run.
7. Local traffic issues – Springvale Rd, Wells Rd, etc – Need to see what impact Eastlink and South Rd extension will have on traffic in region. Cr Ronke advised it would be appropriate to request a traffic count from VicRoads.
8. Trucks using engine breaks – in addition to other complaints relating to both sides Wells Road at Nurten and Narrelle some complaints were received from Richfield Retirement village, passed on to AGRA by Jenny Lindell MP. AGRA to inform COK who will arrange signs.

Changes to the AGRA Constitution

Change, as circulated in the Spring 2007 Newsletter, moved by Ken Carney. Seconded by Graham Malcolm. All members in favour of change. Passed.

Treasurer's Report

John Zeccola tabled and presented the annual audited report. John explained that income was down this year due to a timing issue with the June Newsletter and delayed invoicing for advertising. This will be rectified in the 2007/8 year when the impact of the delayed invoicing will be resolved. Moved to accept the report – John Zeccola, seconded Dave Chandler. Accepted.

Election of Office Bearers

Cr Ronke took over the chair and thanked the committee on behalf of the community and declared all positions vacant. Nominations for the following positions were received:

- President – Ken Carney nominated by Barry Despard, seconded by Zareh Ghazarian. Elected unopposed.
- Treasurer – John Zeccola nominated by **Dot Gilbert**, seconded by Sam Constantopoulos. Elected unopposed.

- Secretary – Zareh Ghazarian nominated by Serge Yan, seconded by David Schmidt. Elected unopposed.
- All other active serving members (Serge Yan, Sam Constantopoulos, Karina Ces, Zareh Ghazarian, Graham Malcolm and David Schmidt) were elected by block vote. New members elected to committee were Lucinda Bertram, David Cree and Dan Maloney.

Re-appointment of auditor

John Zeccola nominated Mr Lovell, seconded by Ken Carney. Accepted.

Report to meeting by Jenny Lindell MLA

Mordialloc Bridge Reconstruction; Jenny advised of the regional impact of the Mordialloc Bridge Reconstruction – VicRoads essentially did not realise the impact of road works would be as great as it was. Measures were quickly taken by the Government to fix the problem.

Cr Ronke advised meeting that the upgraded Mordialloc Bridge will have dedicated bicycle lanes when upgrades are completed.

PublicTransport; In response to a question relating to the need for improved public transport services Jenny replied that one extra service will be servicing the Frankston line from October/November onwards, any further increases must wait for re-signalling in City Loop for this to occur.

In response to a question about **the terrible traffic issues are suffering in Aspendale Gardens and the need for the MPF** Jenny said, “Traffic issues and congestion are not just an Aspendale Gardens problem it happens everywhere. Traffic problems fixed in one area will then become a problem somewhere else. What can we do, this is a fact of life - not much can be done about it.”

A **light rail service down Nepean Hwy** from St Kilda Rd to Cranbourne was raised by a member of the meeting. Jenny advised she was not aware of such a plan.

Barry Despard asked why **motorcyclists** are charged a levy when their impact on the roads they use is less than other vehicles. Jenny Lindell responded that it was because of the extra incidences of motorcyclists injured in accidents.

Jenny Lindell strongly urged all members of the community to get in contact with her if they feel something is not up to their expected standards. She advised this would make it easier for MPs to lobby the government and bureaucracy and get a positive outcome on the problem. She recalled how the many stories about the cost to business, reduced family time, etc, gave her ammunition to fight for changes to the Mordialloc Bridge construction. Jenny urged all residents to inform her of any concerns so she can fix them up as soon as possible.

Federal Election Issues

The President introduced both candidates for the coming federal election.

Labor candidate Mark Dreyfus QC and Liberal candidate Ross Fox presented their ideas and the issues they would pursue if elected at the forthcoming federal election. Both candidates

responded to the five questions AGRA had prepared for them prior to the meeting as published in the latest AGRA Newsletter. These related to;

1. If elected will you ensure a Post Office is operating in AG within 12 months of election?
2. If elected will you help get federal help for the MPF Extension to South Road to be constructed by 2009 as originally promised by the State Labor Government?
3. Channel Deepening Port Phillip Bay. If elected can your Party assure our community of the safety of the project particularly the toxic waste deposited opposite Mordialloc and guarantee by federal legislation that the State Government will fully compensate anyone adversely affected by the project?
4. If elected will you help fund the completion of the Mordialloc Creek between Wells Road Bridge and Waterways Wetlands?
5. If elected can you and your party at the federal level obtain funds to support Councils plan for two cricket fields in AG?

Ross Fox advised

MPF and Traffic Issues; Ross Fox advised that contrary to the report from a meeting of AGRA representatives with Mayor Councillor Topsy Petchey and Councillor John Ronke reported in the latest AGRA Newsletter the MPF was not mentioned during the recent meeting of 5 regional councils. He reported that the COK only included the Dingley Bypass in their briefing.

Ross explained that at a previous meeting he had with Vic Roads relating to the MPF that VicRoads had told him that no feasibility study has ever been carried out for MPF. They had told him that any studies relating to the impact of the Eastlink Tollway on the surrounding region would become less accurate the further you got away from the roads in question and they agreed that Wells Road was an 'unknown' in relation to Eastlink. Ross said that a cost benefit analysis must be arranged for the MPF. Ross promised that he would work to make the MPF project a reality if elected as far as he is concerned the MPF is vital in the local area and region.

Post Office – Ross said he would continue to follow up as local residents are not served by the current situation. Ross reported that he has spoken to Ritchie's management asking if they would be interested to be a franchisee. They said were interested but unable to sway Australia Post thus far.

Deepening of channel in Port Phillip Bay – Ross does not have a position until the full federal report is released. Recognised that the community needs confidence in any findings of the report.

Mordialloc Creek – supports this project need local community involved.

Sporting Facility AG – supports federal funding of sporting opportunities in local areas.

Mark Dreyfus advised.

He wanted to be the member for Isaacs and wants to run on federal issues.

Post Office; - Mark explained that Australia Post is a fully corporatised government agency and for a Post Shop to be opened in Aspendale Gardens it needs 2 things – 1. A franchisee, 2. The recognition of a need by Australia Post.

MPF Extension – it is inevitable that all freeway roads will be linked up, but not sure when. Mark would argue for a better share of federal road funding towards this objective if elected.

Sporting Facility AG – supports funding of sporting opportunities in local areas.

Deepening of Port Phillip Channel- Mark does not have a position yet – needs to wait on what the report has to say on the plan.

The Chairperson pointed out that what the community are seeking is reassurance that the project will be safe, particularly the dumping of toxic waste opposite Mordialloc and capping it. The federal government need to ensure that the State Government meet the request for reassurance by making the State Government and any businesses involved in the project responsible by ensuring that they are bound to pay any individual or business that suffers from the development causing harm in any way. The President explained that to the best of his knowledge the State Government had absolved itself and any corporations of responsibility should the project not be safe which means that the State Government are not convinced that the project is safe. This is the reason the federal Government's help is required.

Mordialloc Creek – wants to fund the completion of the Creek.

General Questions from the floor broached the following topics:

- Excise on fuel. Concern at double taxation.
- Use of federal budget surplus on local projects, could help fund the MPF Extension etc.
- Kyoto Protocol, Australia should join.
- Why Anne Corcoran MP was not standing for re-election
- The Australian and United States alliance, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the risk of terrorism in Australia.
- Selling off LPG reserves in Australia cheaply to China. We are selling off our energy cheaply to support jobs overseas at the expense of jobs in Australia.

Both candidates were thanked.

Other business

A number of people volunteered to help as newsletter delivers.

Meeting Closed

10.05pm with light refreshments kindly supplied by Ritchie's Supermarket.