

**Aurora Community Association
Annual General Meeting 2013
Minutes**

Date: 24th July 2013

Venue: Epping Views Primary School, 20 Mansfield Street Epping North.

Time: 7.30pm-

Attendees: Ahmet, Amanda, Amy, Angela, Avantha, Cara, Chris, Daina, Joanna, Jeff, Kathleen, Lianne, Mahendra, Mark, Nam, Nessie, Ozge, Peter, Phillip, Roger, Sarathy, Selvakumar, Sri, Steven, Suzie, Thomas, Toni-Marie, Tony, Tracey, Trudi, Paul, Wally.

Apologies: Andrew Giles (Scullin Labour Candidate), Kris Pavlidis (City of Whittlesea Councillor), Adrian Spinelli (City of Whittlesea Councillor).

7.30pm- Welcome/ Apologies (Toni-Marie Wuelfert, President)

Welcome, introduction and agenda outline for the night.

Apologies: Andrew Giles (Scullin Labour Candidate), Kris Pavlidis (City of Whittlesea Councillor), Adrian Spinelli (City of Whittlesea Councillor).

7.35pm- Special Business

Guest speaker Peter Gurkin, Aurora Senior Development Manager, Places Victoria (PV), covered a range of topics currently relevant to the community and answered questions at the end.

Peter introduced himself and explained his history/ experience with Places Victoria over a number of years and also gave some background on the estate and PV

Divestment of Aurora estate- PV will be selling off a significant portion of the Aurora Estate, 465 Hectares in total, they will the blue areas on the map he showed us, which is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/my83eox>. Positive of the sale is that with multiple developers there will be multiple construction fronts and this will speed up developments, if PV only then only able to progress estate as made sales if under PV. The estate is governed by the Aurora development plan 2, developers have to go through the same processes with council and they can't abscond from the ADP 2. Large developers such as Stockland, Villawood etc will be looking at the land. Also looking at Developer Contribution Plans for delivering infrastructure in future.

Harvest Home Rd intersection final design still not signed off. Telstra has to move assets in the intersection before construction can start- 12-18 months to be completed.

Access to the south of the estate- timing related to the release of the land- this has been divested by PV. Referred to map- Blue doing, yellow done, pink is being divested. Peter says this is the fifth time PV has spoken about getting out of green fields subdivisions, but first time something has actually happened.

Internet/ Fibre to the home (FTTH) - Stage 22 onwards not FTTH, will be NBN or someone else. Recent threatening letter about FTTH box access to some residents - Craig Ondarchie MP met with PV Acting CEO Peter Seamer last week in response to Toni-Marie's letter to PV, Whittlesea Council and Craig; during that meeting he questioned PV about the letter. FTTH team is a separate business unit. They are no longer as autonomous as they once used to be. Letter sent out without review from PV communications team by the FTTH team. 14 residents sent the letter of variations to the same theme, all including the last threatening paragraph. Peter apologised about the final paragraph on behalf of PV.

Community Activity Centre (CAC) - Feb 15 opening scheduled. 2 staff cuts left PV with 70 staff down from 220. PV CAC team are new, doing their best- council have approved it but parking, waste areas in particular are still being negotiated. Concept plans were asked for by Toni-Marie and Peter agreed to send via email.

Town centre- is being signed off tomorrow, 2015-16 opening date. Asked about who is major supermarket- one of two- Coles or Woolworths- Coles is being touted by sales office staff and is likely to be there given Woolworths is just down the road at Lyndarum. Marketing starting to go up along the new fences in the area.

Builders dumping rubbish costing PV \$20,000 a month. Please let council know if you see people, especially builders dumping rubbish as they can be fined.

Community garden- no surplus land not even under power lines as a result of the land divestment. Need to talk to new developers when we find out who they are about securing some space.

Aurora Epping North Primary School – DEECD meeting today- want to settle land this FY (i.e. by end June 2014), PV still have civil works to do before land will be sold to DEECD. School not scheduled for opening till 2016 though no money put aside for building it yet. Secondary school site being divested – Peter thinks 5 years for civil works to be completed in that area and for possible sale of land to DEECD before the school could even be built.

Tennis courts pavilion- waiting for someone to volunteer run it before it can be built. PV committed to still do it as part of divestment. ACA will look into setting up a club/ group.

Question Time for Peter

1. Ahmet- FTTH- what falls into your power to get things changed (at PV re FTTH team and their actions). Also PV can't take back letter but will you put out second letter and apologise and take back the last paragraph threat?

Answer from Peter- Can't do anything about issues till they are raised. Ahmet to send him a letter going through issues and will get answers.

Peter agreed of the need for PV to send an apology letter to affected residents.

2. Chris- do you feel PV have failed their corporate social responsibility through promises that have failed to be delivered such as rail, interchange etc as an organisation?

Answer from Peter- he doesn't personally feel that. Recycled water, solar hot water, 6 star all good initiatives at aurora. But this cost them. 10 years, only 1000 lots. Original sales model really didn't work. Chris- agrees innovative but basics haven't been met like roads.

3. Trudi- investment property on super block Celadon Street on corner near lane. Cant have rubbish trucks going down the lane so 15 bins out the front of their place, which they have to keep clean and look after.

Answer from Peter- Peter agreed that design of some areas isn't always ideal. Cara to work with Trudi to get Trudi in contact with council to get things sorted out.

4. Steve- when will stage 1-21 FTTH be divested

Answer from Peter- will keep them until others are interested to take it over.

5. Mark- shutters on front windows- who police it? Legal time frame to complain to PV? Ahmet? After 12 months no longer have to get approval from PV??

Answer from Peter- PV can ask them to remove the shutters due to overlays on the areas.

6. Cara- buses into new areas- when?-

Answer from Peter- PTV nothing on horizon for 2-3 years. PV tried to fund buses through reservoir buses and PTV and they wouldn't take funds (political)

Ozge- suggestion of a sign that says no bus stopping there. (ACA to investigate)

7. Mark- train anytime soon?

Answer from Peter- Grandkids might see it?

8. Wally- Can't there be a mini bus service in the mean time?

See answer above

9. Will transport corridor continue into new area?

Answer from Peter- YES.

10. Ozge- library- southern town centre?

Answer from Peter- Mobile going to the Epping North CAC when built.

Toni-Marie thanked Peter for his time.

Answer from Peter- call or email him if you have any troubles/ queries- email probably better, so send through to ACA or to Peter direct on Peter.Gurkin@places.vic.gov.au or mobile 0408 365 276.

8.10pm- **Special Resolutions** (Toni-Marie Wuelfert, President)

Cara Horner (Secretary) summarised the proposed changes to the Aurora Community Association's Statement of Purposes and Rules and why they have occurred.

- As you may have heard about at our last General Meeting the Aurora Community Association, along with every other Incorporated Association in Victoria, is having to update its rules due to legislative changes (AIR Act).
- Association rules cover the rights and responsibilities of Association members and how the Association works. They provide guidance on:
 - Secretary, committee and office holders
 - Annual cycles and financial reporting
 - Membership, meetings and special resolutions
 - Resolving disputes
- Rules are designed to help associations work more smoothly and to discourage questionable behaviour such as tax avoidance, misuse of money and taking advantage of association members.
- When the Aurora Community Association was set up in 2009 it was required by Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) to have an acceptable set of association rules in order to become incorporated.
- Incorporation allows the association to be a separate legal identity which provides important legal protection for association members acting on behalf of the association.
- One of the major effects of the AIR Act is that Incorporated Associations have to update their rules by the end of November this year. If they are not updated by the end of November, the Association is then assumed to have accepted the 'new' model rules by Consumer Affairs Victoria (Department of Justice) and they automatically start to apply to the Association.
- The ACA has three options for updating its rules under the AIR Act:
 1. Do nothing and the new model rules will apply to us anyway at the end of November (Free)
 2. Engage with ACA members on the adoption of the new model rules so they understand the changes afoot and approve their adoption in a special resolution vote. Approval guaranteed. (Free).
 3. Using legal professional services, adapt the model rules to our requirements, approve their adoption in a special resolution vote and then apply to Consumer Affairs Victoria to have them accepted. Approval not guaranteed. (Costs associated with lawyers and also CAV).
- The ACA committee wish to try to utilise option 2 as it is the most cost effective and also engages ACA members on the changes. Option 3 is also a possibility if the members here tonight do not agree with the adoption of the 'new' model rules.
- The ACA committee have reviewed the 'new' model rules which we are encouraged to adopt. These are a vast improvement on the 'old' model rules which the ACA ended up modifying (modernising) when we incorporated, and the committee unanimously voted to put forward the new model rules to its members for a special resolution vote on their adoption. The ACA executive committee agreed that the changes made to the old model rules are not needed again because those aspects are adequately dealt with in the new rules.
- The committee, however, felt that the ACA's Statement of Purposes needed to be updated as part of this process (it is now included in the 'new' model rules) to make it more inclusive and not just focussed on the Aurora Community, reflecting the current reality of our work representing the Epping North and Wollert community (i.e. change Aurora references to Epping North and Wollert).
- CAV has now replaced the previous 36 paragraphs of model association rules with 77 paragraphs to reflect these legislative changes and provide more detail and cover more items:
 - (rule 2) The Association's Statement of Purposes is now part of the rules, whereas in the past they were a separate document.
 - (rule 12) Allow ACA members at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to decide the number of ordinary members to be elected to the association committee (previously it was set at 3).
 - (rule 12) Allow ACA members at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to decide the cost of annual membership & due date.
 - (rule 14) Associate memberships can now be taken out (under 15 yrs and other people)- no voting rights
 - (rules 19-29) Clearer disciplinary action and grievance procedures section
 - (rules 35, 74) Allow for more modern methods of communication such as meeting notification by email and attendance at meetings via video link up/ Skype.

- (rules 44-48) Executive committee role descriptions now also more detailed.
- (rule 56) Expectations on executive committee member attendance at committee meetings are now clearly explained.
- Tonight, current ACA members (not people who joined as a new member tonight) will participate in two special resolution votes related to the AIR Act:
 - Resolution 1: The Aurora Community Association Statement of Purposes should be made more inclusive and have the words Epping North and Wollert inserted into them as appropriate and the word Aurora removed.
 - Resolution 2: The Aurora Community Association should adopt the proposed new rules, replacing the original rules created by the Association in 2009.
- Before we proceed to the special resolutions, are there any questions that people want to ask about the changes? No questions asked.

Current financial members then voted on the following two resolutions with a show of hands:

- (i) Resolution 1: The Aurora Community Association Statement of Purposes should be made more inclusive and have the words Epping North and Wollert inserted into them as appropriate and the word Aurora removed.
Ahmet proposed, Jo seconded. Passed unanimously, Proxy from Wilma received
- (ii) Resolution 2: The Aurora Community Association should adopt the proposed new rules, replacing the original rules created by the Association in 2009.
Tracey proposed, Thomas seconded- Passed unanimously, Proxy from Wilma received

8.30pm- **AGM Business**

1. Acceptance of 2012 AGM minutes (Toni-Marie Wuelfert, President)

Proposer- Thomas, Selva seconded

2. To receive and consider—

- (i) The annual report of the Committee on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year; (Toni-Marie Wuelfert, President).

The ACA Members from Epping North and Wollert have been very active over the past year participating in the following events and activities on behalf of the community, and acting in an advocacy role as a voice to Local, State and Federal Governments.

- We had four free Coffee and Chats at Creeds Living and Learning Centre, the liveliest was with Karen Vella from Places Victoria as she responded to the communities request for information and answers. We also had invited candidates for the Whittlesea Council elections to mingle with residents and ask questions. Another meeting we invited Alan Rhodes, Manager, Policy and Strategic Projects Fire Services Commissioner and his team to come and talk to residents about their experiences with the grassfires.
- Three General meetings were also held over the year, the most productive was with Whittlesea Council Director, Advocacy & Communications, Griff Davis when he came and gave a challenging speech about the road infrastructure in the area, which re-invigorated the Transport Working Group to be an active vibrant arm of the ACA. We also had Kathy Pompetti, Community Development Officer, from the Whittlesea Council come and speak about Councils facilities and we had a very interactive session with Tanya and Emma from the Edge and Marita from the Scouts. Our most unusual meeting was held at the Epping Memorial Hall on the night of the CFA debrief after the grassfires, when we transferred the meeting there from the Epping Views School, so residents could attend both events.
- During the year we joined with Places Victoria for the end of year Christmas Festival at Lehmann's Farm Park as well as the launch of the Northern Hospital Fundraiser.
- We also helped out with Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre's mail out for the CFLLC afternoon market and had representatives at their winter afternoon market.
- We worked with the Whittlesea Council, CFA and Ambulance Victoria in holding information meetings at four locations around the community to help residents de-brief after the grass fires: Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Primary School, Epping Views Primary School and the Wollert market.
- We organised a petition that was tabled in the State Parliament on the Diamond Interchange on the Hume Freeway and O'Herns Rd.
- We supported a group of residents as they took legal proceedings against Places Victoria to VCAT in relation to the FTTH Network and services.
- We informed residents of the problems with the security of some of the internet services.
- We advocated to Places Victoria for a community garden and joined with the Creeds Garden Club in writing a letter supporting the same.
- We had Friday morning drop-ins at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre.

- We ran a community meeting and wrote submissions to actively participate in the Metropolitan Planning Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne.

The ACA works together with a number of sub-groups or Working Groups which enhance the work we do, the ACA committee is represented by one or more members in each group:

- Car Boot Sale: With the help of Tracey and her team we ran a Car Boot Sale that was held on one of the coldest and wettest days of the month in November.
- Trivia Night: Our Annual Trivia night fundraiser that was a great success and raised a lot of awareness within the community and local businesses was held in April raising nearly \$1,700.
- Our ACA website group has been running a very successful, responsive and informative website that is up to date and relevant to the community.
- The Transport Working Group is very active in advocating on behalf of the Epping North/Wollert community on our transport needs. Meetings are held regularly and an Action Plan has been developed with the backing of the City of Whittlesea. We would especially like to thank all the support we have had from Mary Agostino, Executive Manager Advocacy for the Whittlesea Council.
- The Community Consultation Group was formed during the year to have a community voice with Places Victoria.

Committee members have met and/or corresponded with the following Politicians and key figures:

- Craig Ondarchie MP
- Mathew Guy MP
- Terry Mulder MP
- Danielle Green MP
- Bronwyn Halfpenny MP
- CEO Peter Seamer of Places Victoria
- Andrew Giles – new candidate for the seat of Scullin replacing Harry Jenkins MP (Labour Party)
- Meetings have been held with the majority of candidates for the next Federal election: Dominic Greco (Katter's Australian Party), Peter Cooper (Palmer United Party)
- We hope to meet with other candidates for the upcoming federal election soon and also hold a 'meet and greet' session with Candidates closer to the election date (date to be announced once election date announced).
- Councillors: Cr Kris Pavlidis who has continued to work with and for the ACA and Cr Adrian Spinelli

Regular articles have appeared in the leader Newspaper from the ACA, we had exposure in the Herald Sun and The Age, The Australian and The Northern Weekly. Recently the ACA met with the Editor of the Leader newspaper, following this meeting we will be having regular articles on issues, events and the people of the Epping North/Wollert community.

Earlier in 2013 the Committee wrote Submissions for the State and Federal budgets on:

1. Roads
2. Train
3. Youth Mental Health

And, budget Submission to the Whittlesea Council

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the ACA Committee over the past year:

Kathleen Ager (ex Vice President)

Khush Siganporza (ex Secretary)

Cara Horner (Secretary)– Special thanks

Roger Liang (Treasurer)

Shali De Silva (Public Officer)

Tony Francis (Ordinary Member)

Kerryn Rudolph (Ordinary Member)

Dan Rudolph (Ordinary Member)

Sri Bashyam (Ordinary Member)

They have worked tirelessly in many different capacities to help the ACA continue to run and be an active force in the community. They do a lot of unseen work to help make our events run smoothly and our advocacy work noteworthy. My thanks again to all of you for all the support you have shown me personally and this community, over the past year.

As well I would like to thank everyone who has participated in one of our working groups or supporting us at one of our public events for all your commitment in stepping out and making our work easier.

I really have enjoyed and appreciated all you have brought to the ACA and it has been a great year getting to know you and working alongside you!

Cara thanked Toni-Marie for all her tireless work and leadership over the past year.

- (ii) The financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act. (Roger Liang, Treasurer)

Roger presented the report- \$5656.67 closing bank balance for 2012-13 FY

Didn't do Bunnings BBQ but still \$900 more from car boot sale, trivia night and increasing memberships.

Bank interest is poor so need to consider using into higher interest account this year.

Website hosting is a continual cost but next year will cost us less.

Proposed by Steve and seconded by Suzie. Passed unanimously.

3. To confirm or vary—

- (i) The amounts (if any) of the annual subscription and joining fee (Toni-Marie Wuelfert, President)
Committee recommends to keep it the same at \$10- reg and \$10 yearly fee. Passed unanimously.

- (ii) The date for payment of the annual subscription. (Toni-Marie Wuelfert, President)
Committee proposes to keep due date at AGM- Passed unanimously.

4. To decide the number of ordinary members of the Committee (if any) it wishes to hold office for the next year. (Toni-Marie Wuelfert, President)

In past had 3 plus public officer= 4. Now we don't have Public officer so committee thought about 4 or 5 for ordinary members. Member Votes shown by hand- 4= 17, 5= 4. 4 will be number of ordinary members for this financial year.

5. To elect the members of the Committee; (rule 50) (Toni-Marie Wuelfert, President/ Joanna Durst, Returning Officer)

The Chairperson of the meeting declared all positions on the Committee vacant elections for each committee member position were held in accordance with rules 51 to 54. Joanna Durst was appointed to act as returning officer to conduct the ballot.

President= Toni-Marie Wuelfert nominated by Tracey. No other nominations. Toni-Marie Wuelfert elected as president.

Vice president= Ozge Sevindik-Alkan nominated by Nam. No other nominations. Ozge Sevindik-Alkan elected as Vice President

Secretary= Cara Horner nominated. No other nominations. Cara Horner elected as Secretary.

Treasurer= Chris Borg and SriBashyam Thulasiraman nominated for treasurer. Chris elected by secret ballot as Treasurer.

4 Ordinary members- Tony Francis, SriBashyam Thulasiraman, Kathleen Ager, Nessie Sayar all nominated for the four ordinary member roles. Ahmet was also nominated by Nam but declined the nomination. Tony Francis, SriBashyam Thulasiraman, Kathleen Ager and Nessie Sayar were all elected into Ordinary Member positions.

9.10pm- **End of formal meeting** (Toni-Marie Wuelfert)

Toni-Marie thanked every one for coming to the meeting and for the people who accepted roles on the 2013-14 ACA committee. Refreshments were provided.

Written by Cara Horner, Secretary.