

Kingston and Barton Residents Group Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4 November 2021

6.30pm-8.30 pm

Zoom

Final Minutes

1. **Welcome & Acknowledgement:**

The A/g President Richard Johnston acknowledged *the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, and paid our respects to Elders past and present*. He welcomed attendees, including special guests Tim Hollo, ACT Greens Candidate for Canberra, Shane Rattenbury MLA and Marea Fatseas, Vice Chairperson, Inner South Canberra Community Council.

2. **Apologies:** Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

3. **Guest Speaker** Tim Hollo, Candidate for Canberra, ACT Greens

Tim highlighted that he had a background as a Climate Change campaigner. More recently he has concerns about the State of Democracy. He sees the role of a Local Member as being the facilitator of good conversations and bringing views into political debate.

During question time attendees raised Light Rail. Professor Beatrice Bodart-Bailey invited Tim to look into issues raised on the Light Rail Agenda. Presentations could be found on the Deakin Residents Group website. Beatrice raised a range of issues including the cost of Light Rail Stage 2, the need to consider transport alternatives including Electric buses and the impact on the environment.

In discussion there were mixed views about transport alternatives. Some argued that the tide was turning from consideration of technology such as trackless trams to Light Rail. However, others cited examples where using trackless trams were actively being considered.

Tim indicated that the Greens considered that Light Rail was great technology but he would be open about looking at new information. See other business for further points.

An attendee also raised the issue of housing affordability. Tim indicated that this was a very complex issue, however the Greens had a range of policies directed towards addressing housing affordability.

4. **Endorsement of 2020 minutes.** No objections to the minutes of the 2020 AGM. The meeting unanimously endorsed the minutes.

5. **President's report.** Richard Johnston spoke to the President's report which had been circulated. See copy attached. Key highlights included:

- The group's activities were constrained by the continuing ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Telopea Adopt-A-Park has been deferred until later this year
- The Fire Station fashion parade was cancelled and the grant funds have been returned to the ACT Government.
- The Floriade planting was organised by Robby McGarvey and carried out by her brilliant band of helpers, with support from the Women's Shed, the National Trust, the Kingston Organic Community Gardeners, local shopkeepers, Bunnings, Lend Lease, and all the local MLAs (including Chief Minister Andrew Barr pushing a wheelbarrow) for which we are very grateful.
- Significant Development proposals that the group continues to deal with include the Kingston Arts Precinct, Geocon's Giles Street Kingston (Kingston Chambers) redevelopment, Morris Properties 52-56 Leichhardt Street redevelopment proposals, and the proposed 6 storey office building at 40 Brisbane Avenue Barton (see the attached report and Other Business for more information).
- Involvement in the ACT Planning System Review & Reform project. Community participation so far has been limited to a Workshop at the Eastlake Football Club in June. KBRG has worked with the ISCCC to develop an Inner South Canberra District Strategy from the bottom up. The KBRG Acting President contributed substantially through being a member of the ISCCC Planning Committee and presented the draft to the ISCCC Public Meeting on 14 September 2021. It is still a work-in-progress and a draft is on the ISCCC website.
- The KBRG Committee would be really grateful to get some new people on the committee. Please consider whether you can spare a bit of time to get involved, in the interests of your local community.
See the attached report for more detail.

The Presidents report was unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

6. **Treasurer's report.** Richard Johnston spoke to the Treasurer's report. This was circulated in advance of the meeting.
- The Bank Balance at 30 June 2021 was \$ 14,076.12. About 50% of this was unexpended government grants. Since then, about \$4000 Heritage grant for the Fashion parade has been returned to the ACT Government. The balance is now down to about \$10,000.
 - The total income to 30 June 2021 was \$2,215.34. This included a grant from the ISCCC (\$614.90) for the distribution of their newsletter and a donation of \$375 from Fairfax Media for KBRG's assistance with the Canberra Marathon. The remaining income was from membership subscriptions and donations.
 - Total expenditure to 30 June 2021 was \$614.90 for the distribution of the ISCCC newsletter by Air tasker.
 - The Financial report as presented includes an unqualified audited statement for the financial year ending 30 June 2020

The Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

7. Election of Committee

Prior to the meeting single nominations had been received for the following committee positions: President (Richard Johnston); Vice President (Peter Moore); Secretary (Kathie Potts); Ordinary Committee Members Nick Swain, Janet Hughes, John Mitchell, Brian Binning. All nominations were accepted. Nominations were not received for the Treasurer or for one Ordinary Committee Member. The President invited nominations from attendees, however, there none were received.

The President noted that these could be filled at a committee meeting and did not need to be elected at General Meeting.

8. Any other business

a. Geocon's Giles Street Kingston (Kingston Chambers) redevelopment.

Consultation on the DA has been extended until 23 November. The proposed development has come down in height from 8 Storeys at the Pre DA stage to 4 Storeys commercial in a 2 Storey area. Neighbours have argued that it will significantly reduce amenity including (overshadowing a small garden, taking away light and looking out on an ugly brick wall. In addition, trees are being destroyed and the building will generate more heat. Attendees at the meeting were encouraged to lodge objections.

b. Light Rail Stage 2, opportunity to provide input to KBRG approach.

The President introduced this discussion with some information about Light Rail Stage 2 - see attached notes by Richard Johnston. The President invited comments from attendees. There were mixed views about the Light Rail project. Key points raised by various individuals are highlighted below:

- the Government has a duty to fully outline costs and benefits before proceeding further
- For Light Rail to be successful there needs to be substantial constraints on car use
- The Commonwealth has shown its commitment to the installation of Light Rail by contributing \$132.5m to Stage 2A. This suggests that Light Rail will proceed
- There should be consideration of the stops on State Circle. Parliament House is currently very isolated. This will help better integrate Parliament House into the City and improve pedestrian access.
- KBRG should put time and energy into addressing how Light Rail can work for people who live and work in Barton
- While at the moment there are mixed views about Light Rail there will come a time when it is a done deal and KBRG should be prepared to work towards improving outcomes rather than only advocating against Light Rail.
- There is still an extensive consultation process associated with approving Light Rail. There was a suggestion that the installation of Light Rail is not a done deal.

Meeting Closed 8.30pm