

Newtown Residents' Association
Newtown Community Centre
17 May 2004

Present: Nick Jennings, Vic Marks, Kevin Lethbridge, Peter Frater, Tom Law, Frances Acey, Sue Piper, Don McDonald, Mary Smith, Bill Hooper, Graham Howell

Apologies: Warwick Taylor, Celia Wade-Brown, Martin Hanley

Minutes of April Meeting: Approved with minor amendment (Kevin/Don)

Treasurer's Report: Peter reported that the NRA Operation Account had made a small surplus, and, while not all revenue and expenses had yet been received for the Festival Account, it would do likewise. It was agreed to accept the Financial Report (Peter/Tom). It was noted we need to find an auditor. Treasurer Peter agreed to follow a number of possible avenues to recruit an Auditor at a satisfactory level of payment.

Matters Arising

- Rosier Memorial A response about a possible plaque in the Newtown Library is yet to be received.
- Riddiford Street Design Guide This is in progress
- Krupp Gun Plaques This too is in progress
- Emergency Management Adrian Glen is to report back to the NRA
- Public Places Bylaw Submission This was submitted
- Federation of Progressive Association-WCC Meeting: Nick attended and reported that the decentralisation of some of the democratic processes was basically on hold. Some discussion at the meeting focused on whether the possible development of further Community Boards should be Ward-wide or suburban-shopping centre based.
- Meet the Candidates Meeting; Tuesday, 14 September was chosen, with the NCC theatre the venue. Nick to inform the WCC so the event could be scheduled into other election meeting activities.
- Local Government Commission Report: The proposed letter objecting to the reduction in Councillors was approved for sending. (See link from Association News Page <http://www.nra.wellington.net.nz/newsletters.html>)
- Hospital Redevelopment: It was agreed to try and re-establish the John Street Group to discuss issues such as traffic management including pedestrian access. (Sue/Kevin) Nick and Martin were appointed. It was reported that the District Health Board were reconsidering the decision not to have a hydrotherapy pool on site. This change of heart was welcomed.
- Newtown Park Redevelopment: A joint meeting between the Health and Recreation and Built and Natural Environment Committees of the WCC is scheduled for 9.15am on Wednesday 4 August in Committee Room 1, Council Offices. This follows from progress with discussions between Athletics and Soccer users of the Park. Ideas should be given to Vic Marks or our Ward Councillors.
- Café at the Zoo: This has opened and is reported to have a significant local clientele.

- WCC Draft Annual Plan Submission: (See link from Association News Page <http://www.nra.wellington.net.nz/newsletters.html>). The main points are:
 - To question the proposed resurfacing of Lambton Quay prior to the completion of the Riddiford Street project.
 - Object to any financial support for any specific business, such as the purchase of the NZ Stock Exchange sign and the Ice-Rink at the Winter Show Building, but not object to business/city-wide attempts to attract new or retain existing business.
 - Welcome the move to significantly increase funding in the community sector support area.
 - Note the impact of the rising cost of rents, partly due to the fall in owner-occupied housing, and that this will have a flow on affect to the affordability of WCC rental housing.
 - Question the redevelopment of Glover Park within the context of the yet to be approved Homeless Strategy. In particular it was noted that that strategy needed to be holistic and humane and included having space within the inner city for the homeless to occupy during the day and at night. It was also felt a more pro-active housing policy of the homeless needed to be adopted.
 - Object to the continued shift in the ratings differential in favour of commercial property owners.
 - Support the continued WCC website development.
 - Advocate for more publicly accessible toilets in the city.

Meeting Closed 9.05pm.