

Record of Meeting in Hellenic Club

Wednesday 6 May 2015

- 1 WVCC President, **Martin Miller** welcomed attendees to the meeting. There were no apologies.
- 2 The minutes of the WVCC Meeting on Wednesday 4 April 2015 were approved.
- 3 Mr Simon Tenant, Deputy Director - Land Policy and Strategy, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate provided an update on the progress made on feasibility study into the **Woden/Weston Community Centre**. Investigations began back in 2012/13. The study recommends the hub be located in Woden Town Centre. Stakeholders include WCS, Lollipop, and WCC. Three sites were examined.
 - Section 8 Site 90 opposite the youth centre, costs estimated in order of \$25 million.
 - The existing site, with costs estimated in order of \$22 million but this compromises uses of adjacent sites, and
 - As tenant in joint commercial development with costs estimated in order of \$15 million.

Each had certain problems / constraints. The study concluded none of the above sites were really suitable so has ruled them out.

The consultants Stewart Architecture is now examining two other possible sites identified in the previous study

- Callam Offices
- Cosmopolitan Building

The consultants are going to focus their study on these alternative sites with the objective to report to the Chief Minister by end of 2015. It would then be up to the Government to consider and appropriate funds for proceeding with recommendations in FY 2016/17. Questions from the floor included: Would there be space for performing arts? The response was, yes. Had consultation been made with Woden Seniors? The response was, no not yet but intend to consult.

Mike Reddy Vice President WVCC Preliminary offered the preliminary observation that the Callam offices has more appeal because it has better linkages. Reuse of this

building requires encouragement. The development of a community hub at Cosmopolitan Building may compromise the development of the Woden Bus Interchange.

4. Mr Hamish Horne – CEO of Canberra Cemeteries presented the proposal by ACT Public Cemeteries Authority to expand Woden Cemetery in to Eddison Park to help cater for the burial needs of south Canberra. Current sales indicate that Woden Cemetery will run out of space by 2018. Burials would otherwise have to go to Tuggeranong or Gungahlin in the future. The Authority is seeking community feedback on the proposal to extend the Cemetery into the land between the entrance from Yamba Drive and the athletics track. Further information including sketch plan and a feedback survey will be available on www.timetotalk.act.gov.au . Following the consultation period, detailed plans will be developed to take into account community feedback. The plots have an in perpetuity lease so a change in legislation would be required to reduce the period of the lease agreements to say 30 years for example as one suggested from the floor. Responding to the observation from the floor that there is no mention of the proposed expansion in the Woden Town Master Plan, Mr Horne explained the need was only identified at the beginning of this year, hence the information tonight and the invitation to comment. Another observation came from the floor that the proposed expansion would take land that could possibly be required for expanding the hospital car parking. There is already a shortage of parking with illegal parking occurring in the residential streets around Garran near the Canberra Hospital.
5. Mr Rod Baxter, Senior Manager - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate advised that proposals to develop Woden Bus interchange began three years ago. Westfield investigated expansion but found the current economic outlook not reaching their investment thresholds so the Territory is examining opportunities to improve the Bus Interchange in the short term. The proposal presented tonight has been developed to remove the uncomfortable spaces and open up the entrance to the public plaza at the higher level. The program will be to lodge the DA application in May, replace the public toilets with an 'exceloo' toilet in August 2015, then proceed with the demolition by December 2015 and complete the new staircase and lift by about August 2016.
6. Mr Jian Vun, Mr Ben Riches – Environment & Planning Directorate advised that public consultation on the Curtin Group Centre Master Plan was launched last week. The six week consultation period closes on 6th June. Feedback will be considered by the Master Plan team then there will be another six week consultation period. The Master Plan will be finalized taking into account community feedback and eventually incorporated as a variation to the Territory Master Plan. There will be a meet the planners opportunity on 14th May and 23rd May.
7. WVCC Vice President Mike Reddy, gave an update from attending the recent Planning and Development Forum. Issues covered included the status on renewable energy targets, the options considered for the solar wind farm, the eastern grey kangaroo fertility trial, relocation of Uriarra Solar Farm to Williamsdale, relocation of

the Northern Frog to marsh lands. The theme of Heritage Festival to be held later this year will be conflict and compassion.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for 7:30pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.

Archana Boniface

Secretary