

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.
Record of Meeting, Southern Cross Club, Woden,
Wednesday 4 May 2016

- 1 The Chair, **Martin Miller**, welcomed attendees. There was an apology from Sheilah Egan.
- 2 Minutes of the meeting for 4 April 2016 were approved.
- 3 **Neil Pincombe**, Capital Works Engineer for ACT Roads, with contributions from **Karl Cloos** (Strategic Planning) and **John Hillman** (Design), provided a presentation on proposed traffic lights in Woden: the Hindmarsh Drive intersections with Launceston Street, and with Eggleston Crescent, being of most concern. Issues with slip lanes, roundabouts and two- and three-lane roads, their effect on safety for pedestrians, cyclists and effect on traffic flows for vehicles were canvassed. It was noted that roundabouts did not work very well when there were heavy traffic flows, one of a number of reasons why traffic lights were a preferred option in some cases. Draft design sketches for intersections involving the Tuggeranong Parkway, Launceston Street and Eggleston Crescent were displayed, prompting detailed discussion and questions.
Chris Erett raised issues to do with ‘rat running’ and the lack of completion of modifications to the slip lanes on the Melrose Drive and Hindmarsh Drive intersections, for which **Neil Pincombe** undertook to enquire and report back; **Mike Reddy** noted personal concern with the number of traffic lights between Lyons and Fyshwick; **Karl Cloos** pointed out that slip lanes were actually quite dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists and policy was to remove them where possible. **Martin Miller** enquired about bus-only lanes, but **Karl Cloos** noted that motorists tend to ‘run’ these if they could.
Other questions: Improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists? (reducing vehicle speed was significant here), possible under-road tunnels for pedestrians and cyclists? (not favoured because many people, and especially children, refuse to use them and vandals often smash the lights, further reducing their attraction). The number of bus movements through MacLaurin Cr was requested (but not known).
- 4 **David Jeffery**, Senior Manager, Sport and Recreation Facilities, Sport and Recreation Services, provided an update on the **Phillip Oval Upgrade** and the **Melrose High School Oval Upgrade**.

The Phillip Oval Upgrade is a partnership project, with the ACT Government giving \$4.163M and ACT Cricket and AFL \$1.6M for a total of \$6.213M. The architect Clarke Keller was progressing the design and construction is planned for later this year, following DA approval. Features will include sporting office accommodation, function rooms, change rooms, indoor and outdoor cricket, coaching boxes, scorers’ boxes, and enhanced improved lighting of the grounds. These improvements will make the Phillip Oval the second tier oval after Manuka for AFL and cricket in the ACT.

Questions included: seating? (some, but seating is a lower priority), **Jenny Stewart** asked about the inclusion of community facilities? (yes and the function rooms would include kitchen facilities), parking? (much the same), **Fiona Carrick** queried synergies with other facilities in the area? (yes, but many of these are private and it was not the government’s role to manipulate them), why not? (would consider if a good case were presented). **Mike Reddy** said that he applauded the development.

The Melrose Football Precinct is a partnership project, between Sport and Recreation and the Education Directorate, with government budgeting of \$6.653M; completion is scheduled for May, 2017. Some of the many features will include an enclosed, FIFA-approved synthetic grass soccer pitch, and an open pitch with natural grass as well as a sports ground pavilion.

Questions included: which teams will use it? (An approved number, though being on education facility land, they had priority), car parking spaces? (40 or 50 in a new area), will Marist be involved? (under consideration), which schools have synthetic ovals? (Monash, Nicholls and Hawker), maintenance responsibilities? (shared by the partners), replacement for the basketball courts, when demolished? (sporting groups will have access to facilities such as those at Alfred Deakin High School), ACT government to give a better lead on provision of facilities? (being considered), the Phillip Pool and the plans of ice skating groups? (developing). Again, **Mike Reddy**, applauded the project. It was, he said, establishing Canberra as a centre of excellence.

- 5 **Ian MacKay**, CEO of the Canberra Southern Cross Club, provided a detailed update on the new Health Club Facility. Board approval would be sought on May 16 for a DA submission by the end of May for projected completion in January 2018. Following strong feedback from members, it had been decided to include a warm indoor program pool, 16.66m long and 1.1m deep. Whilst the gym would be open 24/7, certain other facilities, including a small café and an early learning centre, would probably operate within the hours from 6am to 9pm. Illustrations showed the allocation of functions throughout the four-storey structure. The budget is \$15m to \$17m, with the pool the biggest item in it.

Questions included: fee increases? (no), actual floor space? (comparable to the existing gym – slightly smaller – but more efficient), bridge access for bicycles? (not known, **Mr MacKay** undertook to get back to **Martin Miller**), solar power? (yes), outdoor seating? (yes), access from Launceston Street? (no, though the access road through the Canberra College was now complete). **Mike Reddy** noted that these upgraded facilities would be a real asset to the community and thanked **Mr MacKay** for them and for the presentation.

- 6 Under General Business and other business: **Mike Reddy** provided an update on the ACT Waste Feasibility Study and the Planning and Development Forum. Issues drawn to attention included wind farms, community gardens, and the unsolicited development proposal from GWS for the Manuka Oval. It was suggested that community response to this latter proposal was not favourable; that the whole issue might be better opened to tender. It was noted that relocation of the Services Club was still under consideration.
- 7 The meeting finished at 9:42pm. Next meeting of the WVCC will be on Thursday 2 June in the Hellenic Club in Woden.

Timoshenko Aslanides

Minutes Secretary,

8 May 2016