

WELLINGTON CIVIC TRUST BOARD MEETING
5.30 PM, MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2015
THISTLE INN, 3 MULGRAVE STREET, THORNDON

1.1 Present: Toni Izzard, Clive Anstey, Maurice Clark, Craig Palmer, Bill Robertson, Jonathan Suggate.

1.2 Apologies: Liz Mellish, Sylvia Allen, David Tai, Jim McMahon, Eve McMahon, Alan Smith and Dorothy Thompson.

2 MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of the last meeting (7 September 2015) – resolution to approve them as correct record

Moved: Craig Palmer

Seconded: Bill Robertson

3 MAJOR ITEMS

3.1 Civic Trust Constitution– Eve McMahon
Waiting for response from IRD.

3.2 Draft Town Belt legislation – Craig Palmer
Submissions to Select Committee due by 29 October:
Craig referred to his memo prepared for the meeting.
The critical concerns remain; the concession to accommodate the Public Works Act within the Bill and the potential exclusion of exclusion of public challenges to major decisions.

Tiz reported on the meeting she and Craig had with Helene Ritchie, Adam Holloway, and Mike Oates. Tiz shared Craig’s concerns, especially the potential for public exclusion from challenging Council decisions. From discussions with Adam Holloway it seemed that the public would have to take a case to the Ombudsman or subsequently rely on a Judicial Review under the Judicature Amendment Act.

The consensus was that while we are very much in support of the Bill and wish to see it progressed we still have concerns (in spite of some considerable discussion and debate.) Ideally the Public Works Act should be kept outside the Bill. In the event that a proposed public work is to encroach on Town Belt Land the process of mediation and compensation should follow the normal procedure as an open public process (rather than a closed negotiation with selected councillors as the proposed amendment appears to intend.)

Meeting with Grant Robertson MP on Friday 9 October. It was agreed that both Tiz and Craig would attend. The concerns of the Trust as outlined above will be discussed.

3.3 Civic Trust Awards Programme – Toni Izzard

Tiz was able to update the board on arrangements.

Gerald Blunt has established and met with the judging panel of Judy Keith-Brown, Chris Cochran, and Dan Males. Gerald and the panel agreed that the date for the awards ceremony needed to be pushed out to allow more time to canvas potential entrants through the various professional bodies and interest groups.

The awards ceremony will now be during the 3rd week of November, an exact date to be set once the Mayor, who has agreed to host the event, has been consulted.

[Subsequent to the meeting, the date of **Tuesday 1 December** was agreed with the Mayor's office].

Maurice agreed to approach Chris Parkin for similar sponsorship provided for the last Awards.

3.4 Regional Council Natural Resources Plan– Sylvia Allan.

Sylvia invited other board members to comment before sending off her submission to meet the closing date of 25 September. Many thanks to Sylvia for putting our submission together.

It was decided to accept Chris Laidlaw's offer to meet with the Trust to discuss the Trusts interests and concerns. Tiz, Craig, and Clive (and/or Sylvia) will meet with Chris on a mutually agreed date.

4 OTHER ITEMS

4.1 Resource Management Act changes – Sylvia Allan

Sylvia is away.

Bill Robertson suggested that the Arthur Grimes' Report on Infrastructure may well have implications for the RMA and the governments proposed amendments. Bill will read the report and provide comment for the Board to consider.

4.2 General Headquarters Building, corner Buckle and Taranaki Streets – Alan Smith

There was nothing to report on this Item.

4.3 District Plan change: Designation of Basin Reserve/Pukeahu Memorial Park as nationally significant heritage area – Craig Palmer

Craig reported on various meetings and discussions he had held to explore this proposal.

The Board is very much in support of this proposal. The complexity of interests and ownership within the proposed precinct were briefly explored and it was agreed that while the Board supported such a proposed precinct there was a need for patience and persistence; it would take time to get everyone on board! The concept needed to be packaged and promoted in a way that interested parties could grasp, engage with, and support.

It was agreed that Craig and Bill would prepare a paper for the Wellington City Council's Transport and Urban Design Committee and request time to speak to this at their next meeting.

- 4.4 Open spaces – Kaiwharawhara and Estuary, and the Northern Gateway Project.
- Miramar/Watts Peninsula

Craig Palmer

Kaiwharawhara Stream and Estuary

Following a very brief discussion it was agreed that the stream was in good hands and that no immediate action was required. It was further agreed that the matter would be raised at the meeting with Chris Laidlaw, not to air concerns but to endorse the values of the stream and the excellent work being supported by the regional council. The Civic Trusts interest in and support for the Gateway Project would also be made known to Chris. Also to be emphasised is the importance of the Coastal Plan section of the Regional Natural Resources Plan ensuring public access to the beach on the northern edge of the Kaiwharawhara Reclamation.

Miramar/Watts Peninsula. While the response from Maggie Barrie to the Trust's letter was very courteous the Minister did not respond to the questions asked of her. As a result we are no further advanced in our understanding of the Minister's plans for the peninsula and how the Trust might engage in any planning process.

It was agreed that Tiz should write back to the Minister and:

1. Ask for a response to the questions raised in the earlier letter but not answered.
2. Point out the Trust's concerns with regard to infrastructure costs; a private developer may well load infrastructure costs on Wellington Ratepayers.
3. Stress that the Trust has a genuine interest in the future of the Peninsula and wishes to be informed about and engaged in the planning of the Peninsula's future.

- 4.5 Membership Secretary – Toni Izzard

Attempts have been made to contact Isabella Cawthorn and invite her to be seconded to the Board as Membership Secretary. Further attempts will be made to engage Isabella.

- 4.6 Civic Trust's Auditor – Liz Mellish

Suggested approach to Euan Playle, a retired former partner at BDO Spicers Wellington, on finding an auditor. Craig will mention this to Liz when he next sees her.

4.7 Bus Rapid Transport proposal – Alan Smith

Report on review of Civic Trust's stance.

Alan was not available to report. His thoughts and recommendations were provided for the meeting.

Tiz was however able to report progress with the 'upgrade' of the No 5 bus route - the removal of Trolley buses (and wires) and their replacement with diesel buses. The Trust has concerns about the indecent haste with which trolley buses are being replaced.

Tiz will write a letter to WCC/NZTA/ Greater Wellington, copied to the Dom-Post for publication, highlighting the Trusts concerns and suggest the joint development of a long overdue strategy to provide vision and a coherent direction for the City's future public transport system.

4.8 Relationship of Trust with other Civic Trusts – Alan Smith

Alan was not present but is progressing this issue.

4.9 Waterfront – Report on 24/09 waterfront development debate hosted by Building Owners and Managers Association.

Tiz attended the meeting and was able to report a positive outcome; there was a consensus that there is already sufficient development on the waterfront and that going forward the focus needed to be on consolidation and enhancement of what we have. It was also agreed that the 'Waterfront Framework' should continue to guide the management of the waterfront.

5.0 Attendance at Civic Precinct workshop – Tiz and Maurice Clark

Maurice reported on the workshop. In brief; the council's proposal is to sell Ilotts Green and use the money to strengthen the town hall (to meet earthquake standards) and 'enhance/complete' the square. The prospect of making Mercer Street into a pedestrian access way was also canvassed. Given that the School of Music is no longer interested in Ilotts Green (they intend to occupy the Municipal Office Building without spending on earthquake strengthening) it is Maurice's view that should Ilotts Green be sold it would be developed for apartments.

Maurice was not convinced of the need to 'enhance/ complete' the square. He sees such squares as a space for intersecting pedestrian thoroughfares, not as self-contained enclosed space.

There will be a report from the meeting which will summarise the outcomes and outline the next steps. The Trust will look forward to seeing this report and will be following up with comments and suggestions.

5.1 Attendance at Wellington's Resilience Strategy workshop – Alan Smith, Clive Anstey

Alan was able to attend and provided his comment for the meeting;

The WCC envisages a time period of 9 months between an agenda-setting exercise and the release of a Resiliency Plan. Within the next month the WCC will announce the appointment of the first WCC Resilience Officer. There was a general consensus (not firmed) that the main threats/issues for building resilience in Wellington will be:

- (i) climate change things
- (ii) economic vitality
- (iii) infrastructure age and adequacy.

Alan's view is that the Trust should retain an active part in the networks and discussions.

6 REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Correspondence 7 September – 1 October

Inward correspondence:

15/09 Letter from Hon. Maggie Barry re Watts Peninsula & Shelley Bay

15/09 Email from Mayor's office re Civic Trust 2015 Awards

6.2 Financial report – David Tai

The report was tabled at the meeting for information. David returns from overseas on 22 October.

6.3 Membership report – David Tai

David was not present but Tiz supported the idea of a membership drive (as suggested by Clive at the last meeting) or provide some suggestions on how we might increase membership. Having Isabella Cawthorn on board would facilitate that.

6.4 Transport – Murray Thessman

Murray not present so nothing was reported on this Item.

6.5 Seismic – status of Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act –

Bill Robertson has reported to the committee and is keeping in touch with progress.

6.6 Heritage and conservation

Maurice Clark announced the formal opening of the newly renovated Public Trust building on 27th October. Maurice agreed to send an invitation to the Chair of the

Civic Trust.

6.7 Newsletter

Jonathan Suggate has the final newsletter for the year in hand and awaits material from Board Members!

6.8 Website

Jonathan Suggate and other board members agreed that having Matthew available on a 'project by project' basis worked well and that the arrangement should continue.

6.9 Review of action points from last meeting, 7 September

The action points were reviewed and there were no outstanding matters.

7 **GENERAL BUSINESS**

7.1 Trust Christmas picnic 13 December

The two options were discussed;

- Bruce Stokell has kindly offered to host a gathering at his place on Pauatahanui Hill Road, as he did last year. It was agreed that last year's function was a great success.
- Di Buchan has also offered to host the Christmas picnic at her place out at Otaki. Many successful Xmas functions have previously been held at Di's place.

Tiz will discuss the matter further with Bruce and Di and with the benefit of the Board's comments, make a decision on the venue.

8 **NEXT MEETING**

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2015 at Thistle Inn. (Venue not available on Monday.)

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Toni Izzard

- Attend meeting on the draft Town Belt Bill with Grant Robertson Friday 9th October
Work with Craig to finalise submission on Town Belt Bill following meeting with Grant Robinson. The deadline for this is Thursday 29 October.
- Write to NZTA, the City Council and the Regional Council regarding bus rapid transport. (With a copy to the Dom-Post for publication.)
- Liaise with Gerald Blunt and the mayor to confirm the awards date'
- Confirm the meeting with Chris Laidlaw and arrange a date.

- Write back to Maggie Barrie regarding the future of Miramar/Watts Peninsula.
- Contact Isabella Cawthorn
- Receive an invitation to the opening of the restored Public Trust Heritage Building and attend.
- Decide the venue for the Trust's Xmas gathering.

Craig Palmer

- Meet with Grant Robertson on Friday 9th October
- Finalise the Trust's submission on the Town Belt Bill.
- Attend a meeting with Chris Laidlaw on a date to be decided.
- Work with Bill Robertson preparing a paper for the Council's Transport and Urban Design Committee on the *Basin Reserve/ Pukeahu Precinct Proposal*. Ask to speak at their next meeting.

Bill Robertson

- Report on the implications of the Arthur Grimes Report for the RMA review.
- Work with Craig on the *Basin Reserve/ Pukeahu Precinct Proposal*.

Maurice Clark

- Send Tiz an invitation to the Public Trust Heritage Building opening.
- Follow up on the Civic Square Precinct meeting; obtain minutes and suggest ongoing action for the Trust.
- Approach Chris Parkin regarding sponsorship of this year's Awards

Clive Anstey

- Attend meeting with Chris Laidlaw.
- Continue input to the Wellington Town Belt Submission.
- Assist with the Awards as required.

Liz Mellish

- Pursue the search for an auditor with Evan Playle