

KCC
Kew Cottages Coalition
Annual General Meeting Minutes
7pm Wednesday 2nd November 2017
Phyllis Hore Room Kew Civic Centre
Cnr Cotham Road and Civic Drive

The AGM was declared open by MC Rod Quantock at 7.00pm. He introduced the President, Brian Walsh, and welcomed the guest speakers.

Apologies were received from:

Bruce Atkinson MLC, Michael Black AC QC, Ann Brewer, Elizabeth Bentley, David Davis MLC, Kristian Grayson, Cr Phillip Healey, Sue Pennicuik MLC, John Lovering, Kerry Lovering, Sally Macallan, Jasmin Verginis, Frances Scholtz.

Minutes of the February 2017 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the February 2017 Annual General Meeting were taken as read and accepted by the meeting. Proposed Rod Quantock Seconded Brian Walsh Motion carried unanimously

Matters Arising.

Rod Quantock read a report from Cr. Phillip Healey.

Brian Walsh reported that the four motions passed unanimously by the 23rd February 2017 Public Meeting had been conveyed to the State Government, Walker Corporation, and the Auditor-General as follows:

- 1A. This Public Meeting calls on Major Projects Victoria and Walker Corporation to provide an undertaking to respect the heritage values of the Kew Cottages site, and abandon their plans to build on the heritage parkland at the entrance to Willsmere.
- 1B. This Public Meeting calls on the Minister for Planning and Heritage to amend the current Heritage Bill before Parliament in order to ensure the best interests of the community are given priority over exclusive or private developments.
- 2. This Public Meeting calls on The Minister for Major Projects and the Minister for Community Services to honour the Bracks and Brumby Governments undertakings not to privatise the three remaining heritage buildings, but to adapt and continue to use them for the provision of services for both the intellectually disabled and the wider community.
- 3. This Public Meeting calls on the Auditor-General to undertake a forensic audit of the Walker Corporation and Kew Development Corporation books in order to investigate serious financial anomalies including why the project has never turned a profit, despite the significant rise in eastern suburbs property values since Main Drive Kew sales commenced in 2007.

Brian tabled the reply received from the Auditor General. However, he was disappointed he said to have to report that that no response had been received from either the State Government or Walker Corporation.

Treasurer's Report.

Mr. David Pym presented the Treasurer's Report. The Report was duly received and considered in accordance with Rule 9 of the model rules.

Proposed Lindsay Grayson Seconded. Brian Walsh

Motion carried

President's Report.

Brian Walsh presented the President's Report.

He said there were basically two key issues - the Heritage Parkland and the Money Trail.

Heritage Parkland

Brian said that the good news was that Heritage Victoria's had rejected Walker's latest (2017) Stage 8 Apartment Heritage Permit Application, and he was hopeful the land would now be handed back to Boroondara Council for restoration.

However, he said that the future of the three remaining Cottages in the Heritage Core was still uncertain, because it appeared the State Government was now intent on selling the former School House, Dining Hall, Cottage, and some of the adjoining parkland for private residential use.

In reply to a question as to whether one of the original cottages could be used as a community kindergarten, he said, "That still appears to be possible, because the Cottages still belong to the Government, not Walker Corporation."

The Money Trail.

The Sunday Age front page headline on 17 March 2017 was "*Where's the money from Kew Cottages ?*" The Age reported that hundreds of millions of dollars was unaccounted for from Kew Cottages, and "that after ten years as the deal comes to an end, there appears to be one clear winner - Lang Walker, the multi-billionaire property developer.."

The Age followed up with an Editorial saying that "If the government truly wishes to learn from the experience of the development at Kew Cottages, an independent inquiry should be established into the outcome. At the very least the auditor-general should be asked to examine the circumstances surrounding the deal."

Brian concluded by thanking the Committee and all the Coalition's supporters who had worked so hard during the year to hold the State Government publicly accountable for the Kew Cottages Walker Development.

Motion: That the President's Report be accepted.

Moved. Lindsay Grayson. Seconded Max Jackson. Carried

Election of the Committee.

There being the same number of nominations as office bearers required, the new Committee was declared elected.

Committee Members 2017

President, Brian Walsh

Vice President, Lindsay Grayson

Secretary Ann Brewer

Treasurer, David Pym,

Committee Member Max Jackson

Committee Member Margaret Ryan

Moved. Margaret Ryan. Seconded Frances Scholtz

Carried..

AGM DECLARED CLOSED.

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PUBLIC MEETING OPENED.

Tonight's Topic

Kew Cottages and Public Parkland

Guest Speakers

1. Dr. Lindsay Grayson

Lindsay recapped last year's Walker Corporation apartment proposal, noting while there was a reduction in height from 5 to 3 storeys, plus an underground carpark, the footprint was both larger and closer to Main Drive than their previous application.

He said that while it was good that Walker's latest permit application had also been knocked back by Heritage Victoria, Walker always appeals.

Lindsay then went on to explain in more detail KCC's positive proposal for the site – a Kew Cottages Arboretum based on Baron Von Mueller's original plans for a 'promenade' into the Willsmere/Kew Cottages site. (See KCC Arboretum plans on website kew.org.au)

Motion: This Public Meeting welcomes the recent ruling by Heritage Victoria to reject Walker's recent building application and calls on MPV to now transfer the land to Boroondara Council to establish a **Kew Arboretum to fulfill the original von Mueller vision for this heritage site.**

Proposed. Lindsay Grayson

Seconded. Brian Walsh

Passed Unanimously

2. Nick Stavrou – The Wider Issue

Rod Quantock introduced Nick Stavrou as one of the local residents who had campaigned against both the Walker Kew Development, and the Government's proposed rezoning of the adjoining 48 Wills Street land.

Nick explained the potential risks to adjoining sites if Walker win on appeal.

He said that the 46/48 Wills Street site was directly south of Stage 8 on the other side of Main Drive and would be directly affected.

Other apartment plans under consideration in the vicinity included 61 Molesworth Street where 11 apartments over 5 storeys were proposed.

Nick said that a big ground swell helps, and he encouraged people to make detailed submissions against inappropriate development, and to object if Walker appeals – Walker have until just before Christmas to appeal.

Questions and Comments from the audience inc

- Monitor the 3 heritage cottages inc photos of the work being done by MPV;
- Call on the Government to return Planning Authority to Boroondara Council;
- Request local State MP's to raise the latter again in Parliament.

8.15 pm Rod Quantock closed the Public Meeting