KCC

Kew Cottages Coalition Annual General Meeting Minutes 7pm Wednesday 26 February 2020 Phyllis Hore Room Kew Civic Centre Cnr Cotham Road and Civic Drive

Brian Walsh, President, KCC, declared the AGM open at 7.00pm. He introduced the MC Stephen Mayne, and welcomed the guest speakers, The Hon. Clifford Hayes MLC Southern Region; Cr Cynthia Watson, Mayor, Boroondara Council; Michael Black AC QC, Local Resident; Cr Phillip Healey, Studley Ward, Boroondara Council; and Dr. Lindsay Grayson, Vice President, KCC.

Apologies were received from:

Ben Carroll MP, Tim Smith MP, Tien Kieu MP, Suzanna Sheed MP, Ingrid Stitt MP, Christine Couzens MP, Stuart Grimley MP, Bruce Atkinson MP, Rod Quantock, Margaret Ryan, Phillip Storer, Elizabeth Bentley, Ann Brewer, Frances Schultz, Nick Stavrou, David Davis MP.

Minutes of the 26 February 2019 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the February 2019 Annual General Meeting were taken as read and accepted by the meeting.

Proposed Lindsay Grayson Seconded Brian Walsh Motion carried unanimously

Matters Arising.

Brian Walsh reported that the motions passed unanimously by the February 2019 Kew Public Meeting had been conveyed to the State Government as follows:

- 1. That the Victorian Government and Development Victoria must immediately cease all further development at the Kew Cottages Development site.
- 2. That the Victorian Government must immediately reinstate Boroondara Council as the Planning Authority for the Kew Cottages site.
- 3. That the Victorian Government must ensure that Heritage Victoria is provided with adequate funding to both:

Proactively inspect and monitor compliance with heritage permits; and to Properly enforce and defend its decisions in the public interest.

He said Clifford Hayes had the raised these matters in Parliament, and would be reporting on the outcome at tonight's meeting.

Brian said that Heritage Victoria was still seriously under resourced, and the situation appeared to be growing worse by the day. As previously reported, Heritage Victoria had not even been legally represented at the Heritage Council Kew Cottages Development Review. Whereas, Walker Corporation had engaged 2 Senior Counsel, and many expert witnesses.

"That was like sending a lamb to slaughter", Brian said, "Heritage Victoria never stood a chance". But it got worse. After Walker won its appeal, John Hawker, Heritage Victoria's arborist retired, leaving the regulator bereft of any staff with expertise on the Kew Cottages landscape and tree management issues posed by the Walker development. It took many

months before KCC could even get some basic replies to questions Michael Black and I had raised at a meeting we had with the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria in March."

Treasurer's Report.

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

Proposed Lindsay Grayson Seconded Tony Michael

Motion carried

President's Report.

Tribute to Max Jackson.

Brian Walsh paid tribute to Max Jackson who died of cancer in 2019. Max was a long standing KCC Committee member, and former CEO of Kew Cottages.

"Max had a terrific sense of humour, and was a fantastic advocate for the disabled", Brian said. "The Kew Cottages Coalition will forever be in his debt. We will miss him, and a great many disabled Victorians will miss Max too."

Death of Heritage Tree 191.

Brian said that despite previous State Heritage permit requirements, Heritage Victoria did not undertake pro-active monitoring of the health of Heritage listed trees on the site, and instead simply relied on the land owners and the public to report problems.

The recent death of Tree 191 - a large Canary Island Pine in the Von Mueller Arboretum therefore still remained unexplained, pending further testing for *phytophthora cinnamomi* being undertaken by Boroondara Council. This deadly tree disease killed another pine tree when the Walker development started.

The key issue this year, therefore, remains the ongoing failure of Victoria's Heritage Protection' system at Kew Cottages.

Firstly, because it makes no sense to have heritage protection based on permit conditions without the necessary resources to enforce the conditions.

Secondly, because it makes no sense to rely on the public reporting breaches of the Kew Cottages Heritage Tree Management Plan yet deny public access to the Tree Management Plan.

In summary, this year has just provided more evidence of what has gone wrong with Heritage protection at Kew Cottages.

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

Election of the Committee.

Stephen Mayne announced that as there were the same number of nominations as office bearers required, the new Committee was declared elected.

Committee Members 2019-2020

President, Brian Walsh Vice President, Lindsay Grayson Secretary Ann Brewer Treasurer, David Pym, Committee Member Mary Drost Committee Member Margaret Ryan

Moved. Brian Walsh Seconded Lindsay Grayson Carried..

AGM DECLARED CLOSED. === PUBLIC MEETING OPENED.

Tonight's Topic Victoria's Heritage Protection on Trial

Stephen Mayne introduced the Guest Speakers:

Cynthia Watson, Mayor, Boroondara Council.

Clifford Hayes MP, MLC Southern Metropolitan

Cr Phillip Healey, Studley Park Ward

Dr. Lindsay Grayson, KCC.

Listen to the Speakers on www.kew.org here
Or to listen later
Download the audio from https://bit.ly/3m2CF0r

Resolutions Passed

The following Motions were passed unanimously by the Meeting:

- 1. Given Heritage Victoria's difficulty in enforcing the mandated Phytophthora control regulations, we call on Gavin Jennings, Minister for Priority Precincts to immediately halt all further development on the Kew Cottages site until the level of Phytophthora contamination can be accurately defined.
- 2. This Public Meeting calls on the Legislative Council of the Victorian Parliament to establish an inquiry into Heritage Protection in Victoria.
- This Public Meeting calls on the Minister for Planning to commit to returning Kew Cottages Planning Authority to Boroondara Council when the Walker Development Contract expires on 31 Dec 2020
- 4. This Public Meeting calls on the Minister for Priority Precincts, Gavin Jennings, and Development Victoria, not to renew the Walker Kew Cottages Contract when the current contract expires on 31 Dec 2020.

Proposed. Lindsay Grayson Seconded. Brian Walsh Passed. Unanimously