

INNER CITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 6pm on Tuesday 08 May 2012 at the CQ Hotel, Cuba St, Wellington

Present: Geraldine Murphy; Gus Charteris; Grant Firth; Anna Locker-Lampson; Chrissy Hill; Sarah and David Webb; Kraft and Yvonne D'Souza; Nicky and Richard Darlow; Iona Pannett; Stella Bridge; Linda-Jane Richan; Bill Nelson; Gary Butler; Glen Caulfield; Neil Cooper; Alison Bartley; Jeff Montgomery; Olivier Lacoua.

Apologies: Jenny Pelvin; Grant Robertson; Celia Wade-Brown; Ian McKinnon; David and Bronwyn Wallis; John Harris; Debbie Stanton; Jean Phipps; Marten Young; Stephanie Cook; Ian Stantiall.

Chair's Report (attached) circulated and accepted by Chrissy Hill and seconded by Gus Charteris.

Treasurer's Report (attached) circulated and accepted by Chrissy Hill and Gus Charteris. A query was made regarding the grant from the WCC and Gus Charteris explained that we had employed a temporary person, Gillian Christie, to canvas inner city businesses and get their feedback about issues of concern. This has proved to be invaluable in increasing our membership and profile and it is anticipated that the information received will be collated and circulated. Alison Bartley was interested to receive more information as she had never received a visit.

No decision has yet been made as to how the ICA will use the remaining funds from the Grant, but this is being progressed. A final report is required by WCC, and this will need to cover the allocation to the Newtown Business Group as it was a joint application.

It was noted that other grants were available (for Residents Assn and for a Community Resilience Grant. The Residents Assn grant had not been applied for at this point, and a specific purpose for the Community Resilience Grant, and someone to champion it is required.

Elections: The following people were elected :

Chair/President:

Geraldine Murphy Nominated by: Gus Charteris. Seconded: Anna Locker-Lampson
*Geraldine stated that she is happy to accept this position for one year only and that the ICA should give consideration to who her successor may be. Geraldine stressed that we do need to get new people in the future to come onto the committee to ensure that ICA keeps fresh and pro-active. She also thanked Olivier for his generosity in allowing our meetings to be held at the CQ Hotel.

Iona Pannett thanked everyone on the committee for the work they have done over the past year.

Vice President

Olivier Lacoua Nominated: Geraldine Murphy Seconded: Anna Locker-Lampson
*Olivier accepted this position with the proviso that it is for 6 months only. Geraldine proposed that having a resident and business person in these two positions was important to adequately reflect the intended membership of ICA.

Treasurer:

Grant Firth Nominated: Geraldine Murphy Seconded: Gus Charteris

Secretary:

Anna Locker-Lampson Nominated: Geraldine Murphy Seconded: Richard Darlow

Earthquake Sub-Committee Chair

Gus Charteris Nominated: Grant Firth Seconded: Olivier Lacoua

Other sub-committee members include: Jon de Groen, Ian Stantialls, Chrissy Hill

Committee

Jean Phipps Nominated: Gus Charteris Seconded: Geraldine Murphy

Stella Bridge Nominated: Gus Charteris Seconded: Geraldine Murphy

Linda-Jane Richan Nominated: Geraldine Murphy Seconded: Yvonne D'Souza

Sarah Webb, a retail consultant has offered her expertise to assist the committee during the next year.

Jamie Fraser has offered to assist with technical expertise for the website for the ICA.

Geraldine very grateful for these generous offers.

General Business:

Update on EQ sub-committee activities

Gus noted that the ICA had recently joined with the Council to host a public meeting for inner-city owners of earthquake-prone buildings. The objective had been to share information on the processes underway relating to earthquake strength standards in order to help reduce the high levels of uncertainty and anxiety in the owner community.

Gus thought the meeting was a resounding success with a full house of around 105 people and a lively (and at times emotional) Q&A session. He said the meeting highlighted the need for on-going communication between the Council and the public on earthquake strength issues and noted ICA's desire to continue its facilitation and advocacy efforts in this area. Gus also provided a read-out of a meeting he and Chrissy Hill had attended with the Department of Building and Housing. The meeting was to follow-up on a letter the ICA had written to the Minister of Building and Construction outlining the various concerns the owner community held in relation to the potential change to earthquake standards. The Minister had declined to meet with ICA representatives and had instead recommending contacting DBH directly.

Key points from the meeting included:

- The Government understood the very real financial constraints at the building and owner level;
- Modelling undertaken to date suggested that the costs of increasing earthquake standards far outweighed any benefit (even when taking a broader "resilience" perspective rather than a narrower "life safety" perspective). This would inform the Government's response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry.
- The Government was looking at ways it could provide greater certainty for owners wanting to pursue earthquake strength work e.g. if work is completed and standards change then buildings might be exempt from having to do further work for a specified period.

- The Government was also looking at a possible rating system that might support market-based decision making.

ICA Awareness Campaign among businesses

Geraldine and Olivier provided an update on the meeting with Garry Poole, CEO and Wendy Walker, Director, Citizen Engagement, to discuss the issues raised by businesses in the ICA awareness campaign, particularly small businesses which make up the majority of businesses. In particular Garry Poole suggested a submission from ICA outlining the need for more support from WCC for small businesses to address the engagement gap identified by businesses and to better support and retain existing and local businesses. The report of this work will be placed on the website in the near future.

Inner city safety and security concerns raised by businesses was also discussed, as this has been raised by residents. The City Safety Review report is due soon and one change will be to permanently move the monitoring of CCTV cameras to the Police as this improves the identification of potential crimes/problems. The use of volunteers to monitor cameras requires further discussion. Graffiti was noted as a growing problem and increased the issues of safety and security. Garry Poole outlined that a previous initiative to fund Police for the Cuba St Police Office had not been totally successful as WCC lost control of that resource. Ian McKinnon will liaise with Police and organise for a senior manager to speak to ICA on resourcing issues.

Transport Forum

This was deferred as Jean Phipps had sent her apologies.

Long Term Plan submissions

Geraldine also requested that members of ICA should email their thoughts on the WCC's Long-term district Plan so that we can make positive submissions. There is some urgency in receiving these views as the submissions close on Friday 18 May.

The key points of the draft ICA submission on the LTP outlined were:

- Use some of the Destination Wellington funding to resource better support for existing and new small businesses, who comprise the bulk of businesses. It is cheaper to retain and support than attract new.
- To allocate some of the funds currently targeted towards a new inner city park, Memorial Park, Victoria St changes to providing additional resources to improve safety and security. This could be for increased CCTV, WCC uniformed security staff to provide a presence.
- Support for the \$1.5m for initiatives to help building owners meet their requirements for strengthening (advise, support forums, etc.) as there is a public good arising from this.
- Support for the \$329,000 pa over next three years for heritage grants as there is a public good component from this.
- Support for WCC to strengthen essential infrastructure in the event of an earthquake, eg roads, water.

- Support for WCC's programme to strengthen its own building portfolio provided that the programme utilises the available timeframe. Ratepayers must fund this work, along with their own strengthening/earthquake resilience needs.
- Support for Option 2 for asset renewals (only make reductions over the 10 years of the Plan than result in low or medium risk).
- To further review all other initiatives and to work with the Regional Council to reduce the overall rates increase of the combined WCC and Regional Council: an average increase of 9.4% residential and 11.4% commercial.

Topics for next year

Geraldine noted that EQ strengthening, progressing the engagement with WCC for businesses, and safety and security would be ongoing issues.

In addition, Jennifer Pelvin has offered to lead discussions on the drafting a policy on noise issues in the city, in liaison with WCC.

Alison Bartley suggested that it would be very useful to have a person who could liaise with all other similar groups to ICA, local body organizations and various pertinent groups. It was suggested that these other groups be listed on the website and anyone interested in doing this liaison role should contact Geraldine.

Anna Locker-Lampson suggested that we compile a questionnaire of what ICA considers to be important issues and circulate it to our members for their input.

Iona Pannett said we should be considering ICA's thoughts on the possibility of a Super Council and the boundaries of such a council. i.e. Porirua/Kapiti/Wairarapa/ Hutt Valley.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

Next meeting: 6pm on Tuesday 12 June 2012 at the CQ Hotel.