

Lyneham Community Association

Inaugural Annual General Meeting

7:30pm 23/2/15

St Ninian's Church Hall, Lyneham

Attendance:

Colin Casperz, Liz Bondaruk, Andrew Hellyer, Mathew Johnson, Owen Harrod, Arthur Read, Carole.E.Morro, Tim Hollo, Tony Fidanza, Amanda O'Brien, Denis O'Brien, Christopher Johns, Hail Ruth, Norma Stacy, David Coughlan, Ern Kennedy, Jefferson Godfrey, Trevor Vickers, Alice Roughley, Rich Dean, Alison Oakeshott, Simon Cobcroft, Margaret Clark, Steve Doszpot, Tony Fraser, Shane Rattenbury.

Guests/Speakers: Tony Fraser, Meg Clarke, Shane Rattenbury MLA & Steve Doszpot, MLA

Apologies: Peter Adamson, Claire Hinton,

Meeting opened at 7.35pm, Chair Denis O'Brien welcomed members & guests, and acknowledged we were meeting on Ngunnawal Country: respects were paid to Elders past & present.

Attendees were invited to fill out a circular as to which current local issues were of concern to assist the committee with planning priorities and any skills/resources that members could offer to LCA.

Guest speakers:

1. Next Generation Canberra, North Lyneham - General Manager Tony Fraser

Tony outlined the scope and services of the new premium lifestyle health, sporting & recreation Club due to open in July 2015: the centre includes: 27 tennis courts, 6 squash courts, gym, sports medicine, coaching, fitness classes & 2 pools. In addition to the tiered private memberships program tennis casual bookings will be available and Children's swim school, tennis clinics & holidays camps. Tony took questions: the centre has 290 car spaces, no pokies, the club will offer some café dining services to members. Premium users are the target demographic. Based on previous use of the site and experience there should be no significant traffic impact. Removable seating will be in place for possible exhibition tennis matches. www.ngclubs.com.au Tony will discuss with the committee about whether NG could assist with sponsorship.

2. Lyneham Commons - Meg Clarke

Meg outlined the aims of the Commons project: it is not about "plots" on leased land, the concept is designed to form an edible layered food system and develop community social capital, no one "owns" the food that is produced, the food is available to share. The team will deploy permaculture principles and the proposed site in west of the 4 way bike junction near Lyneham PS. Much negotiation has gone on with TAMS with admin support from Northside Community Service through an MOU. Water is the biggest issue being worked through & the proposed tree plans are being lodged with TAMS for consideration.

The concept and the way it is being approached is to have a 'Creative Commons' open source concept endorsed by ACT Government which can be re-used by anybody to replicate the same outcomes.

3. Denis invited the attending MLA's to say a few words:

- Shane Rattenbury thanked LCA for the invitation to attend and encouraged us in our efforts.
- Steve Dozpot congratulated the Lyneham community for forming this association. He said these groups helped him keep the Government honest, especially with new electoral boundaries being drawn up.

Denis thanked the MLA's for their attendance and support.

Chair's report:

Denis O'Brien reported that since the meeting on 22/1/15 which resolved that an Lyneham association was needed and viable, and the draft constitution was adopted; the incorporation application was lodged on 3/2/15. We have also publically launched LCA Inc with a pre Valentine's Day press release "locking our love for Lyneham", modelled on recent media coverage of the national Capital Authority's decision to remove "love locks" from the footbridge to the Carillion. This release attracted the notice of local resident and ABC broadcaster Genevieve Jacob who interviewed Denis on the ABC 666 morning program.

Denis noted that in his many years in this area Lyneham was a unique place and a great residential suburb: people say G'day, which is rare elsewhere. He wants this spirit to continue & grow. Great friendly community, social and inclusive.

The LCA knows that with the ACT Government plans for urban infill more residents are coming to Lyneham sooner or later but he wants to see a mix of dwellings planned so families and households of all shapes and sizes choose to make this great place their home. When development comes down Northbourne we want to keep that social inclusion.

Why are we here? We need to be a bit political, to ensure we drive what's best for the community. Working together as a community to find a common ground.

Secretary's report:

Rich Dean reported that work is underway to set up cost effective (i.e. free where possible) processes and systems to operate the association including a website and social media.

He invited members and friends of Lyneham to be eyes and ears and to report issues that could impact the area. He confirmed that about 50 community members have joined LCA's mailing list, which is very positive for a new group with no promotional budget and only 3 weeks of official operation.

We now have 'lyneham.org.au' as a website. Email us anytime @ our email address on the website.

Treasurer's Report:

Alison Oakeshott spoke to her tabled report outlining the need to find suitable and effective fund raising initiatives and insurance. Insurance is a major issue and impedes us in fund raising and public activities. We have no bank account, no assets.

About \$300 has been outlaid to date and a bank account needs to be opened after committee positions are ratified. We have no income stream or other funding source, members have been using their own money. We are looking at options for funding – including NCCC and micro marketing opportunities.

Insurance inquiries are underway with North Canberra Community Council & affiliated neighbourhood groups, wider inquiries with other ACT associations will be progressed if necessary.

The Treasurer spoke briefly about the idea of Community Talks. – Lyneham has lots of professionals,, including architects who might be able to offer expert talks as guest speakers. We could garner donations from these talks.

Deputy Chair - Our vision for Lyneham:

Rob Wilson spoke about the creeping effect urban change that he has observed in Lyneham. It was only when the oval was threatened in late 2014 that he gave development and urban planning much closer attention. The Axis 3 tower development has been a big change for Lyneham (with more like this one planned for the Motel site adjacent to BCC & St Ninian's) but with Capital Metro -light rail being developed on Northbourne Ave, the new Coles & Aldi supermarkets for Dickson, and the Government push for much higher residential densities on the Northbourne corridor this will bring much bigger changes. We need to work together to monitor, comment on and help manage change. Rob is keen to see major developers contribute to amenities like recreation facilities for local residents otherwise we face degradation of our wonderful open spaces.

Break for refreshments, meeting reconvened at 9.05.

Elections: Alison took the chair as returning officer - declared all positions vacant and called for nominations for the committee:

Denis O'Brien was nominated unopposed as Chair (nominated Rob, seconded Tim)

Rob Wilson was nominated unopposed as Deputy Chair (nominated Denis, seconded Tim)

Rich Dean was nominated unopposed as Secretary (nominated Rob, seconded Tim)

No nominations were received for Treasurer, efforts to recruit this will be needed out of session.

Committee nominations for the 4 vacant positions were received from Carlos Morreo, Tim Hollo, Meg Clarke, & Ernie Kennedy (nominated Rob Wilson, seconded Rich Dean)

Alison Oakeshott is willing to continue as LCA's Public Officer and assist as necessary.

General discussion/other issues:

Simon Cobcroft asked for feedback from LCA members about the Lyneham Wetlands, which he feels are visually unpleasing. The site looks a bit run down and desolate, with no useable space. Seems to be nothing more than a functional area for waste water management.

Comments from the floor:

History of the colloquial 'Lyneham Lake' as locals like to call it. Initially came from SCCG (Sullivans Creek Catchment Group) efforts to seek funding and build wetlands for environmental flow management and improve ecology. That funding pool and the SCCG are now expired, the project is closed. SCCG had difficulties in finalising the site(s) and coordinating across Government agencies, not dissimilar to the issues now faced by Lyneham Commons group.

The site is purely functional and is not in the same league as the more functional spaces around the O'Connor and Dickson wetlands and Boronia Drive.

Art commented that Edwina from TAMS can show interested people around the wetlands and explain their features. Art suggested working bees and plantings. Simon added more kids play spaces would be great. Rob observed from his landscape professional experience it takes 5-10 years for planting schemes to get going and he counselled patience. This was generally agreed.

A question was received about LCA's geographical area of focus: Denis advised that the area was decided to be the catchment for Lyneham PS, which closely corresponds to the original gazetted suburb of Lyneham. "Lyneham" runs north of Macarthur Avenue including O'Connor, west to the Ridge, east to Northbourne Ave and north to EPIC, including the gold club & race course.

Discussions that the community is about continued involvement and engagement and we seek your continued engagement.

Next meeting:

The new committee will plan a schedule for general and committee meetings for 2015 and discuss the proposed speakers program. Information will be advised to members when details, dates and venues are firmed up. Members are welcome to attend all meetings and information will be sent out via the e-list.

Meeting closed: 9.35pm

The committee have discussed varying the meeting days and times of programming and venues to enable non driving older residents to attend some of the meetings. Members are also most welcome to attend committee meetings, which for the time being are being held at the Old Canberra Inn.

