



Wilson Residents and Ratepayers Association

Minutes from Annual General Meeting Wednesday 11 July 2012 - Wilson Community Hall

1. Welcome

Geoff. Rees as outgoing President, opened the meeting at 7.35 pm. and welcomed all present. **Geoff** thanked all **WRRRA** members for their support throughout the year, all visitors to the AGM and invited guests for attending. **Geoff** briefly outlined the meeting agenda and meeting procedures, copies of which were available on the floor.

18 visitors and members exclusive of the special guests attended as recorded on the attendance sheets.

Total Attendance was recorded as 22 – 9 fewer than last year.

2. AGM Notice

Notification of this AGM was published in the Canning Examiner, Canning Times City Page, Little Aussie Directory, Newsletter drop, Eureka notice board, a mailout to all existing and recent past members. Emails to Mason Ward Councillors, **Andrew Sharpe** - City of Canning Acting CEO, **Joe Delle Donne**, - Mayor of the City of Canning, **Bill Johnston** MLA Cannington, **Steve Irons** MP Swan. Noted that published notices were at no cost to **WRRRA**.

3. Introduction of WRRRA Members and Special Guests

The chairman introduced current committee members and special guests.

Current WRRRA Committee:

Geoff Rees - President

Les Durbin - Secretary

Rob Marshall – Treasurer

Max Zeller - Webmaster

Maurice Winter, Brian Cornell, Sandra Probert, Norman Drake, Bernard Hug, Kaye Barr
- Committee

Special Guests:

Bill Johnson - MLA Cannington

Joe Delle Donne - Mayor, City of Canning

Graham Barry & Stephen Boylen - Mason Ward Councillors

It was a little disappointing that the City's Acting CEO was not in attendance, nor was any of his staff.

4. Apologies

Steve Irons MP – Federal Member for Swan
Lindsay Elliott – Councillor Mason Ward
Max Zeller – Webmaster
Rob Marshall - Treasurer
Terry Gorton and Russell Gorton – Members

5. Minutes from previous AGM 2011

Copies were available on the floor and are posted on the **WRRRA** website. **Les** briefly outlined some of the salient points. Motion to accept as a true record: proposed: **Maurice Winter**, seconded: **Brian Cornell**

6. Meeting Procedures

Geoff Rees, See item 1 above.

7. President's Report

The Report Card was compiled by the outgoing President, **Geoff Rees**.

WRRRA has been well supported throughout the past year with 107 members and a Committee of 10, however, we have our secretary (Lester Durbin) is retiring, and need nominations for the position of secretary and vice President to enable the Association to function during the coming year.

During the past year your committee continued an active role in preparing submissions, lobbying and follow up with associated groups and State institutions on concerns raised by individual members and issues that have a direct impact on our community and residents of Wilson.

These have included:

- Bywater Way playground Shade Sails
- Path and Verge dumping of Builders' Rubbish/Materials
- Assessment by DCE of Canning River Park / Wetlands Bushfire Hazard
- Roe Highway Stage 8, which is an ongoing issue with the increasing number of heavy haul vehicles on Leach Highway
- Kent Street Weir area Improvements
- Surrey Road Walk trail
- Acquisition of the remaining privately owned land within the defined boundaries of the CRRP
- Options for extension of the Dual Use Path network from Bywater Way play grounds to connect with the existing dual use pathway on the southern side of Fern Road at Byland Way. With the long-term objective to connect this path along the rivers foreshore to the Eco Centre at Kent St.
- Wilson East U/G Power.
- Fern Road traffic.
- A submission was submitted on the Swan River Trusts draft Report for the Swan and Canning Rivers Aquatic Use.
- A Park Bench has been donated By WRRRA, which will be installed by the City at The Riverton Bridge parklands.
- **WRRRA's Future** –Due to the absence of any nominations for the positions of Secretary and Vic President, serious consideration must be given by our 2012/13 committee on WRRRA's future, as despite the fact that WRRRA is financially sound, has a healthy membership and the largest committee for many years there is a need for members to step up and take on the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary.

Before stepping down, I would like to pass on the Committees thanks to our City's Mayor, Joe Delle Donne and Mason Ward councillors Lindsay Elliott, Graham Barry and Steven Boylen for their support and attendance at our meetings throughout the past year.

Thanks also to our parliamentary representatives Steve Irons MP, Federal member for Swan and Bill Johnson MLA, State member for Cannington for their assistance with printing and their attendance at meetings and support.

Special thanks to Committee members and in particular to Lester Durbin who after eight years of near continued service as WRRRA's secretary is resigning, as Les and wife Jean have decided to have a life style change and will be moving to the country within the next few weeks.

Maurice Winter then presented our retiring secretary with an inscribed pen in appreciation of the 8 yrs of dedicated that Les has given to WRRRA.

A full transcript of the Report is available on the **WRRRA** website <http://wrra.org.au>

8. Financial Report

Les Durbin presented the financial report for **Rob Marshall - Treasurer**, who was unable to attend. The report indicated a healthy financial position. Current membership is 107, somewhat down on last year but with quite a number yet to be processed, having arrived in the past week and tonight's AGM. The current balance of \$4,202.38 is an operating profit of \$106.04 over the previous year. This healthy financial position is due to in the main to the valuable and continuing support of the City of Canning, an increase in our New Year ice cream sales income and the ongoing assistance of **Bill Johnson** MLA and **Steve Irons** MP with printing our newsletters and flyers. **WRRRA** volunteers deliver our own circulars to minimise postage costs.

Les also confirmed that committee had approved Ted Foreman Citizenship Award grants of \$200 to each of Wilson Primary School and Rehoboth Christian School for the past year thus continuing a long standing arrangement and additionally we have paid \$1316 for a park bench to be installed by the City at Riverton Jetty Park for the convenience of visitors.

Copies of the financial statement were circulated.

9. Matters arising from last AGM & Related Issues

For the benefit of those who may not have had access to last year's minutes, some copies were available at front desk.

- **Fern Road Traffic – Brian Cornell** raised the controversial question of whether Riley Road should have been closed off at High Road many years ago thus solving the problem of the Fern Road 'rat run' by making traffic go via Vahland Avenue which was designed for the purpose. He also suggested that this should happen now. The President suggested that Fern Road traffic would be dealt with later in the meeting in view of last week's crash.
- **Repairs to broken footpaths – Brian Cornell** stated that although through **WRRRA** lobbying the Builder's Bond to repair footpath and verge damage had increased substantially, there was little evidence that repairs were taking place and that the situation had improved.

10. Bill Johnston's Address.

Bill Johnston MLA Cannington gave a short address outlining some of topics current in the constituency and being discussed in State Parliament as they could relate to Wilson. He began by thanking **Les Durbin** as retiring secretary for his assistance over the three and a half years that he had been MLA in enabling him to build such a good working relationship with **WRRRA**.

- **Fern Road** – I visited the site of last week's crash with **Geoff Rees** which was disturbing not only the damage but it seems that items were stolen from the damaged garage before it could be secured. The Canning Times is to send a reporter to the site tomorrow, 12 July. **Geoff** remarked that this was the third time that this property and next door had been damaged by crashes. Bill Continued with the further comment that whilst the recent one being by far the worst, much of this problem has been aggravated by the rapid expansion of Canning Vale both industrial and residential with traffic having nowhere to go except Nicholson Road, High Road and Albany Highway near my office which regularly 'clogs up'. The solution is a major re-think of transport policy and planning and this cannot happen anytime soon.
- **Roe 8** – State government pledged in 2008 to construct Roe 8 at a cost of \$375M. Current cost estimates have now blown out towards \$750M and with design work and planning to take 4 years and 3 years to construct, if a decision is made to go ahead it would not be completed for 7 years.
- **Leach Highway Trucks** – This road is now close to capacity and despite a truck length limit being 19 metres, there is no evidence that this is being adhered to and to my knowledge not a single prosecution has been brought.
- **Fremantle Port** – Another infrastructure reaching capacity with a new port facility planned for Cockburn but as yet no plans for road access to this port area.
- **Local Schools** – Both Wilson Primary and Rehoboth Christian Schools are high quality with first class staffing and I am pleased to see that they both teach Indonesian, a language I speak myself. Rehoboth is a private school but Wilson Primary has benefitted from increased spending on facilities.
- **City of Canning** – On a personal note, I think that the criticism levelled at the City Council by the media and certain elements as being 'factionalized' and is far from the truth as in my experience of other councils quite the opposite is true.

Geoff thanked **Bill** for his address.

11. City Report & Questions

Mayor Delle Donne thanked **WRRRA** and the public for their support over the past year and reported on the following topics, referring to other **cllrs. Barry and Boylen** where necessary:

- He referred to the Minister for Local Government and comments in the media and elsewhere re. the City Council being 'factionalized'. The record shows that it is not so and although healthy debate takes place in the Council Chamber as it should do, the majority of decisions are carried with a 90% majority.
- **Traffic** : As previously stated, **WRRRA** came into being because of Fern Road. A great deal of thought went into the various traffic calming measures incorporated in the redesign of recent years. The City can do nothing more to control Fern Road traffic except to urge the police to make sure motorists adhere to the law. The City will however urge Main Roads to authorise crash barriers in vulnerable areas such as the house hit last week to protect both property and pedestrians and again through Main Roads have a proper pedestrian crossing installed near the café/bus stop.

- **Kent Street Area:** A master plan is currently being drawn up for the Kent Street/Eco Centre area.
- **U/G Power Wilson East:** Following meetings with the Minister and the **WRRRA** submission to have 257 houses east of Fleming Ave included in the Wilson East Scheme, the answer is NO. This is all documented in **WRRRA** minutes. The Mayor and City will continue to lobby with the main Wilson East U/G Power scheme to start likely early 2014, for completion within 12 months.
- **Building Rubbish:** 4 new Compliance Officers have been employed by the City and checking on errant developers will be part of their brief. If instances are reported, they will be acted upon.
- **Dual Use Path:** The City will continue trying to bring all parties together including the Christian Brothers to determine a way forward, a process which is currently stalled.
- **Student Accommodation:** The City continues to be active in pursuing cases of abuses of multi-occupancy. A recent prosecution has been brought which is under challenge. The City is aware that increasingly council verges are becoming car parks leading to degradation of streetscapes. The City is investigating permit parking in order to control it.
- **Solar Panel overshadowing:** A few cases are beginning to occur where new dwellings are overshadowing solar panels on adjacent properties. The City is looking at having building applications show shadow effects on their plans.
- **Pedestrian Crossing at Kiosk/Café:** Referred to previously, proof of need for a crossing is to be determined and presented to Main Roads to act upon.
- **Mosquitoes:** These can never be eradicated as we are a riverside suburb and all chemicals and fogging involves some measure of toxicity. However the City will act in cases of need.
- **Aircraft Noise:** A meeting takes place every 2 months at the City which continues to monitor and take reports from the public. A new monitoring station is to be installed at Waterford shortly. **Geoff** noted that no complaint has been forwarded to **WRRRA** over the past 12 months and it seems that the public now accepted that if they wish to fly then a certain amount of aircraft noise is the price we have to pay.
- On a personal note, **Mayor Delle Donne** will continue to push for improved public transport whether improved bus services, longer rush hour trains or in any other category.

Questions from the Floor:

Norman Drake:

- **U/G Power Wilson East** – Could a commitment be given that the 257 homes in the east enclave be serviced by U/G power at any time?
- **Rats:** Are rats in the wetland areas a council problem as they have been seen in daylight in the CRRP? – Report sightings to the City and it will be investigated.
- **Kent Street Flooding** – Although signs have been sited after recent rains, nothing is being done by way of improving the situation. – Design is included in the next year's budget.
- **Wharf Street Drain:** Can a grating/trap be installed to stop rubbish going directly to the river after heavy rain. **Bill Johnston** said that he has had dealings with the Water Corp. over this matter and has been assured that the compensating/settling ponds cannot and do not flow directly into the river. He suggested that the rubbish comes from elsewhere. **Geoff** will write to the Water Corp. and the City over this matter.

John Ismail:

- **Cycling:** Could the City encourage Curtin University to promote cycling to take traffic off the road. - **Mayor Delle Donne** stated that he had had several meetings with the vice-chancellor over the years about student accommodation in university grounds to solve the same traffic problem. There is a great reluctance to provide 'in house' accommodation hence the overspill into local suburbs.
- **Centenary Park Parking:** Could more be provided in the area of the water tanks?

12. Election of Officials & Committee Members.

At this stage, **Geoff Rees** vacated the chair and invited **Bill Johnson** MLA to chair for the election of officers. **Bill** thanked the current committee for their work over the past year and commented that **WRRRA** is one of the best run and purposeful organisations in his constituency. He stressed the importance of community input into local affairs and asked of the floor if anyone would be prepared to nominate for either of the two officer's positions, which were vacant or serve as a committee member.

All positions declared vacant.

- a. Nominations were called for the position of President. **Les Durbin** seconded by **Maurice Winter** nominated **Geoff Rees**. There being no other nominations, **Geoff** was elected unopposed.
- b. Nominations were called for the position of Vice President. **Norman Drake** nominated from the floor seconded by **Geoff Rees**. There being no other nominations **Norman** was elected unopposed and welcomed aboard.
- c. Nominations were called for the position of Secretary. No nominations were received so the position will remain temporarily unfilled.
- d. Nominations were called for the position of Treasurer. **Rob Marshall** was nominated by **Les Durbin** seconded by **Geoff Rees**. There being no other nominations **Rob** was elected unopposed.
- e. **Max Zeller** agreed to continue as Webmaster.

Bill then returned the chair to incoming President **Geoff Rees** who after thanking **Bill** asked for nominations from the floor for committee members with an appeal for new faces as we have high membership numbers and need new committee members to assist with decision making and the workload.

Brian Cornell, Maurice Winter, Kaye Barr, Bernard Hug and Sandra Probert nominated and agreed to continue on committee.

Geoff thanked the above for coming forward which will bring us almost up to strength for the coming year. While a Secretary is sought, in the meantime duties will have to be shared.

13. Membership Subscription 2001/12

Proposed by **Geoff Rees** seconded by **Les Durbin**, that in view of our healthy balance sheet, the Annual Membership Subscription of \$5/household should continue. The proposal from last year's AGM that a payment of \$10 for two years would suit some members better is working well.

14. General Business

- **WRRRA Policy Stance re. CRRP: Les** read out **WRRRA's** 7 point policy stance for development within the Canning River Regional Park (CRRP) which will be pursued vigorously this year in an effort to get the stalled process moving again. This policy was formulated in 2006 and it is to be an agenda item at our August committee meeting for review to be our policy going forward. There were no comments from the floor, a show of hands indicated the members unanimous support for WRRRA's approval of the position statement.

Topics for next year:

- Restrictions on Multi-occupancy
- CRRP Land ownership and position paper.
- Walk trails and dual use path extensions within the CRRP, and at the Surrey Rd as per **Kaye's** article in the recent newsletter.
- Verge Clean-up
- Follow up on matters discussed at this meeting.

Questions from floor:

- **Gwili Crock** asked about asbestos fencing/panelling and how safe it was. **Mayor Delle Donne** advised that his understanding was that it was safe if it was undamaged or unbroken. It only became unsafe when broken up.
- **Brian Cornell** reiterated his concerns about broken footpaths and if the bond was being called upon for repairs. It to be an agenda item at August meeting.

15. Next Meeting.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 6th. August 2012 at 7:30pm at the Wilson Community Hall.

There being no further business, the incoming President **Geoff Rees** thanked everyone for attending with particular thanks to **Sandra Probert & Maurice Winter** for the excellent catering.

The meeting was declared closed at 9:50pm.