

Minutes of CITY PRECINCT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at 7.30 am on 20TH April 2010

Switchpoint Centre

Edward Duc, Committee Chair, chaired the meeting

Meeting opened 7.40am

PRESENT:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	COUNCILLORS	OTHER
Edward Duc	Cr Sharon Claydon	Evelyn King (Infinitus)
Claire Williams	Cr Brad Luke	Cheryl Crichton (Infinitus)
Bronwyn Law		Petra Hilsen (Infinitus)
Peter Zygadlo		Barbara Heaton
Grant Keene		Christine Bramble NCC
Christine Gregson		Simon McArthur
Ron Brown		John Pastor
Suzie Darling		Steve Edmonds
Drew Pannowitz		Frank Cordingley
Paul Murphy		
Catherine Henry		

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies received

2. WELCOME

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declaration of Conflict of Pecuniary Interest

4. CONFIRMATION of MINUTES

Motion: *“That the minutes for March be accepted as a true record.”*

Moved: Grant Keene

Seconded: Claire Williams

Carried

5. MATTERS ARISING

6. CORRESPONDENCE

INCOMING

6.1 Response from Sharon Grierson re: Night Economy Report

6.2 Notification from Council re: Quarterly Performance Review

OUTGOING

6.3 Letter to Frank Cordingley re: Enhancement of Railway stations.

6.4 E-mail from FC re: problems in Little Birdwood Park

CIRCULATION FOLDER-

No additions

Questions were raised regarding the proposal to spend Committee funds on projects such as signage at railway stations. Committee need to be assured that they achieve value for money when entering a partnered program with Council.

Frank Cordingley responded, reminding the committee of the in-kind value of Council contribution through its design work, insurance, engineering contribution, installation, maintenance, etc. Partnering with Council can be cost efficient and relieve the Committee of preliminary costs that are related to this type of structure.

Following discussions covered Pocket Park and Bus shelters. With the negatives relating to social problems created in Little Birdwood Park it was decided to express Committee's concerns to the Safety and Crime Prevention Advisory Committee.

Motion: "That the Committee write to Safety and Crime Prevention Advisory Committee outlining the concerns relating to crime hotspots within the CBD"

Moved: Bronwyn Law **Seconded:** Ron Brown **Carried**

Also it was requested Ms. King to write to NCC regarding the positioning of bus stops around the West end of King St.

7. STATUS REPORT (As circulated)

Ms Heaton notified the Committee that a report is going to Council tonight (April 20th) recommending that the review of the recommendations for the Mainstreet Program from the Sustainability Review be brought forward and that the recommendations from the Review be considered by the Economic Development and Revitalisation Strategic Advisory Committee with any further action required reported back to Council.

Motion: "That the Committee provide an amount of \$40,000 to enable new signage to be provided at city railway stations, subject to a presentation of costs, bringing the expenditure forward through a budget readjustment."

Moved: Claire Williams **Seconded:** Drew Pannowitz **Carried**

Motion: "That the Committee provide an amount of \$70,000 to enable an evening public art walk to be developed, bringing expenditure forward through a budget readjustment."

Moved: Claire Williams **Seconded:** Catherine Henry **Held Over**

8. FINANCIALS

Not addressed.

9. PRESENTATION DISCUSSIONS

9.1 Simon McArthur returned to give an update on his portfolio:

- Council progress on a city wide brand with a positive response to the "**energy**" theme
- Strategy to update visitor signage
- "Newcastle by Night" project to encourage stay-over nights in the CBD - e.g.: Lighting a walking loop to exhibit quirky art/ heritage buildings.
- Investigation of the possibility of a giant screen – to entertain – inform and promote Newcastle

9.2 Steve Edmonds, Director of City Assets, discussed results and statistics from his research on the problem of derelict buildings. Council is working through the issue in conjunction with the Hunter St. Master Plan, and is also waiting on the results from the Mine Subsidence Review, which is expected to be available in 2 months.

Issues faced by Council

- Property Council Report covered the dramatic decline in a backfill of vacant spaces within the CBD. This is mainly due to the risks out weighing the returns for investors.

- The cost of demolition has significantly increased.
- Council has no power to enforce owners to demolish derelict buildings.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 A further update on the Safety Audit Report was requested.

10.2

Motion: *“That the Committee encourage business owners in the precinct to become active in looking for solutions to refurbishing derelict facades within the CBD.”*

Moved: Grant Keene **Seconded:** Paul Murphy **Carried**

11. OPPORTUNITIES for MEMBERS of the GALLERY

No registrants

13. CLOSURE: Meeting closed 9.15am

Next Meeting

Date: 18th May 2010
Time: 7.30 am
Venue: Switchpoint Centre

Signature of Chair