

Northbridge Progress Association Inc

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St Marks Hall, Northbridge on Wednesday, December 10 2008 commencing at 8.05pm

Attendance: 26 members and guests

Welcome: The President welcomed guest speaker Rory Grace and other guests.

Quorum: The President noted that a quorum was present.

Apologies: Gladys Berejiklian MP, Cr John Hooper, Michael Conder, Ron Hicks, Martin McCurrich, Michael Bartok.

Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on November 28 2007 were summarised by the President. **RESOLVED** that the minutes are confirmed.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer read her report of the year's financial results. She noted that it was her 12th year in the role. Members had generously donated more than \$15,000 and almost all had been spent on the Association's planning consultant on Northbridge Plaza. There had been no shortage of advertisers in *The 202*. Expenditures included donations to the two primary schools and St Marks Church, and the purchase of a sound system. The Association currently has more than \$20,000 on term deposit. The Treasurer thanked the honorary auditor Gordon Tremain, who is retiring, and asked for suggestions for a new auditor. **RESOLVED** that the Treasurer's report is accepted.

President's report

The President presented a report of the year's activities. He noted the major issue continued to be the proposed redevelopment of Northbridge Plaza and Council car park. Association representatives had worked hard on the two committee established by Council. The Association's town planning consultant, Russell Hand, had made a big contribution to the project. Council continues to confirm its resolution to limit retail expansion to no more than about 10%. He noted several other local issues and community activities in which the Association had been involved. He thanked the Association's 300 members, its voluntary 'walkers', guest speakers, advertisers and Committee members for their efforts during 2008. He particularly thanked Michael Conder who had resigned as Public Officer after many years of work and advice to the Association. He noted that he intended to step down as President after six years in the role. He has been proud to represent Northbridge residents. **RESOLVED** that the President's report is accepted.

Election of Committee for 2009:

The President handed the chair to Tony Clifford to act as Returning Officer. He reminded the attendees that only members paid up prior to the meeting may nominate officers or vote. The following nominations for committee members in 2009 were moved, seconded and accepted in turn:

President: Peter McNair
Vice-presidents: Ron Hicks, John Lightfoot
Secretary: Malcolm Lye
Treasurer: Pam Clifford
Editor of *The 202*: Penny Lye
Committee members: John Becroft, Grant Sheldon, Stewart Truswell

The Returning Officer declared that the above Committee members were elected for 2009 and returned the chair to President John Becroft.

Peter McNair thanked retiring President John Becroft for his services to the Association over six years. He noted that John would be receiving a North Sydney Community Award for 2008 from Hon Joe Hockey on December 12. Malcolm Lye thanked Jenny Roxborough who had not stood for re-election to the Committee but was continuing her involvement as the Association's representative on the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations and the Bicentennial Reserve Committee.

Guest speaker

The President introduced Rory Grace, President of Northbridge Football Club, who spoke on "The issues involved in running one of Australia's largest football clubs". The club had doubled in size in the past five years, mainly due to the change of demographics in the area. There were now 1700 members and 133 teams; there are 1000 children between 6 and 10 years playing football; and 300 coaches and managers. In Northbridge, parents of players represented about 10% of ratepayers. He noted that the game was popular because it could be played by children as young as five, was a non-contact sport and a "world game". The Northbridge club had been in existence for 60 years, was self-funded and a financially strong business with a \$400,000 turnover. The club had been innovative in trialling "small sided teams", establishing small training fields and initiating club merchandise. He noted that the club was very short of changing rooms and playing fields.

After several questions from the audience, the President thanked Rory for his talk.

Cliff Ave units DA

Leo Argy spoke on behalf of residents who objected to the development of eight Seniors Living units in Cliff Ave adjacent to the Suspension Bridge and were opposed to proposed traffic lights in Strathallen Ave before the bridge. He noted that a petition had been raised by residents and that a Ward councillors' meeting would be held on the site at 4pm on December 12. Other speakers registered support in opposing the development and traffic lights.

Plaza Masterplan

Peter McNair reported on the status of the Plaza Masterplan project. He had taken over the role of Association's representative on the Reference Committee. He said that Council's Information Session at Northbridge Public School on December 2 had been well attended by the community. He noted that plans had been presented which had not been endorsed by the Reference Committee or by the Association.

The Association's Committee was guided by the seven point resolution of members passed in July 2007. It was planned that the Association's general meeting on February 25 2009 would include a "panel" to discuss the Masterplan. The input of

members would be sought and members would be asked whether they wished to amend the July 2007 resolution.

Population growth in Northbridge

Dr Geoff Brown said that the underlying reason for increased development in Northbridge was NSW Government pressure to increase population density. Yet the community has no say in the issue or whether the increase would be sustainable. He noted that traffic loads in Sailors Bay Rd had increased to the point where it had taken him 38 minutes to travel from Woonona Rd to the Junction.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

The President invited members and guest to enjoy Christmas refreshments.