

Brunswick Terminal Station Upgrade

Community Reference Group Meeting

6:00-8:00 1 December 2015

Brunswick Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

Bruce Turner, Chair

Fatima Alisak, resident

Ramon Collodetti, resident

Denis McCrohan, AusNet Services

Ashlee O'Brien, Urban Planner, Moreland City Council

Sandra Nielsen, AusNet Services

Phil Priest, Group Manager City Development, Moreland City Council

Darren Camilleri, Planning Coordinator, Moreland City Council

Apologies

Kirsten Coster, Director, Planning and Economic Development, Moreland City Council

Ray Radford, resident, Friends of Merri Creek

David Grant, AusNet Services

Absent

Craig Burton, resident

Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting

The Chair had circulated the draft Minutes in accordance with the Terms of Reference for comment. No comments were received.

Ramon noted that he had not been an apology at the previous meeting, rather he was absent in protest at the way he felt the community was being treated. He objected to the grouping of 'apologies' and those who were 'absent' together in the minutes, and said he felt they should be differentiated. Fatima agreed that they should be differentiated.

The minutes of the previous meeting 21 July were adopted as a reasonable record, noting Ramon was absent.

The minutes are to be placed on Council's website.

Future of the CRG

Ramon tabled and read out a written statement. This statement is included as an attachment to these minutes. Ramon noted that he was withdrawing his participation from the CRG process “in disappointment due to lack of good consultation with the community and lack of resolve to address the main concern of community safety”. He said that until Council and the proponent engage in the production of a Risk Analysis and Safety Management Plan he would not be involved.

Ramon said he had repeatedly made the point that the community does not know what the risks are in relation to the BTS, and how they are being addressed.

In the discussion that followed, the Chair referred to the July CRG meeting where the appropriate authorities (Fire Brigade and Police) spoke at length on the issue of emergency management, with the discussion minuted and publicly available. He acknowledged Ramon had said that while these were very informative presentations, the focus on emergency response was missing the point of what he was calling for. The Chair also referred to the September CRG meeting where AusNet Services were asked if the risks identified in the previous July minutes were a ‘complete’ list. The September minutes indicate that AusNet Services confirmed the list of risks was complete, and that an independent audit of the completed development at the BTS will be undertaken by Energy Safe Victoria.

Ramon then left the meeting.

Fatima expressed her frustration and concern, particularly in relation to the meeting in February 2015 and a presentation from Council on Emergency Management at that time, and also in relation to the original approvals process for the BTS redevelopment and to what she felt were minimal benefits to the local community being offered by AusNet Services. She said she supported Ray’s comments and that she did not want to attend CRG meetings anymore.

Denis said AusNet Services would like others to be offered the opportunity to nominate for the CRG. He said AusNet Services would value the opportunity to continue to hear from and share information with local residents. Denis said AusNet Services would especially like to hear from those residents directly impacted by the construction works, from King St, Alister St and Glenlyon Road.

Denis conveyed to Fatima that AusNet Services valued her input and asked if she would consider being part of the next CRG, if there was enough interest from other residents. Fatima confirmed she would consider this and would also like to remain on the email list. She then left the meeting.

The Council and AusNet Services representatives remaining agreed that the minutes should include updates on agenda items that were not discussed in the meeting. The meeting then closed at approximately 6.30.

UPDATES

The following are updates based on the agenda items. These are provided for CRG members’ information. They are not formally part of the minutes as they were not discussed during the meeting.

Recent/upcoming activities

None envisaged outside normal hours.

Timing of temporary electric fence removal

Anticipated mid-2016, tied in with landscaping.

Goats track

Council endorsed plans for goats track section behind the pavilion. Extension to track awaiting report from AusNet Services from expert re: cultural heritage management matters.

Information Displays

Permit application lodged and close to being issued by Council in the agreed locations.

Heritage interpretation

AusNet Services considering engagement of Andrew Long and Associates.

Future of CRG/ Community update

Council to extend an invitation to nearby residents to attend the next CRG meeting to discuss the opportunity to be part of the CRG in 2016. Invitation to include brief information on the history of the BTS and redevelopment and refer to the website for the CRG Terms of Reference, minutes etc. Participation could also be encouraged through any door-knocking that AusNet Services does around that time.

Action 6.1: Council to circulate in late January 2016 an invitation to local residents to attend the next CRG meeting in March.

Next Meeting

TBC (likely early March 2016)

Attachment

A letter dated December 1, 2015 from Ramon Collodetti, President MCRG, to CRG members that was table at the meeting is attached on the following page. This is referred to under 'Future of the CRG' on page 2 above.

MERRI CREEK RESIDENTS GROUP



December 1, 2015

Dear CRG members,

It was with good faith that I became a willing participant of the BTS66 Community Reference Group(CRG) and remained a participant from its inception.

It is with a heavy heart but firm resolve that I now withdraw from participating in a process that has left me with the bitter aftertaste of disappointment.

The disappointment is due to lack of good consultation with the community and lack of resolve to address the main concern of community safety.

We have expressed our safety concerns for the last 6 yrs. and note the proponents lack of initiative to put forward what they know the risks are, instead focus on discrediting our concerns.

The point I have made time and time again is that the community simply does not know what the associated risks with a 66KV power station are, and how they are being addressed by the proponents. We are unaware of what if any preventative measures have been adopted by the proponents to minimize the risk of any potential circumstance from arising.

We were tortured by the presentation of the fire brigade and the police who both gave very informative presentations on how they would respond to a situation arising from a mishap at the BTS66, but outlining a response strategy is missing the point.

Prevention is the key , and those that oppose the preparation of a Risk Analysis and Safety Management plan should hang their head in shame.

Both the council and proponents gathered around this table have refused to engage in what I think is a very reasonable and quite sensible approach (RASM)and until they do engage, I shall not be seated around it.

I am also disappointed at the lack of genuine consultation and see the process to date being a poor example of consultation and only when it becomes genuine and responsive to resident concerns do I see a value in my participation.

I hereby withdraw my willingness to participate in a process that is supposed to be about community engagement and consultation but has left me feeling like a patsy for the proponents rather than a valued participant.

Yours faithfully

Ramon Collodetti
President MCRG.