

Devonport Heritage Incorporated

Minutes of Meeting 27.05.09

in the Library Meeting Room

Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

Present:

Margot McRae, Ann Allen, Sylvia Emm, Sue Yoffe, Claudia Page, Richard Joughin, Scott Barnett, Graham Nixey, Maggie Southeran, Jim Mason, Gary Russell

Apologies: Trish Deans, Trish Joughin, Mark Joughin, Dianne Hale, Ariane Donald

Minutes from last meeting accepted by Claudia, seconded by Scott

Correspondence In:

1. Letter from Ministry of Justice dated 30.04.09, acknowledging notice of withdrawal for the appeal from Mr. Holloway, 36 Mays Street.
2. Filing Notice of Appeal Redback Development Ltd, Matthew Casey, dated 06.05.09
3. Invoice from Devonport Historical Museum Society dated 06.05.09 for post box rental of \$45.00.
4. Invoice from Devonport Copy Shoppe 2001 Ltd. Dated 07.05.09 for copies of our Appeal Notice of \$147.00.
5. Notice of Appeal Redback Development Ltd, Matthew Casey, dated 07.05.09.
6. Invoice/Receipt dated 07.05.09 from Ministry of Justice for filing fee of \$55.00 regarding Masonic appeal.
7. Letter from Ministry of Justice dated 13.05.09 track directions.
8. Letter from Simpson Grierson dated 18.05.09 reporting on the progress to Plan Change 21

Correspondence Out:

1. 285 copies of our Masonic appeal to the Environment Court sent to submitters.

General Business:

Community Board Working Party on Auckland Governance

Two meetings have been held, Margot attended the first one. Two things are to be done, one was a response to the Auckland Governance legislation. The second is to work on a website survey to get feedback on the working party's submission to the super city Select Committee, and to encourage people to make submissions. A website is being set up for this purpose.

Victoria Theatre

Margot reported that the Victoria Theatre Trust, of which she is a member, made a presentation to the Council's Strategy and Finance Committee on a tender to run the theatre. A response is awaited from this committee, and it is hoped that negotiations can be entered into.

Victoria Wharf

There has been no success in getting publicity for the retention of the wharf as no response has been received from Rob Drent of the Flagstaff, or the Herald. A letter will be sent to the council requesting they supply us with their files. This information will be given to Mark Sigglegow for his comment. Council has known the state of the wharf since 2002 and has no budget for maintenance for the next five years.

The sub-committee will send a request for information letter to the council.

Gary Russell spoke about the Hauraki Gulf Forum who has issued a guide on how the Hauraki Gulf Park Act interfaces with the Resource Management Act 1991. This Act is reviewed every ten years, and there is a review due. HGF's interpretation of the Act is that Victoria Wharf cannot be demolished as it comes under coastal land. It would be to our advantage to use this Act to back-up our submission to get Victoria Wharf retained. We could use the Yacht Club as a historical link to the wharf. Council has been working on this but there is not much support, apart from our Devonport councillors, for retention of the wharf.

Jim Mason spoke and said he had prepared an opinion, which has been accepted by Judge Harrison, stating his interpretation of the Act is that none of the heritage features round the Gulf can be destroyed. Victoria Wharf has to be kept in perpetuity, it cannot be demolished.

Sub-committee will meet this month.

Web Site

Thanks were passed on the Ann for her splendid work. Ann asked for input to the information page. It was suggested that there could be links to NSCC residential 3 zone rules, their list of scheduled buildings, and archives, Devonport Historical Museum, Historic Places Trust, North Shore City Libraries for photos, and the Auckland Art Gallery for old paintings. The Heritage Guidelines could be listed.

Membership

Sylvia spoke about her meeting with Pip Gay. There is no need to change our rules but we need to strengthen our compliance. An effort will be made to get membership forms completed. Maggie offered to chase and collect completed forms.

At our next AGM we need to pass two resolutions, one to vote all new members from the last year, and another to say that any member who has not attended a meeting in the last year will remain a member.

Sylvia will arrange the completion of forms needed to apply for registration as a charity.

Long Term City Plan

Margot and Sue attended a meeting where Margot made a submission, focusing on the lack of maintenance of Victoria Wharf and the Victoria Theatre, and the need for staff to update the heritage schedule.

Proposed Plan Change 30

Margot missed the dead-line, but felt it was a waste of time to do anything further as a written submission has been made.

Masonic Up-date

Margot attended an exciting meeting on Wednesday 27th May at the Masonic with the Masonic Friendly Society Inc. members, Paul Cavanagh QC and Brian Putt. Paul Cavanagh will act for all the appellants which will allow him to control the argument for all parties. He has confirmed that he will not charge QC rates. Brian Putt will continue to act as planning consultant.

A convincing history of the Masonic building needs to be prepared. Sue Yoffe has much information as does Claudia. We need to have someone to write it into very lively and readable story.

The following experts will be asked to assist us.

- Jeremy Salmond as the conservation architect.
- Veronica Strang an anthropologist who deals with cultural heritage. She will be away for six months but it is hoped that this can be used as a project for one of her students.
- James Lundy, urban design specialist.

Margot will approach these people.

Our appeal will be on heritage grounds, the over-development of the site, and the unacceptable effect on the neighbours.

DH and the Masonic Friendly Society should make a joint request to the Legal Aid Fund for assistance towards our costs. They can allocate up-to \$30,000.

Claudia spoke to Aranne Donald who has not heard anything on the council's progress, but will keep us informed.

The Council will ask for mediation by 7th July.

Fund Raising

Margot made the suggestion that we should arrange a tour of Devonport heritage houses to raise funds for our Masonic appeal. The suggestion was well received, it was acknowledged that it would entail a lot of work, and that we should consider employing someone to organise the tour. A discussion ensued as to what houses would be suitable, and members were prepared to approach the owners, especially if they were known to them.

Graham suggested that we get guidelines from the Fundraising Institute.

We also discussed other methods of fundraising such as bumper stickers (the museum have these), and selling DH tea towels. This would bring in a minimum of income for the work involved.

Plan Change 33 – Commercial Heritage

This needs pushing to make sure it is included in the transitional plan. At present the council staff is not dealing with it due to their issues with the super city.

Ariane suggested that we should ask that the change includes buildings that are not on the council's schedule, and we should prepare the list. It was agreed that this job is the council's responsibility, not ours.

Margot will write a letter to the Community board, with copies to Tony Reidy, Alison Geddes and Trevor Mackie.

Calliope Road Green Cycle Lane

It was agreed that is not in keeping with a heritage area, and needs removing.

Margot will write a letter to the Community Board.

Finances:

In

Membership Subscriptions	35.00
Interest Earned	.41
Total in	35.41

Out

Ministry of Justice – Masonic filing fee	55.00
Devonport Historical & Museum Society	
Post Box Rental	45.00
Devonport Copy Shoppe – copies of appeal	147.00
New Zealand Post – book of stamps (petty cash)	5.00
Withholding Tax	.15
Total Out	252.15

Funds Held

Current Account	219.19
Deposit Account	1,029.64
Petty Cash	2.20
Stamps	3.00
Total Held	1,254.03

The next meeting will be held on the Tuesday 23rd June

The meeting concluded at 8.55 pm.