

**Minutes of the General Meeting of the Meadowbank St Johns Resident's Association.**

**Held at St Johns Lounge, Purewa Cemetery Meadowbank, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm.**

**Apologies:** Amanda Nicholas, Troy Churton, Lynley Olsen, David Reid, Brian Duguid, Mary Fitzgerald.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting: Approved:** Moved: Oliver Seconded: Jenny

**Matters Arising from Previous Matters**

Murdoch Dryden will be at the 2<sup>nd</sup> May meeting to present the final plans of the Meadowbank SHA.

Aaron Smail of Summerset will not be able to attend in May but will be available in a later month.

Richard Roxburgh's petition was presented to the OLB. His petition was for a bus service that diverts the proposed 729 (Ellerslie to Glen Innes) along Kohimarama Road connecting with Selwyn College, instead of to Glen Innes, continuing as the proposed 708 (Newmarket to Mission Bay) down to the waterfront. The presentation was well received by the OLB who supported the proposals, requesting that they be considered at the next meeting of the Auckland Council Transport Committee.

**Presentation by John Priestly, Chairman, Purewa Cemetery Trust Board and Murray Ward, Immediate Past Chair**

Also present from the Purewa Cemetery were Clifton Thompson, General Manager, Kathy Goodwin, Publicity & Communications Consultant. The main points covered in the presentation were:

**The St Johns Lounge**

- The new lounge opened 7 weeks ago and is called the St Johns Lounge marking historical links with the St Johns Trust, the Anglican Church and Bishop Selwyn.
- It has a maximum capacity of 300 and there has been positive feedback since it was opened.
- They hope to be able to open it to the wider community for use but are still working through resource consent for this.

**Purewa Driveway**

- In 2011, the Driveway was zoned public open space by the Council under the Unitary Plan when it was first released, despite it being privately owned land.

- To correct this error the Board at the time had two options, to have it zoned either Residential or Cemetery. The Board believed that a Residential zoning would bring it into line with the houses surrounding the driveway and that a Cemetery zoning (meaning that in theory it could have been used for graves) was inappropriate.
- To obtain a Residential zoning it was necessary to produce a plan that showed how many houses could be erected on the land while preserving the character trees.
- The Chair stated categorically that the Board currently has no plans to either develop the land or sell it.
- Looking to the future the Cemetery has approx. 20 years of burial space left and when it is full, income will be needed to maintain the Cemetery.
- The Board is focused on building a fund to maintain the Cemetery in perpetuity and it is possible that at that point, the value of the driveway land may be required to underpin that fund.
- The driveway is maintained by the Cemetery and the gates at either end are there to keep the partygoers out that were disturbing the surrounding neighbours at nights in the weekends.
- The Lounge of Remembrance is not going to be demolished but will need to close temporarily to allow for the repair of the roof and for the trimming by arborists of the two pohutukawa trees that hang over the roof.
- It was suggested that the Driveway be consecrated but the Board did not feel that this was appropriate.
- The Driveway is a significant part of the Cemetery and the Board would like to keep it a peaceful place.
- It was pointed out by the Chair that no resource consent is needed if the trees in the Driveway were to be cut down tomorrow, however, it is not the intention of the Board to do this.
- Within the Cemetery itself, The Walk of Memories is going to be extended.
- The Cemetery is privately owned by the Trust Board and was established over 100 years ago. Board decisions are in line with the Anglican Trust Covenant.
- There has been some discussion with the Council about obtaining some land at Tahapa Reserve East, to extend the Cemetery, but at this stage nothing has come from these talks, and the Chair stated that the Board has no particular interest in this land.
- The Chair noted in this context that Auckland Council is under statutory obligation to provide burial grounds, but they do not have sufficient grounds in their cemeteries in East Auckland and only approx. 4-5 years of burial space left in total.
- In answer to a specific question from the floor, the Board felt they didn't need to approach the residents who back onto the Driveway, about the rezoning of the land.
- The Board is planning to build more memorial walls as they becoming more popular.
- The Board is hoping to set up a Friends of Purewa Cemetery Group.

- The Board is continuing to beautify the grounds and spend money on repairing the historical graves within the cemetery. There are approx. 300-350 graves of historical significance.
- It was pointed out that it is a well-loved and much used facility by the community beyond the intended use of a cemetery.

Both the current Chair and the past Chair of the Trust Board thanked those present and our Association for the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Association Chair Tim Duguid, for the use of the St Johns Lounge and for the Trust Board for clarifying the background and future of the Driveway.

### **Future Events**

**AGM – June 2017** – We are in the process of organising a high-profile speaker for the AGM and once this is confirmed we will advise members.

**Meet the Candidates** – It is proposed to hold an event with all of the candidates standing for the Tamaki Electorate at the general election invited, to be held in July or August and once this is confirmed we will advise members.

**Pourewa Valley Clean Up #3** – This is proposed for September with the date yet to be set.

**Purewa Cemetery Open Day** - This is proposed for October/November with the date yet to be set.

### **Updates from Orakei Local Board – Carmel Claridge**

- The OLB have a new AT Rep.
- They are currently working on the Local Board Plan. There is no great change in direction from the last Board. There will be consultations in June over the allocation of the Board Budget and dates will be notified once they are set.
- The Board is placing emphasis on local links to the GI to Tamaki pathway and Carmel is working on the proposed Gowing Drive link.

### **General Business**

- **Management of the Waiaatarua Reserve** – Governance of the Reserve has been clarified, so hopefully management of the reserve will move forward.
- Simon Connor the Tamaki MP is currently running a survey seeking feedback on local issues

**Meeting closed at 8.30pm followed by supper kindly supplied by the Trust Board.**

**Next Meeting will be at St Chads, 7.30pm on Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017**