

SOUTH-EAST CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

Minutes of Meeting No 12 held on Wednesday, April 12, 2006 at 6 pm at St John's Church Hall, 379 Halifax Street, Adelaide

PRESENT:

In the Chair: David Plumridge.

Members of the Association: S & J Anderson, M Annesley, I Bath, M Clark, J & P Davis, V Fairley, D & K Hennessy, M Henningsen, I & J Hordacre, M Jory, A Kerr, H Kriegler, E Lock, J Mazure, A Melrose, D Nunn, G Plumridge, G Sherlock, D Sweet, B Warmington and D Williamson;

Visitors: T Collings, Operations Manager, Hutt Street Centre; B Corbin and R Cox, rep Adelaide City Council; W Malycha, CEO, St Johns Youth Services; M Woodward, CEO, MACHA; H Wirthensohn, Development Manager, SA Housing Trust and J Wickes, Magdalene Centre.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from R Clayton, P Davies, J Gibb, A Gillam, N Langsford, A Levy, K Newman, H Nimmo, C Richardson, B Stoddart and A Sweet.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

It was agreed - That the Minutes of the previous General Meeting held on Wednesday, 15 March, 2006, as circulated, be confirmed.

BUSINESS:

The Chair outlined the purpose and format of the Public Meeting to address supported accommodation and social housing in the City. As a consequence, people involved in those services were invited to address the Meeting as to the services provided by the organizations they represent and to enable members to question them in order that SECRA may be better informed. The Chair thanked St John's Church for making the hall available free of cost.

The following Speakers addressed the Meeting:

Matthew Woodward, CEO, Multi-Agency Community Association (MACHA): Initially this Agency provided property management services for vulnerable adults, but the program has since been expanded providing a broader range of services, including the management of 5 boarding houses – Afton, East Park Lodge and another 3 in the CBD and a range of home support programs for vulnerable aged residents and those with psychiatric disabilities. Funding is provided by rental income, and they operate under Residential Tenancies Act. There are 3 key tenets, “pay rent”, “look after property” and “don't bother neighbours”. The organization also receives some community grants from ACC and support programs are funded 100% by Government. The primary brief in placing housing is for inner city clients, although the organization is progressively going outside of that boundary. It is determined by access to suitable property at an affordable price, essentially looking to provide housing within a certain income bracket. Staff at Afton and East Park Lodge are in attendance 24 hrs x 7 dys a wk. There is an after hours contact through MACHA's office as well as the Boarding House Manager may be contacted. The organization is required to go through the appropriate planning process and public consultation.

Wendy Malycha, CEO, St Johns Youth Services: This Agency caters for disadvantaged young people in the City of Adelaide, by providing emergency accommodation to homeless young people mainly in the 16 to 19 age bracket. The organization is funded through the Commonwealth Housing program and private funding and operates three services in the South-East Corner, a young women’s emergency service and another for young men, as well as assisting young people from culturally diverse backgrounds. Complaints should be address to St Johns Youth Services. St Johns is currently working to establish FOYER housing for young people in the City – this addresses holistically the need for stability, support and education to break the cycle of no home – no job – no home.

Tabitha Collings, Operations Manager, Hutt Street Centre (Daughters of Charity): This Centre operates a meal and day centre. Its biggest program is the social work program, working with homeless persons and people vulnerable to homelessness. A recreation program provides daytime activities, social support, etc. The day centre provides showers, luggage storage and meal collection. In the over 21 age group, 70% are males and 30% females. 1/3 of funding is provided by local, state or federal government, with major funding provided by the corporate sector, and the Daughters of Charity also providing funding. Up to 200 people a day are attended to, with approximately 45% sleeping in the parklands or in buildings in the south-east corner.

Heg Wirthensohn, Development Manager, SA Housing Trust: The Trust has owned Afton House since 1977, with MACHA being involved there for some 4 years. Afton is licensed for accommodating 99 residents with 96 rooms being operational. The Trust is to redevelop the site. The Minister is now committed to review the development application and the number of persons on the site. The Board is to meet next month to consider the ministerial recommendation to reduce the scale of the development with the proposed 5 levels being reduced to 4. In terms of the number of rooms, the Trust is still working through design and development phase but guaranteed that SECRA would be provided with updates.

Meeting then opened for questions to the Panel of Speakers:

Questions included ownership of East Park Lodge and stage of operation at moment, consultation process in regard to Afton specifically in terms of residents rather than businesses, concentration of too many persons at one site (Afton) no matter how many staff, possible sale of Afton to property developers and money used for smaller sites, and the expensive nature of inner City property. It was suggested that housing could be developed in the grounds of Glenside, particularly the north-west corner of the site.

The Chair advised that SECRA hoped to persuade Minister Weatherill to involve the organization and local residents in any reviews. As well, it was suggested that the sub-Committee of SECRA could deal with MACHA separately in regard to Afton House. Michael Henningsen to organise.

CLOSURE:

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.35 p.m. Refreshments were served.

Approved:

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Chairperson