

# MINUTES

## Parnell Inc. May 11, 2011



**Venue** MacDonald Pilcher Partnership offices, 92 Parnell Road

**Actions  
Required**

**1. Welcome: The meeting began at 4.35pm. Present at the meeting:**

Carrick Graham (Chair), Kent Hutchings, Kylie Sanderson, Christopher Dempsey, Miles Nathan, Rory MacDonald, Debbie Harkness and Stuart Walker (guest)

**2. Apologies:** Chris Swasbrook (Deputy Chair), Fleur Denning, Athol McQuilkan

**4. Confirmation of Minutes from previous meeting**

**Motion:** That the Minutes of the April 2011 meeting be taken as a true account of the meeting.

**Moved/Seconded:** Rory/Carrick **Carried:** All

**5. Matters arising from previous meeting**

Kylie has found it difficult to get feedback from galleries confirming the success of **White Night**. As she is about to go on holiday for 6 weeks, she is unlikely to progress this request. Kylie to discuss with Carrick whether she should resign from the committee.

Kylie  
Carrick

**3. Guest: Stuart Walker – Mainline Steam Trust**

Carrick welcomed Stuart to the meeting and thanked him for his time.

Stuart gave a background to Mainline Steam Trust, which is funded by Ian Welsh (Nelson Stud Welding). The Trust, which restores steam trains, wishes to stay at the KiwiRail site in Parnell. An earlier proposal by KiwiRail to move Mainline Steam operations to Ranui did not proceed due to objections from that community.

Mainline Steam wishes to gain security of tenure at the Parnell site. Currently its year by year lease with KiwiRail restricts long term planning and funding.

If it is able to secure long term tenure, Mainline Steam would undertake to make a significant contribution to the area including cleaning up the site and developing the buildings to include opportunities for commercial and community participation.

Stuart has been lobbying actively with KiwiRail, Auckland Regional Council, Auckland Council and government ministers (Tourism and Transport) in addition to local Parnell groups including Parnell Community Committee and the Auckland War Memorial Museum (Artistic Director David Hibblethwaite in support).

Mainline Steam has been working with Stevens Lawson architects and seeking developer involvement. Concept drawings show how the Mainline Steam buildings could be cleaned up and configured to include a café, viewing platforms and gantries, conference/venue spaces and artist quarters (allowing award-winning sculptor Dave McCracken to stay on the site). At the northern end, a plaza area outside the shed doors could be used as an outdoor market, for example, when not used by steam trains.

Without Mainline Steam's ongoing presence, Stuart fears the KiwiRail land will be taken for "ghetto housing". Mainline Steam's proposal is for an attractive tourism and heritage attraction. Stuart seeks ways of integrating Mainline Steam's vision with community interests. Work on the future Parnell train station is likely to start in December 2011 (Auckland Transport should engage the local community in consultation over the next 3 - 4 months).

Work to transform Mainline Steam would cost an estimated \$2m and take around 2 years, if tenure were approved by KiwiRail. Stuart sees great opportunities for community use and engagement in the project. Once the Parnell train station is operating, a dolly train could operate in a loop between the station, Parnell shopping area and Auckland Musiem. The “train” could be funded by sponsorship.

From Parnell Inc.’s earlier investigations, developer/investor opportunities may come from technology companies. Craig Meek could be a good connection for Mainline Steam with regard to connecting with business visitors to RWC2011. Support could also come form Auckland University.

Stuart was thanked for his briefing. Stuart was invited to continue to liaise with Parnell Inc.

**Stuart Walker**

Business Development Manager  
Mainline Steam  
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stuart@canterburyfields.co.nz

## 6. Creative Quarter Manager’s Report

**Xmas decorations**

Given difficulties in getting approval (or making contact) with Auckland Transport re decoration of street poles, the committee requested that Ton van der Veer (decoration designer) be asked to proceed with concepts for such decorations. Ton to be paid for his work if Council does not permit decoration of poles.

Debbie

**Office Broadband connectivity**

Rory offered Parnell Inc a wireless router not used in his office. This is now in place and has solved connectivity issues at the office (but incurred several hours of Ubertec technical help in re-networking the office systems to match DNS/ router codes). Rory to invoice Parnell Inc for router.

Rory

**RWC2011**

Cynthia to follow up with possibilities discussed at third RWC2011 planning committee meeting. Final activities will depend on budget to be allocated by Parnell Inc. committee.

Cynthia

DH explained difficulty in getting Council permission for on-street BBQs – while Sausage Sizzles can get permits easily enough, licenced food premises will find it harder as their food licences are for their kitchens, not food prepared on the street. Parnell’s restaurants have not yet been canvassed about the idea

Kylie questioned the idea of having “Sheep” in Heard Park, as explained at an earlier meeting. This is one of a series of possibilities for creating a point of difference for Parnell – as with the Parnell-branded deck chairs, sheep in Heard Park would be something eye-catching and arresting. Engaging social media tools, visitors would be encouraged to interact with the pieces and post photos and comments.

**Council**

Local Board Plan deadline extended to May 31.  
Centre City Masterplan deadline extended to June 17  
Unitary Plan deadline now middle of the year.

Miles requested that Council be asked not to interfere with traffic at intersection of Parnell Road and parnell Rise, with the addition of traffic lights or a roundabout. (Traffic from Geyser building’s 280 car parks are likely to require a traffic solution in the future.)

**Wayfinding signage project**

Due for completion by RWC2011. Project managed by Beca.

## 7. Update on Parnell inc. office restructure

Following the committee's decision to disestablish the Parnell inc. Manager's position and restructure Parnell Inc.'s office with new Marketing Manager and Administration Assistant roles, positions were advertised in SEEK and attracted +200 applications. Candidates applications were being reviewed, a short-list selected and interviews arranged.

## 8. General Business

### A Parnell Post Office matters

At the April meeting, Rory had expressed his concern that the post office is now closed on Saturdays and requested that the PO be asked to reconsider. Further to the meeting, it was revealed that Parnell's PostShop was to be downgraded to a PostCentre. News of this was published in the Parnell News newsletter of May 18. No responses or complaints received to date as a result of that article.

See: <http://www.parnell.net.nz/newsletter/newsletter2011/ParnellNews20110518.htm#a>

### B Christopher: Waitemata Local Board update

1. The Parnell train station has been approved.
2. Be Accessible launched - an opportunity for places in Parnell that have disability access/amenities to get on the map for RWC 2011.
3. Alcohol Bylaws - Local Boards to have greater control in related matters.

### C Parnell Inc. manager's resignation

Debbie Harkness has tendered her resignation which was accepted by the Chairman and the Committee. Debbie's last day will be 27 May 2011. The Committee wishes to place on record its appreciation and thanks to Debbie for her significant contribution to Parnell Inc and to Parnell.

The meeting finished at 6.10pm  
Taken as a true account of the meeting.

Signed ..... Date: .....

## Future Parnell Inc Committee Meetings

June: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> , 4.30pm. Venue to be confirmed