

Minutes of Waverton Precinct meeting Tuesday 6 December 2022

1. The meeting commenced at 7:35pm at the Coal Loader Mess Hall

Chair: IG

Minutes: IG

Attendance: 14

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting, noting the Mayor had today been invited to join the meeting when she completes the ‘Thanks to NSC volunteers’ celebration which was currently running at the nearby Genia McCaffery Centre for Sustainability.

Apologies had been received from JD, DM, JB and KR.

In addition, an email had been received from MF advising that the Secretary (SF) had resigned due to medical reasons and did not anticipate being able to attend meetings through 2023; and wishing the Precinct well on its campaigns and efforts.

The meeting was very upset, but not entirely surprised, at this news.

It was

Moved VY, Seconded IG

“The meeting wishes to congratulate SF for his valuable efforts; intelligent and constructive inputs; creativity and initiative in campaigns; leading the creation of a Precinct website and an online mailing list; and his general strong support for, and often initiation of, good ideas for local improvements over many years .”

Carried unanimously

2. Previous Minutes

It was

Moved KA, Seconded AG

“That the October 2022 Minutes be accepted”

Carried unanimously

It was

Moved GY, Seconded MP

“That the November 2022 Minutes be accepted”

Carried unanimously

3. Existing Business

- Western Harbour Tunnel

The very recent announcements about the selection of the Acciona construction company to build the stage from Birchgrove to the Warringah Expressway was noted. The fact their bid will drill under the harbour floor rather than by placing caissons on the harbour floor from Birchgrove Point across to Waverton was welcomed. The localised result of that approach means the project will not require an access portal for drilling equipment, or a wharf and conveyor belt for the removal of rock spoil from the tunnel excavation, to be located in Berrys Bay.

It was noted the subsequent feedback from Transport for NSW is that the new Masterplan for the 3 land parcels around the Bay would still be done and that the timing will be brought forward.

Obviously, at one level Waverton seems to have 'dodged a bullet' - for which everyone was relieved of course - but equally several important issues relating to the project remain outstanding /unclear.

It was

Moved BD, Seconded MP

“ The meeting requests Transport for NSW to promptly hand over the 3 parcels of State owned land plus the related marine leases to the care and control of North Sydney Council. We also request the draft Masterplan for these sites be put into place quickly utilising funds provided by the State Government and that Maritime be directed to promptly remove all the remnant and decaying marina and wharf structures in the Bay as an urgent, related project “

Carried unanimously

- Bowling Club site

It was noted that while the Aboriginal Municipal Land Corporation cannot unilaterally alter the zoning, if it remains the owner then logically the land will not be able to still be classed as open public space – hence the way forward to get this area integrated back into the surrounding park seems to be the path being currently followed by North Sydney Council. The Council is requesting the State Government to purchase the land and then give it back to Council on the proviso it is used for public open space.

- MLC building

It was noted the dates for the legal action around this disputed DA are Dec 2 -15.

- Coal Loader Wharf

This wharf received Heritage listing in June 2021.

Everyone in the suburb recently received a mailbox flyer announcing a 'Review of Environmental Factors' by Transport for NSW and a 'Vision Survey' ... quite unexpectedly. There had been no discussion with NSC, no discussion with the Precinct, no discussion with the Waverton Peninsula Working Group. The state of the wharf is the result of 25 years of neglect by Maritime.

The suspicion was this announcement might be related to the upcoming State elections.

It was decided to recommend individuals do make submissions and do suggest the wharf be repaired and adapted for new uses, not simply dismantled. It was noted Maritime with the involvement of external consultants had assisted NSC develop such a model in 2018, but this is not mentioned at all and the future is framed only as a 'Make Safe' question. The Chair was asked to write to Maritime asking them along to the Precinct next February to talk about their existing plans for this wharf and request they also attend the next Working Group meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:40

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting opened at 8:40

'The Hub' had been invited to provide a Returning Officer for the elections and NM was the nominated person.

All executive positions were declared vacant, and he assumed control of the meeting.

One nomination was made for the Chair, being IG

One nomination was made for the Secretary, being DL

One nomination was made for the Treasurer, being KA

On a show of hands, each of the above was elected for 2023.

The Treasurer gave a brief overview of the financial position of the Precinct and he and the Chair noted an expenditure point for the year ahead will be improving the back-end functionality of the website, for which we have funds and have also applied for NSC funds as per their recently released guidelines, which were tabled for information.

Both the Chair and the Treasurer welcomed the new Secretary and noted they were strongly committed to the long-standing practice in Waverton of a regular changeover of incumbents – and in particular would love to see the next generation come through at the end of next year.

The formal AGM closed at 9:00 and attendees stayed on for an hour to chat among themselves; work out how to respond to latest developments in some key problem areas; enjoy self-provided drinks and food; and take the opportunity to meet and talk to the Mayor.