

Lavender Bay Precinct Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, 27 April 2023

Starting at 7.05 pm

McMahons Point Community Centre
165 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point

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Chair:

Secretary:



Sketch by renowned local artist Peter Kingston

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1. Welcome / Apologies

12 people attended, 15 apologies were received; Minutes of the 30 March meeting of Precinct were accepted.

2. Chair's report: the report addressed a number of matters of concern to the precinct, including the Harbour Bridge cycle ramp; the Pocket Park on East Crescent Street; works on the largely redundant siding in Lavender Bay and a proposal to install freestanding, lighted advertising structures on a dozen but footpaths in the municipality.

3. State Government Items

- **Sydney Metro**, restoration at foot of Blues Point Rd. Concerns raised that drainage levels do not fall to the series of landscaped drain inlets, but rather to the lowest point at the end of the works where the only collection drain is overwhelmed and flows over the grass. Precinct suggests STA landscapers be recalled to rectify the problem.
- **Harbour Bridge Cycle Ramp:** it was noted that as Council does not own all the land required for the ramp, it cannot give permission for the proposed ramp., Precinct discussed whether, given the estimated cost of \$54m for the ramp, for the modest number of cyclists crossing the Bridge, and the current level of community opposition to the project, the more modest interim measure of a lift, similar to that used by pedestrians on the eastern side of the Bridge, might be a reasonable option.
- **Lavender Bay Railway Siding:** Precinct noted that the replacement of stanchions and overhead wiring structures is underway in the area previously identified for a new High Line project supported by Precinct.

4. Council items

- **North Sydney Pool:** Precinct noted the Mayor's letter of 17 April, updating residents on progress to date.
- **Blues Point Reserve:** Precinct members reiterated their concern at persistent illegal parking on the turning circle at the end of Blues Pt Road adjacent to the Reserve, with an increasing number of commercial events being staged there.
Vivid Sydney Festival, scheduled from Friday May 26 to Saturday 17 June, attracts increasing numbers of night visitors to the Reserve. Council is requested to increase its Rangers' oversight of the Reserve during this period; if possible having a Ranger on duty there over the four Fridays and Saturdays of the festival, to manage the number of visitors and deter illegal parking.
- **East Crescent Street, pocket park:** this project was described as temporary but it has a number of permanent structures. In prior consultation with local residents, Council undertook to have a four month trial period following construction to allow for community feedback on the park. Precinct notes, from Council's website, that that the park's trial period has been cut to less than two months, now ending on May24th. Precinct suggests that Council, rather than closing feedback two days before Vivid commences, keeps feedback open during Vivid, with

its increased pedestrian and tourist movement along Blues Pt Rd, extending it to Sunday 18 June. Onsite signage to facilitate feedback would also be helpful.

Precinct expressed concern the park has rendered the area unsafe for cars and pedestrians, with a lack of signage at the continuous crossing and an adverse impact on sightlines. Specific problems raised included: Traffic management signs on East Crescent St risk been hidden by tree plantings; a new parking space on Blues Pt Rd, beside the park, limits the visibility of pedestrians crossing the road to the bus stop; the left-hand turn from Blues Pt Rd onto East Crescent Street has a very tight radius, resulting in numerous vehicles mounting the corner kerb. Outstanding work includes: eg. making safe 6 electrical conduit risers, 2 metal electrical plinths, 2 brass pipe risers, a deep-water access pit and alignment of the height of a communications pit cover, both outside 36 East Crescent St, the East Crescent St sign and alignment of the times on new parking signs at each end of the new parking spaces. Council invites your comments on the park at: <https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/east-cres-st-shared-space-trial>

5. Development applications [due date for comments]

- 24 Alfred Street South, Milsons Point (DA 113/23) Addition of a pergola to existing roof top terrace. Noted.
- Alfred Street South Milsons Point (DA 99/23) and Broughton Street Kirribilli (DA 100/23) are two of the twelve DAs submitted to Council for the installation and operation of freestanding advertisement structures for purposes of Council communication and third-party advertising.[19 May]

The other ten sites proposed for these lighted electronic signboards are: Miller St, Cammeray (DA 104/23); Military Rd, Cremorne (DA 102/23); Pacific Hwy, St Leonards (DA 92/23); Willoughby Rd, Crows Nest (DA 93/23); Pacific Hwy Crows Nest DA 94/23; Pacific Hwy, Berry St (DA 95/23); Berry St, North Sydney, (DA 96/23); Mount St, North Sydney, (DA 97/23); Mount St, North Sydney, (DA 98/23); and Military Rd, Neutral Bay, (DA 101/23). [19 May] Precinct was concerned at the proposed signboards' intrusion on footpaths and pedestrian access, and their distraction to passing vehicles. Precinct's strong objection to the construction of all twelve signboards was unanimous.

6. General business

- **Luna Park:** Precinct was informed of positive outcomes from meetings of members with the management of Luna Park, to address the impact of noise levels from the park on nearby residents. There has been small but effective progress in reducing noise levels, eg Freaky Frog ride sounds have been turned down, signs encouraging screaming have been taken down and there are fewer concerts on site. Luna park is looking to install a sound system that pushes noise into the park rather than externally. Precinct raised its ongoing concern about Lavender Green, where families previously had access, to picnic, as a play and relaxing area for mothers with small children. Padlocked gates have been installed around the Green and the marquee in the centre, which appears to be rarely used, has its poles embedded in concrete, in defiance of a long standing legal principle: *Quit quid plantator solo solo cedit*. Precinct objects to the Lavender Green being locked off from residents and considers that the marquee and its uprights should be removed forthwith.
- 37 Bay View Street: Questions were raised about the addition of three storeys plus roof above the existing ground level. Council is requested to look with care at the additions to the approved plan for development of this site, to reassure Precinct that the revised plan conforms with current zoning.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Next meeting: 7pm, Thursday, 25 May 2023.