

Lavender Bay Precinct Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, 29 February 2024

Starting at 7pm



Sketch by renowned local artist Peter Kingston

McMahons Point Community Centre
165 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point

Chair: Robert Stitt Robert@StittQC.com.au
Secretary: Emily Jaques lavenderbayprecinct@gmail.com

1. Welcome / Apologies / Minutes of September meeting

11 apologies noted. Minutes of the previous meeting passed unanimously

2. Chair's report

Blues Point Road Noise – Chairman has received many complaints from vocal locals about the fact that they are disturbed by the noise and that it's not in anyway inhibited or prohibited. Chairman has done two things- talk to North Sydney Police and asked a Senior Officer to come to our meeting and talk to us about what they have in mind to resolve the issue. The chairman proposes that we continue engaging with North Sydney Police about the issue. Chairman also spoke with the North Sydney Council and asked them to come speak with us and come up with a proposal as to how we can fix the problem- there must be a solution to help resolve this problem.

Road Surface- Intersection of Lavender Street –The road surface here really needs to be fixed- it should be high priority- it is dangerous for both pedestrians AND vehicles.

Old Boat Shed at 1 Henry Lawson Avenue – The Council erected a fence around the boatshed to allow for demolition so that it can be incorporated into the parklands. The sliding access gate on the fence used to be padlocked but is now open; and it appears that people are not getting into the boatshed, and the Chairman has had it suggested to him that there are squatters potentially occupying the boatshed. Does the council have a plan for demolition of the Old Boat Shed? The demolition and security of the property really needs to be assessed and prioritized before someone gets injured.

Motion: The Precinct would like to be briefed by an Officer at Council regarding what the plan is to resolve this and get the issue fixed. Passed Unanimously.

Harbour Foreshore Area (Adjacent to McMahons Point Wharf) – The area is continuing to deteriorate and is now churned up mud and dirt; cars continue to drive on this area, and they continue to park on the grass and the Harbour foreshore (often to get photos of their car and the Harbour foreshore in the background). The iconic foreshore is now being ruined and does not look good for our community; Chairman would like to know if the Council Can they put bollards or stone

blocks down on the surface like they did in Clark Park to prevent cars from driving onto the area and damaging it further; particularly with any rain.

Chairman would like to thank North Sydney Council for their action regarding the hedge along Mitchell Street- They have in fact actioned this and resolved the issue- and have done a great job of fixing it.

3. State Government items:

- **Milsons Point Linear Bike Ramp** -- The Chairman can't answer most questions about why Transport is able to continue working and doesn't have to respond to public pressure. One of the major issues with the Cycle Ramp issue is the ownership of the land- this question arises in the context that Bradfield acquired houses, buildings, commercial properties, and land in Milsons point so that the bridge could be constructed. As a result of these properties being absorbed by the Government, they decided there should be a restitution and an act of Parliament passed the Sydney Harbour Bridge Administration Act of 1932- and under this act there was a trust created whereby the North Sydney Council was appointed as trustees for the trust of the people of North Sydney regarding the parkland including Bradfield Park. The issues that cause problems are- considering the trust, and the council as trustee, can the North Sydney Council simply agree to Transport for NSW having the land? The second issue is that if how can you determine what is just when it comes to the acquisition? Another added problem is that the report carried out by an independent third party was not in fact independent and was carried out by a Transport NSW Subcontractor in Holland. Documents from FOIA requests show clear intrusion by the department into this report; and the Ombudsman has now said that the report is not objective. If the bike ramp continues in its current form, it will be a disaster. For more information, please see the attachment that was sent out with the February Meeting Minutes.

We encourage Precinct and community members to make their concerns about the bike ramp clear to North Sydney Council, so that our voices are heard and the council is not lulled into a false sense that the community is in favor of the project.

Motion: This Precinct strongly opposes in the strongest of terms the use of Bradfield Park North for a Bike Ramp and opposes the use of the land to be given to Transport NSW for building a Bike Ramp. Precinct is aware of the legal advice that Council has obtained in regard to the Bike Ramp and we expect that Council would adhere to it. Passed Unanimously.

4. Council items

- **Milsons Point Linear Bike** – Please see above discussion
- **North Sydney Pool** – Councillor Ian Mutton came to Precinct and there was a lively discussion about the North Sydney Pool. For details on this, please email the Chairman directly.
- **Milsons Point Foreshore Area** – Is not looking great **Motion:** Can Council rectify the issue at all and assist with cleaning this area up and making it more presentable and looked after. Passed Unanimously.

5. Development applications

- **DA 266/2018 – 32 Pacific Highway, North Sydney, 2060.** Precinct notes.
- **DA 358/2023 – 12 Queens Avenue, McMahons Point.** Precinct notes.

6. Community items

- **Wendy's Secret Garden.** There will be a volunteer gardeners' and working bee- please contact Ian Curdie or the Secretary.

7. General Business

- **Public Walkway from East Crescent Street down to Lavender Bay between number 29 and 27 –**
There is a building protruding on the walkway. Can council see if there has been a Secretary is going to invite North Sydney Police to the next meeting to discuss speed and noise issues along BPR, especially into the festive season.

Next meeting: 7pm, Thursday, 28th March 2024