

Lavender Bay Precinct Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, 28 October 2021
Starting at 7pm (via Zoom)



Sketch by renowned local artist Peter Kingston AM

~~McMahons Point Community Centre~~
~~165 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point~~

Chair: RRS rrs@7thfloor.com.au
Secretary: BPS lavenderbayprecinct@gmail.com
Minutes: CT

1. Welcome / Apologies / 30 September minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom due to COVID. There were 26 people on line and 13 apologies. The meeting accepted the minutes of the 30 September meeting.

2. Chair's report

(a) Floating Dry Dock (DA [57/19](#)): The Chair reported that he had spoken on behalf of Union and Lavender Bay Precincts at the recent online LEC conciliation conference, along with other community members. He noted that the community's evidence was quite compelling and impressive. The applicant had ten experts in attendance for the subsequent conference. Agreement between the parties was not reached on the day. The Chair was thanked for his participation on behalf of the Berrys Bay community.

(b) Henry Lawson Reserve reinstatement: The Chair noted that Sydney Metro had recently held two online community information sessions and invited feedback from the community about a draft design for the area after removal of the acoustic shed.

The Chair noted that Sydney Metro's scope does not include 1 Henry Lawson Avenue. The community is interested in an integrated approach for the area from Blues Point Road to the McMahons Point ferry wharf. See below for further discussion.

(c) New Year's Eve: The Chair noted that Council will not be involved in security this year, with only toilets and bins being provided. The Chair noted significant anti-social behaviour in past years at McMahons Point, which had also occurred at Milsons Point. The meeting heard that a Police post has been arranged at Blues Point Tower.

(d) 1 Henry Lawson Avenue: In response to a question from the floor, the Chair confirmed that the site had been acquired and now secured by the State Government.

3. State Government items

(a) Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link: Representatives of the Combined Precincts Committee provided a presentation to the Public Works Committee Inquiry in the Upper House. The meeting viewed a few slides from the presentation showing the ongoing traffic impacts on intersections in the North Sydney CBD, and the impact on public open space in Cammeray Park near the golf course.

(b) Harbour Bridge cycleway: As reported in September, a brief was sent to the Auditor-General regarding the proposed linear cycle ramp. The Auditor General's Department replied that they have no authority regarding the project in the planning stage.

Thanks to Precinct members who had sent useful suggestions about connecting with other committees and parties (including the Public Works Committee), the brief was also sent to other stakeholders, and there have been positive reactions from some of those other parties. The meeting discussed the need to inform as many people of influence about the current plan not being fit for purpose, based on questionable data and lacking a feasibility study.

The meeting heard that there has been no response from Transport for NSW or the local State member (who supports the plan for the ramp). Nor has there been a response from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads.

It was suggested that Precinct send a further letter to those who had not replied, which the Chair will do with assistance from the Treasurer.

(c) Henry Lawson Reserve reinstatement (further discussion): Based on an ad-hoc discussion after the online sessions, Precinct made a submission objecting to the proposed planting of She-oaks along Henry Lawson Avenue and commenting on the proposed shared zone at the end of Blues Point Road. The submission also asked for details about the area labelled weighbridge, and suggesting low-intensity lighting.

The meeting heard the acoustic shed will soon be removed and that now is the time to deal with how the parkland is reinstated. The state of the grass adjacent to the ferry wharf was again raised by attendees, with discussion around simple barriers being installed to prevent cars driving on the grass. Council has advised that there is no budget for such barriers.

An attendee suggested that the type of trees proposed for the reinstatement are too large and not appropriate for the site. The Chair said that point had been made in the submission to Sydney Metro. The Secretary will forward a copy of that submission to Council. Precinct members are encouraged to also communicate their thoughts to Council. Precinct asks Council to develop a masterplan for the complete Reserve.

(d) Bradfield Park South: The meeting heard that Bradfield Park South, including Olympic Drive, is looking run-down, there is no grass anymore and what little there is, is dying; it is an important area for locals, other Sydneysiders and tourists when they come back.

Attendees wanted to know what is planned for the area once the sandblasting and repainting of the Bridge approaches are complete. Questions were asked such as whether RMS will reinstate the park as it was? The meeting expressed a desire for Council to ensure a good outcome and that RMS meets its commitments.

Perhaps reinstatement under the bridge approaches could be bundled together with Council's plans for the lower area. Attendees also noted that, with the impacts of the North Sydney pool construction, the grass will need to be refurbished there as well.

Precinct asks Council for an update on Bradfield Park South plans.

(e) Luna Park reopening: The Chair was informed that Council could investigate monitoring of noise levels coming out of the park, however actual details have not been provided.

The meeting heard concern about what was intended as a 'low-impact' area is now up and running with a high velocity roller coaster emitting sounds, music, announcements and noise that can be heard all around Lavender Bay. Ride staff are wearing T-shirts labelled 'Scream Leader'.

The meeting queried the 85-decibel noise limit at which the park can operate under the legislation. This is a very high level and an occupational health and safety issue. The politicians who approved this legislation should be held accountable. The meeting heard that what is required is proof that the noise levels are too high. Precinct members are happy to get in touch with the EPA and report back to Precinct.

4. Council items

(a) New Year's Eve 2021: Our meeting noted Council's [resolution](#) to provide additional toilets, bins and cleaning services at foreshore parks, and advise the State Government that Council will not be ticketing nor fencing foreshore parks.

(b) 25 October Council [meeting](#): Our meeting noted:

- i. CCTV monitoring in Blues Point Road: Council's ratification of the Traffic Committee's recommendation to proceed with CCTV monitoring immediately after the end of Blues Point Road is reopened.
- ii. 52 Alfred Street South, Milsons Point (PP 5/20): Council's resolution to accept the role of planning authority for the planning proposal, and advise the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment that the Sydney North Planning Panel recommendations should be part of any Gateway determination.
- iii. Managing Council's parks: Council's resolution to defer a decision until the New Year. The Officer's recommendation was to require bookings in all parks for groups of more than 40 people, with a minimum fee of \$195, and to require bookings in foreshore parks for prescribed activities (including corporate promotions, jumping castles, animal farms, commitment ceremonies and commercial filming), with a minimum fee of \$100. Bookings would not be required for commercial fitness trainers and commercial dog walkers.

Our meeting discussed the sustained and increasing use of Council's parks for commercial activities that has become virtually out of control. Local residents want action on this. It was suggested that all parks, beaches and green spaces in the LGA should be free and accessible for recreation and not commercialised.

Our meeting also discussed how other councils manage their parks and questioned why Council's parks are so under-managed. The meeting noted that rules that cannot or will not be enforced by rangers can be a waste of time.

Attendees wanted to clarify what activities are permitted in Council's parks and what policies are already in place to limit or control commercial activities and amplified music. It was suggested that Precinct members look at Council's draft plan of management for [neighbourhood parks](#) and make a submission by 21 November.

- iv. Land negotiations: Council's resolution to refer the terms of a draft memorandum of understanding (to acquire key parcels of land for public purposes from a third party) to the Waverton Peninsula Working Group and the Combined Precincts Committee, make the Officer's report public and undertake public consultation in accordance with Council's community engagement policy.

(c) Council consultations: The meeting noted Council's current consultations:

- i. Princes Street, McMahons Point parking restrictions: [Survey](#) closes 7 November.
- ii. Events in the North Sydney LGA: [Survey](#) closes Tuesday 16 November.
- iii. Draft plans of management: For [neighbourhood parks](#), [bushland](#) and [Cremorne Reserve](#) are available for submissions until Sunday 21 November.
- iv. Community Strategic Plan Review - Stage 1: Council is gathering feedback on issues and priorities to be included in a 10-year strategic plan using a variety of methods, including photos and children's artwork. [Feedback](#) closes Sunday 12 December.

Individuals and groups can have a say as to what they feel should happen in this area and contribute to decisions around what our community will look like in 10 years.

The meeting indicated a priority to maintain and increase public open space. Members are encouraged to reflect between now and the next meeting on what we put forward and how we would like to proceed with a collective submission.

5. Development applications

(a) 65-83 Walker Street, North Sydney (97/21): Amended application for the construction of a 26-storey building with 4-5 levels of basement parking. Comments due Friday 29 October. Precinct noted the original DA in May, and amended plans in July and September. The meeting noted the latest amendment.

(b) 99 Walker Street, North Sydney (290/21): Façade and awning works, internal configuration and associated works. Comments due Friday 29 October. The meeting heard the changes were at street level and noted the application.

- (c) **101 Blues Point Road (8/21)**: Amended plans for additions and alterations to heritage-listed building and use as a dwelling in association with approved medical consulting rooms. Comments due Wednesday 3 November. The Secretary declared a pecuniary interest as the owner of a nearby property and temporarily stood down during discussion of this item.

The meeting heard the amended plans are still of reasonable concern because of the impact it will have on the existing strata property at 103-113 Blues Point Road. The meeting supported the concerns of the strata building owners and opposed the amended plans.

- (d) **1 Denison Street, North Sydney (293/21)**: Installation of illuminated advertising structures on eastern and western sides. Comments due Friday 5 November. The meeting noted the application.

- (e) **23 Waiwera Street, Lavender Bay (309/21)**: Replacement of roofing and guttering, removal of decorative structure from roof and associated works. Comments due Friday 5 November. The meeting noted the application.

6. Community items

- (a) **Wendy's Secret Gardening**: The next gardening morning, with possible sausage sizzle, is Saturday 6 November. RSVP to [Ian C](#) asap.
- (b) **Harbourside Villages**: The pop-up community creative space at 182 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point, is now open, and community members have been donating items for reuse, attending get togethers, using the space, planning activities, asking questions, expressing support for the initiative and making suggestions. Thank you all for your interest and support. Contact [Carolina](#) for more information.

7. General business

- (a) **Sydney Harbour HighLine**: Post-lockdown interest is springing back. Updates will be circulated.
- (b) **Fish hooks**: An attendee raised the possibility of having an area in Precinct that is designated as fishermen free. Discussion was had that Council supports fishing in the area despite numerous local dogs being injured and having to receive veterinary hospital treatment. It was agreed that is an issue of real concern in terms of mess, fishing detritus and rubbish left behind, and that Precinct and individual community members should keep raising it, to let Council know it is a concern. Council last discussed the matter in July.

The Chair thanked everyone for the robust discussion, and the healthy interest in the local precinct, and closed the meeting at 8.52pm.

Next meeting: 7pm Thursday 25 November.