

Lavender Bay Precinct Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, 24 February 2022

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 / 27 January minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom due to COVID. There were 23 registered attendees and 11 apologies. The meeting accepted the minutes of the 27 January meeting.

2. Chair's report

(a) Harbour Bridge cycle ramp: The Chair reported on the 19 February public meeting which saw a walkthrough of the northern area of Bradfield Park proposed for the linear ramp and viewing of the site of an alternative cycle ramp referred to as the Bradfield Park Central solution. The meeting was attended by Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) representatives, several Councillors, Wendy Whiteley, Peter Kingston and the Federal Member for North Sydney. The State Member for North Shore's absence was noted by the crowd of approximately 500 local residents.

The Chair shared the frustrations of the community in the face of TfNSW's intention to proceed with the linear ramp option regardless of the local community's desires and protestations. The Chair reiterated to our meeting that the linear ramp option would decimate Bradfield Park North, and noted that a proposed notice of acquisition had been sent to Council on Christmas Eve.

The meeting heard that in 1934 the State Government dedicated the area now known as Bradfield Park to Council for parks and recreation, and that the proposed acquisition would be in breach of this trust.

A meeting has been arranged with the Minister's office to discuss the local community's opposition to the linear ramp. Precinct representatives will put forward the alternative Bradfield Park Central solution. The Chair will keep Precinct informed.

- (b) Sculpture at Sawmillers:** The Chair noted that the Sculpture at Sawmillers exhibition is currently running and thanked Elsa Atkin for her efforts to bring the event to fruition. The Chair noted the amenity and interest the event gives to the local community and that Precinct is very supportive of Elsa and Sculpture at Sawmillers.
- (c) Parking fines:** The Chair informed the meeting that Council has changed its approach to parking fines and is no longer issuing tickets. Instead, rangers take photos and residents won't know they have been booked until the fine arrives in the mail.
- (d) Blues Point Road Village Creative Space:** The Chair looks forward to the reopening of the creative space and supports the initiative, encouraging everyone to support the creative space which is due to reopen at the start of March.

3. State Government items

- (a) Harbour Bridge cycle ramp (further discussion):** The meeting heard that an attendee at the public meeting had taken issue with the Bradfield Park Central solution and suggested that the gradients and turns did not conform to standards. Our meeting heard that the Bradfield Park Central solution has been peer reviewed, is compliant and meets all of the guidelines.
- (b) Noise excesses at Luna Park:** The Chair noted that he had written to Council last year about Luna Park encouraging people to scream, causing additional noise to travel across the water. Permission was given for the letter to be made public.

The meeting heard about numerous complaints by tenants to real estate agents, as the elevated noise travels across Lavender Bay and further than previously. Some property owners are reportedly selling because of the additional noise.

The meeting heard that it was disingenuous for the owners of Luna Park to state that they treat their neighbours with respect, and that they are committed to practices that have a positive impact on the communities in which they operate, when responses to queries and letters focus on compliance with legal obligations. In this modern day and age, businesses need to earn the public trust and a social licence to operate. Legal compliance is not sufficient.

The meeting also discussed why a major global investment management company would want to operate a small amusement park, and the difficulties in pursuing a noise complaint given the terms of the Luna Park Site Act.

4. Council items

- (a) Noise from Commodore Hotel:** The meeting heard that noise is being emitted up until midnight that is well over 50 decibels. The newly introduced trivia night utilises an amplified microphone, and music is also amplified, with noise around 70 decibels. The roof of the terrace, being constructed of metal, is part of the reason sound is directed out onto the street. The Chair noted there have been multiple complaints for over a year since the Commodore Hotel changed ownership.

Police advice is to contact Council. Council advice is to contact Liquor and Gaming. The latter was supported by meeting attendees, as the Hotel would be in breach of its licence condition (to limit noise at the boundary of any affected residence to less than 5 decibels above background noise). Other participants suggested diarising the noise events. Later in the meeting there was a suggestion to post on the McMahons Point community Facebook group.

Motion: That the Lavender Bay Precinct Committee opposes the increased activities at the Commodore Hotel which are generating increased noise and causing distress to residents. Council should take the appropriate action to mitigate these escalations and prevent them from occurring in the first instance. Carried without objection.

- (b) North Sydney Walking Strategy:** [Feedback](#) closes on Sunday 27 February. Precinct put its thoughts forward in November and January, and reiterates those points about more walking areas on the foreshore that are connected and accessible, with less emphasis placed on CBD movements.
- (c) Proposed Changes to Council Meeting Schedule and Meeting Practice:** The proposed changes include two Council meetings a month (one in January), business papers available two weekends prior, matters previously reported to the Legal and Planning Committee and the Governance and Finance Committee integrated into Council meetings, and Councillor briefings to be held in the prior week, to be webcast and open to the public. [Submissions](#) close 5pm Monday 14 March. The meeting discussed the proposed changes and noted that when Council met twice a month previously it had worked well, that earlier distribution of business papers would help allow sufficient time to review and prepare, and that Councillor briefings open to the public would help enhance transparency. The meeting supported the two meetings in principle and the proposed changes.
- (d) Community Development Strategy, Stage 1:** Council has a set of plans supporting the North Sydney Community Strategic Plan (including the Family and Children’s Services Strategy, Older Persons Strategy and Youth Work Action Plan). These plans could be consolidated into a new Community Development Strategy, providing opportunities to review Council’s role in these services. The meeting noted that [submissions](#) close on Friday 18 March.
- (e) Burton Street Temporary Road Closure and Plaza:** At the beginning of September, Burton Street was closed to traffic between Broughton Street and Humphreys Place for a temporary ‘plaza’. Council is seeking feedback to determine if the road should be closed permanently. [Feedback](#) closes on Thursday 31 March. The meeting heard that the aesthetics are not in keeping with the heritage, atmosphere and amenity of the local area, and that visitors and locals have commented how degraded and ‘tatty’ Kirribilli Village has become.

- (f) **Miller Street Pop-up:** At the end of September, Council closed a section of the kerbside lane and provided seating/landscaping on the western side of Miller Street outside Northpoint for a period of six months. There is an option to continue the pop-up area. The meeting noted that that [feedback](#) closes on Thursday 31 March.

The Chair noted that the lane closure creates some difficulties for those driving north.

5. Development applications (click on link, accept terms to continue and click on link again)

- (a) **Shop 1, 118 Alfred Street South, Milsons Point (8/22):** Extend the trading hours of an approved restaurant to 7am to 10pm, 7 days a week. An acoustic assessment was added recently.

The meeting heard that the application provides no information about the restaurant, deliveries or waste management arrangements. A trial arrangement was suggested, but this does not address the lack of information. Noise is a potential problem.

Motion: That the Lavender Bay Precinct Committee opposes DA 8/22 until more information is made available. Carried without objection.

- (b) **100 Walker Street, North Sydney (32/22):** Demolition of an existing commercial building and construction of a 48-storey commercial building with rooftop plant and architectural feature (RL 239m), with basement of 6 levels, comprising office and retail uses with public domain works, including provision of an east-west pedestrian connection between Walker and Little Spring Streets. Comments due Friday 4 March.

Precinct considered an earlier DA for the site involving 44 storeys in November and expressed disappointment that it provided minimal amenity or benefits to the local community. Precinct is very disappointed and alarmed that the latest DA goes even taller at 48 storeys.

Precinct reiterates its previous position that the impacts of this building would have on the local community are negative, with no benefit to the community, including shadows cast and the lack of a positive contribution to the LGA at street level.

- (c) **68 Alfred Street South, Milsons Point (34/22):** Replacement of cladding on an existing commercial building and associated works. Comments due Friday 4 March.

The meeting noted the application and asks Council to confirm that the new cladding is fire safe and to code. (Most of the DA documents are locked in the DA tracker.)

6. Community items

- (a) **Wendy's Secret Garden:** The next gardening morning is Saturday 5 March. RSVP to [Ian C](#) by Wednesday 2 March.

- (b) **Blues Point Road Village Creative Space:** The pop-up opens again at Shop 1 182 Blues Point Road, after two months of disruption due to COVID-19, on Tuesday 1 March.

7. General business

(a) Precinct Committee AGM: Our 2021 AGM was deferred due to COVID. With a return to in-person meetings expected in coming months, we need to prepare for an AGM. Office-bearers are limited to a maximum period of four years. We therefore need to start thinking about nominations for suitable replacements. Anyone interested should contact one of the existing office-bearers for more information. The meeting expressed its desire for Precinct to remain strong and active.

(b) Speed on Alfred Street South, Milsons Point: Council has reduced the speed limit in this area from 50 to 40 km/h, which is commendable, however the signage is minimal and not easy to see. The signage at the north end near the bridge exit is on the inside of the curve, and is easy to miss as drivers check for traffic and pedestrians as they come around the bend. There is no indication of the speed limit on the road surface.

Precinct requests that the issue is referred to the Traffic Committee, so that all stakeholders are aware, and that Council paint the number 40 on the road surface, in addition to the signage, so that motorists slow down appropriately.

(c) Noise cameras: Noise cameras are being trialled in France to take pictures of noisy vehicles. They could be a productive solution for the issue in our Precinct of cars with noisy mufflers.

Precinct requests that the Traffic Committee consider noise cameras as an option to remedy an ongoing issue in this Precinct.

(d) Blues Point Reserve amplified music: Amplified music is still being played in Blues Point Reserve at weddings and other events. Amplification is not permitted in parks or reserves in the North Sydney LGA.

The meeting heard that Council rangers do not always respond to complaints about amplified music. Police can be called if the noise unreasonably interferes with the comfort of other people (being offensive noise).

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Next meeting: 7pm, Thursday 31 March.