

UNION PRECINCT



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Minutes - Wednesday 7 October 2020 held at McMahons Point Community Hall, Blues Point Road at 7.00 pm

Co-Chairs: MC & KR, Secretary and Treasurer: ID. Meeting chaired by KR; minutes by ID.
Present: 26 – as per attendance sheet including the 4 Committee members and 4 facilitators.
Apologies: WR, MC and DH.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 August 2020 were accepted as a proper record of the meeting with a minor amendment proposed by JC. There was no meeting on Wednesday 2 September 2020 and a newsletter was sent to members by the Committee. No comments were made. KH moved and KR seconded the adoption of the minutes.

MC noted that COVID meeting practice had been adopted and additionally all attendees had had their temperatures read.

2. Presentation by Project Manager Blues Point Village Centre Draft Public Domain Upgrade

DM from NSC gave an audio-visual presentation of the draft concept plan for the three zones of the village. Council is seeking feedback through Have-your-say (closing 1 November). At this stage the plan is not set and so there is currently no budget allocation for the project. If it proceeds it will commence in 2021 and be constructed over time as funding becomes available.

Residents expressed serious concerns on the estimated loss of between 10-18 parking spots that would affect the ability of residents to park to attend shops and restaurants. NSC claimed 8 parking spots would be lost, and they would seek to minimise the loss as the plans develop.

Other concerns were the possibility of street art, banners, and any more sculptures or plane trees. Questions were asked about the undergrounding of power lines, location of bus stops, traffic flow within a narrower Blues Point Road and whether the speed limit would be restricted to 40 kph. MC to discuss the traffic control with Lavender Precinct and support them with their suggestions for better traffic control. The issue was also raised about the need for such a major upgrade. Some members suggested that upgrade as proposed was not needed and should be of a lesser scale.

The members of the Precinct unanimously resolved to support an upgrade proposal in principle, especially putting the power lines underground, but with no net loss of car

parking spaces and minimising the street art and the excessive planting of plane trees, with a preference for planting of suitable native tree species.

Individuals were encouraged to make their own submissions. The Chair thanked DM for the presentation.

3. Presentation by Sydney Heritage Fleet members regarding their proposed Museum of Sydney Harbour at Berrys Bay

Three members (AE, SR and GI) of the Sydney Heritage Fleet gave a presentation of their concept plan for the Museum of Sydney Harbour at the old Woodley's site after the completion of the WHTL. The site would include a Museum, a commercial marina of 26 berths for up to 15m boats, working sheds or boat repairs, kayak launching and a ferry wharf to conduct tours of the Harbour. The concept plan includes a floating dock (not the FDD proposed by Noakes).

Questions were raised by the residents as follows:

Where was the money coming from? – AE advised that they were hoping for State Government funding and money from private benefactors

Who would operate the marina? A commercial operator yet to be identified, however it would be similar to the new marina at Elizabeth Bay. It was noted that if a commercial marina was planned then an EIS may be required, depending on the numbers and sizes of vessels to be moored.

Would the marina be supplying fuel and chandlery facilities? Yet to be determined.

The Sydney Heritage Fleet has an EPA licence to operate their existing boat maintenance facility. AE advised that the EPA licence number would be provided.

Residents expressed concerns with potential issues on the use of chemicals and water management issues similar to those at the proposed FDD.

What work would be carried out on the floating dock? AE explained that the floating dock was currently in Rozelle Bay and had the John Oxley vessel on it at the moment. The floating dock would need to be towed to Garden Island to load and unload boats. Residents expressed concerns that they did not want to be looking at dilapidated vessels sitting on the dock for years with work uncompleted, especially if it blocked views of the beach. It was noted that the beach facility should be upgraded for families and children.

Residents in Munro St (a block of 35 apartments) expressed concerns about the potential noise aspects for the facility from boat tours and boat maintenance activities.

The meeting resolved to write to the SHF stating that we liked the concept plan in principle, however the plan was not sufficiently developed to give support, as many aspects were still under consideration. Residents also noted that the final proposals should be totally transparent and honest.

The Chair thanked the three representatives of the Sydney Heritage Fleet.

4. Development Applications

The Chair reported the following Development Application information from NSC:

- DA 57/19 Floating Dry Dock – Noted that SNPP had refused the application on 1 September 2020 and Council had written to all objectors advising them. The applicant has the option of an appeal to the Land & Environment Court.

BM noted that at the meeting held on 5 August 2020 had requested that NSC provide an update on public jetty – No response had been received from NSC on this. (An update received since the meeting says: “Council’s Planning and Development Advisor has advised that Council is investigating the construction of a new public jetty at the developer’s cost as set out in the condition of DA 1164/90 and Council resolution of 28 May 2019. Council has received ‘in-principle’ landowner’s ...from RMS Maritime for a jetty subject to navigational and environmental standards and requirements being met. At this time the approval path is yet to be determined, and detailed planning for the jetty is yet to commence. Once the approval path is confirmed Council will engage with Stannards on progressing the project).

Residents from John Street had written to the Precinct Committee on 6 October regarding further unauthorised activity (earth works and tree planting on Council property) carried out by Noakes at 6 John Street. **Resolved unanimously that the precinct draw this new matter to the attention of Council.**

- DA 103/18/2 Shore School 14 William Street North Sydney – Noted that the Shore School was seeking to remove the clauses in their approvals relating to restoration of affordable housing or contribution to Council of \$500,000 in lieu. Council has advised that Shore has provided legal advice as to validity of NSC imposing this condition in the first place. The matter has not yet been determined.
- DA 422/2018 106 Bank Street, North Sydney–Noted
- DA 347/18/3 31 Carr Street, Waverton – modifications approved by Council.
- DA 230/20 23 Victoria Street, McMahons Point – Noted
- DA 231/20 5 Mil Mil Street, McMahons Point – Alterations and additions including additional floor. A member indicated that a neighbor felt that that building will obstruct views and they will object. Noted.
- DA 202/20 9 Bank Lane, McMahons Point – Alterations and additions. Owner in attendance who spoke that the plans included an internal lift and a cover for the garage. Noted with no objections.
- 14 Holt Street, McMahons Point Liquor licence application with no consumption on the premises_– Noted with no objections.

5. Proposals for Berrys Bay

Noted that NSC had agreed to purchase the old Quarantine Depot site in Berrys Bay from the NSW State Government for \$2.3m. This did not include the waterfront and jetty facility.

The Waverton Peninsula Working Group has been revived and is seeking to have input to the final resolution of the Berrys Bay site (after the RMS has finished the tunnel). Waverton, Union, Edward and Lavender precincts are represented on the working group, as well as State government and Council experts. It is chaired by the Mayor. The next meeting is proposed for 24 November.

The State member for North Shore has issued a press release calling for a consultative group to be formed as “part of the NSW Government’s commitment to creating new public open space alongside the delivery of the future Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link....We will soon be asking representatives of the community to be part of the Berrys Bay consultative group, along with key stakeholders and independent experts.”

It would seem there will be two committees addressing the issue of the future of Berrys Bay.

Council has been provided by the NSW Heritage Council with a notice of, including the wharf. **This proposed listing is supported by Union precinct.**

6. Unions Street Speed Controls

NSC had offered to send the responsible traffic engineer to the next Precinct meeting on 4 November 2020 to discuss the proposed alternative solutions. Members welcomed this proposal. **KR to liaise with Council to arrange.**

7. Sydney Metro Blues Point Site

Members of the Union Precinct Committee have written to NSC strongly objecting to the Metro Authority / Department of Planning regarding the proposed continued use of the Blues Point temporary site beyond the end of 2020. MC expressed concern about the concrete trucks and noted **Union Precinct supports the actions of the Lavender Bay Precinct against this.**

8. Recent NSC Council Matters

At a previous Precinct Meeting it was requested that NSC allow the use of the public toilets in the Scout Hall to be available to the public as there were no toilet facilities in Sawmillers Reserve. Council had advised that this was not practical due to security reasons, cleaning costs, possible property damage, need for sanitisation (COVID) after every use. On this basis **the members unanimously resolved to request NSC to install public toilet facilities in Sawmillers Reserve.**

Sculpture “The Sun Also Rises” was proposed for Carradah Park. The meeting noted that the options in Have your Say were only to place it in one place or another in Carradah Park and it was not in keeping with the design and industrial history of the park. NSC then decided to place the sculpture in another part of Carradah Park without any further consultation. Several residents proposed that there should be no more sculptures in public parks as they represented a potential danger to the community and often need to be fenced off. **The meeting agreed with this and required our dissatisfaction on this process and outcome to be conveyed to Council.**

Council conveyed information on the Street Play Pilot Program and the North Sydney Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan. The draft Trailer Parking Policy was approved with minor changes. Noted by the meeting.

9. Combined Precinct Meetings

KH addressed the meeting to discuss the recent Combined Precinct Meeting and gave a comprehensive review of activities happening in the North Sydney LGA. KH referred residents to the Council E News available on the NS Council Web site. He highlighted several pressing matters such as: Western Harbour Tunnel matters; Various Planning and Development plans; Waverton Bowling Club considerations; Lavender Green reconsiderations; St Leonards and Neutral Bay / Cremorne Corridor developments; Precinct review on going; MLC Building deliberations; NS Pool update; COVID communication pressures; Green events and information; The next meeting is scheduled for 20 October 2020.

10. Any Other Business

None

11. Next Meeting

The next Precinct meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4 November 2020 at 7.30 pm which would be followed by the Annual General Meeting.

The Chair requested any nominations and in particular the position of Secretary which will be vacated.

Closure

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed as a correct record

Chair