

NOTES

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING

held in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Dee Why on

THURSDAY 22 JUNE 2017

Notes of the Open Space & Recreation Strategic Reference Group Meeting

held on Thursday 22 June 2017

in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Dee Why

Commencing at 5:11pm.

ATTENDANCE:

To Committee Members

Jim Buda	Manly Warringah Cycle Club
Caroline Ghatt	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Lisa Matthews	Manly Rugby Football Club
Antony Pecar	Northern Beaches Cricket Council
Chris Stead	Resident – Pittwater Ward
Matthew Ward	Resident – Curl Curl Ward
Julie Whitfield	Resident – Narrabeen Ward

Council Officer Contacts

Ben Taylor	General Manager Environment & Infrastructure
Steven Lawler	Executive Manager Parks & Recreation
Damian Ham	Manager Open Spaces & Recreation Planning
Christine Deaner	Senior Recreation Planner
Emma Marshall	Governance Support Officer

Quorum

Majority of members (excluding vacant positions)

Steven Lawler welcomed the members to the meeting.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jean Hay, Duncan Kerr, Bob Giltinan, Stephen Beatty, James Channon, Lynne Czinner, Marissa Gidall, Brent Manieri, Steve McInnes, Paul Smith, Wayne Stevenson and Jenny Cronan.

2.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 NOTES OF OPEN SPACE & RECREATION STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP HELD 20 APRIL 2017

DECISION

Quorum wasn't achieved so notes could not be confirmed.

That the Notes of the Open Space & Recreation Strategic Reference Group held 20 April 2017, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

4.0 AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 RECREATION PLANNING FRAMEWORK PROJECT UPDATE

DISCUSSION

Damian Ham provided an update to the members on the Recreation Planning Framework Project.

D Ham explained that this project is to develop a framework to guide the planning and management of open spaces, parks, and sportsgrounds on the Northern Beaches. In response to approaches from the local sports sector Council's current open space planning priority is an integrated strategy to guide development of sportsgrounds and facilities for the next 15 years. In response to previous discussions with this SRG the open space planning priority in 2017/18 is proposed be a long term integrated Open Space and Recreation Strategy to guide development of open spaces and facilities - a companion piece to the Sportsgrounds Strategy.

Members discussed the; importance of planning for the diverse range of recreational uses of our open spaces not just planning for sport, the importance of recognising the casual use of open spaces, accessibility and inclusion and the need for planning for sports not covered in the sportsgrounds strategy e.g. mountain biking and other forms of trail riding.

The Open Space and Recreation SRG members supported the proposed framework and the open space planning project for 2017/18.

DECISION

That the Open Space and Recreation Strategic Reference Group note the update on the Recreation Planning Framework Project and participate in a discussion about priorities for 2017/18.

4.2 NORTHERN BEACHES SPORTSGROUNDS STRATEGY - DRAFT

DISCUSSION

Christine Deaner gave a presentation on the Draft Sportsgrounds Strategy, which is currently on public exhibition until 2 July, 2017. C Deaner updated the group on the following:

- The findings from Council's review and community engagement to date including the feedback from the Sports Forum held with key Northern Beaches sports groups.
- Priority actions proposed to meet the shortfall in sportsfields and the focus over first next five years of the Strategy implementation.

C. Deaner stated that the Draft Sportsgrounds Strategy was reported to the Council meeting held 30 May and released for public exhibition on 2 June. The submission period for the strategy closes 2 July. The feedback on the Strategy to date was discussed by the members, it was noted that a petition was submitted by Warringah Golf Club signed by over 10,000 people to retain the Warringah Golf Course. S Lawler reported that golf clubs have been kept informed throughout the engagement process to ensure transparency.

Ben Taylor reported that the consultant that analysed the feedback data noted that the phone survey undertaken as part of the engagement for the strategy is most representative of the Northern Beaches demographics.

It was also reported that the Department of Education is discussing with Council the joint use of indoor and outdoor school facilities including sportsfields. Council are expecting to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the investigation of joint use opportunities shortly. S Lawler

reported that in the Strategy, five new sportsfields are anticipated from these joint use arrangements with schools. The SRG members agreed that this is a great outcome.

The members discussed field sizes in relation to the guidelines and the rules that are imposed on sports codes by their governing bodies. Allocation of sportsfields based on the needs of sports codes were also discussed. C Deaner reported that a review of sportsfield allocations is a project in the Strategy.

The proposal for new hockey synthetic fields at the State land at Myoora Road, Terrey Hills was discussed. S Lawler reported that an assessment of the site indicates that it is unsuitable for hockey or other types of synthetic fields due to engineering issues arising from this site being a former garbage tip. A new location for hockey is being investigated.

The proposed location for golf course conversion to sportsfields including Warringah Golf Course was discussed.

A question was raised about how access and inclusivity is addressed in the Strategy. C Deaner reported that the Strategy supports Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan and has identified the need for more female and family friendly infrastructure.

It was reported that if all the Strategy's actions are implemented, the sportsfields shortfall is expected to significantly reduce from 41ha to 5.1ha by 2031.

NOTE: *Caroline Ghatt left the meeting at 6:07pm.*

A question was raised about what could happen when the Councillors come on board and whether the decisions made by the Administrator can be reversed. S Lawler noted that it is the Administrator's role to make recommendations and these could be re-considered by a future Council – nonetheless the Strategy and recommendations do provide well considered and well supported actions to meet current and future sports facility needs. Further, the Strategy proposes that all other options are considered and implemented to increase the supply of sportsfields before converting golf course land is considered.

NOTE: *Caroline Ghatt returned to the meeting at 6:10pm.*

The members discussed possible golf course locations past the Bilgola Bends. S Lawler noted these locations were not recommended for conversion due to environmental and traffic issues. The future of Palm Beach golf course was also discussed, an idea discussed was use of this course as open space.

The SRG members were encouraged to make a submission via the "Your Say" section on the Council's website about the Draft Sportsgrounds Strategy.

DECISION

That the Open Space and Recreation Strategic Reference Group note the update on the Northern Beaches Sportsgrounds Strategy project.

4.3 OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION PROJECTS CONSIDERED IN THE DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2017/18

DISCUSSION

The following items from the Draft Operational Plan and Budget 2017/18 were noted by the members:

- New synthetic sportsfield at Cromer Park Field 2

- Upgrades to amenities at Nolan Reserve and North Narrabeen Reserve
- Lionel Watts and Manly Dam inclusive playgrounds
- Rock pool upgrade and new accessible amenities at Collaroy Beach
- Upgrades to amenities near North Narrabeen rock pool
- Narrabeen Lagoon Trail aquatic boardwalk
- Manly and Palm Beach coastal walkways and cycle ways

Steven Lawler reported that in the Draft Operational Plan and Budget 2017/18 there are details about the entire range of projects that Council has planned. Further information can be found on Council's website.

Ben Taylor reported on an interactive map, accessible through Council's website, that shows where capital works are being carried out across the Northern Beaches. The details on the map include the project name, timeline and costs.

A question was raised about new playgrounds and that there should be mention of inclusivity. S Lawler noted that playgrounds are now upgraded with inclusivity requirements in mind, this is now a part of Council's usual planning and reporting process.

DECISION

That the Open Space and Recreation Strategic Reference Group note the update regarding the open space, sport and recreation capital projects in the Draft Operational Plan and Budget 2017/18.

4.4 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN - UPDATE ON STAGE TWO

DISCUSSION

Steven Lawler provided an update on the community engagement for stage two of the Community Strategic Plan.

DECISION

That the Open Space & Recreation Strategic Reference Group note the update on the development of the Community Strategic Plan.

4.5 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUPS

DISCUSSION

Steven Lawler requested that the members complete a survey, which will be sent to members via email, regarding their participation in the SRGs.

S Lawler noted that a significant benefit of council amalgamation has been the opportunity for council and our community to work together to plan for the future of the whole of the Northern Beaches. S Lawler acknowledged the valuable contribution and commitment that the Open Space and Recreation SRG members have made to Council's strategic planning for sport and recreation on the Northern Beaches.

The diversity of SRG membership was then discussed, feedback was given that there seemed to be a lack of diversity across the SRGs and that membership wasn't reflective of the wider Northern Beaches community.

Matthew Ward reported on a bike park project in Belrose and the support of Council and the State Government.

DECISION

That the Open Space and Recreation Strategic Reference Group members:

- A. Note the acknowledgment of their valuable contribution and commitment.
- B. Provide survey feedback to Council on their experience as a Strategic Reference Group member.

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Nil

The meeting concluded at 6:40pm

This is the final page of the Notes comprising 7 pages numbered 1 to 7 of the Open Space & Recreation Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 22 June 2017.