

MINUTES: WAVERTON PENINSULA WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD IN THE ROS CRICHTON PAVILION ON TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2023 AT 5.00PM.

PRESENT

Councillor Baker in the Chair. Councillor Welch.

Staff:

David Manson, Acting Director Open Space and Environmental Services
David Banbury, Landscape Architect/Projects Co-ordinator
Miranda Shoppee, Meeting Administration Co-ordinator
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

Citizen Members:

Bruce Donald, Waverton Precinct
Ian Grey, Chair, Waverton Precinct
Iain Bartholomew, Waverton Precinct
Mary Curran, Co-Chair Union Precinct
Ken Robinson, Co-Chair, Union Precinct
Genia McCaffery, Chair, Edward Precinct

Apologies:

Therese Manns - General Manager, Councillor Beregi, Margaret Petrykowski - Waverton Precinct

At the commencement of business (5.00pm) Councillors present were:
Councillor Baker in the Chair, Councillor Welch

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 October 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Moved by Iain Bartholomew and seconded by Councillor Welch.

Voting was unanimous.

2. Matters Arising

Nil.

3. Berrys Bay

Master Plan

Council's Landscape Architect/Project Co-ordinator advised that on the 8 February 2023 the State Government announced the final Master Plan. They have advised they will be commencing the detail design work shortly and are planning to finalise that before the end of the year and make a start on the actual work, with a completion date of 2024.

TfNSW mentioned in the Berrys Bay Community & Stakeholder Working Group that they are going to be extending the services of that group through the detailed design phase. TfNSW were going to attend this Waverton Peninsula Working Group meeting to talk about the detail design process, but due to the elections they have put it off until the June meeting of the Waverton Peninsula Working Group.

Land Transfer

The Mayor advised that Council is continuing to lobby the NSW Government for transfer of the Berrys Bays public lands to Council. The Mayor has spoken to the then Planning Minister before the elections at the opening of the Playground at St Leonards Park regarding this issue. Council has already put it to Chris Minns and Daniel Mookhey in terms of, that this would be a continuation of the Labour legacy for regional open space.

The Mayor advised that there was a resolution that Council will no longer be supporting the proposal by the Sydney Heritage Fleet for Berrys Bay. Council supports the Berrys Bay Master Plan.

A Motion was moved by Bruce Donald and seconded by Mary Curran,

1. THAT the Working Group's position is that they seek the transfer to Council of all of the Berrys Bay public lands (including reclaimed areas), on a fully funded basis, with all remediation and restoration of buildings and the cost of landscaping covered, and that the Working Group support the Council's decision.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. THAT the Working Group position is that they seek the transfer to Council of all of the Berrys Bay public lands (including reclaimed areas), on a fully funded basis, with all remediation and restoration of buildings and the cost of landscaping covered, and that the Working Group support the Council's decision.

Dolphin Wharf

The Mayor advised that she has written to Transport for NSW about compliance issues on the Dolphin Wharf, who have responded to say that they have conducted regular inspections.

4. Coal Loader Wharf Adaptive Reuse

Council's Landscape Architect/Project Co-ordinator advised that since the last meeting council has reviewed and responded to a *Review of Environmental Factors* for make safe retrieval work and also a *Vision Survey*, both of which were advertised by TfNSW in December 2022. In the REF document TfNSW advise they want to remove most of the timber work including anything that is at risk of collapse in the next 12 months.

Council provided a detailed response to the REF in January. The Council submission noted particularly (amongst other things) that, due to the Coal Loader Wharf's great heritage significance, a best practice heritage outcome is critical. The submission also noted that under the make safe and retrieval work proposed by Transport for NSW, maintenance of the heritage fabric and future adaptive reuse vision appears to be only a secondary consideration, and that this is seen as continuation of a demolition by neglect approach which is a poor heritage outcome.

5. Quarantine Depot

Council's Landscape Architect/Project Co-ordinator advised that Council is currently finishing off some of the site fencing repairs and other make safe works and that they hope to be in a position to have the grounds open for general public access soon after that.

Beyond that, achieving equitable access is the challenge of this site due to its steep terrain, including access into the cottages. Council is looking at ways to solve this including use of decking to address levels issues, possibly in conjunction with an inclinators between the main levels.

Inadequate site drainage is another issue being addressed. The cottages are in good condition but there needs to be some repair work to the smaller outbuildings. When the site is initially opened these will be closed off and made safe.

The Mayor advised the Council have resolved via a Mayoral Minute that a report be prepared regarding a longer term management plan for the whole site, as well as pop-up activation of the cottages with a focus on arts, craft and culture. It is Council's position that the sooner the community can get in and use the facilities the better. One of the conditions of the sale was that it has to be for community uses.

The status of the foreshore wharf / jetty at the site was queried.

A Motion was moved by Ian Grey and seconded by Mary Curran,

1. THAT the Working Group ask Council to re-approach Transport for NSW seeking that the lease of the wharf / jetty be transferred to Council.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. THAT the Working Group ask Council to re-approach Transport for NSW seeking that the lease of the wharf / jetty be transferred to Council.

6. Waverton Bowling Club

Councillor Welch advised that Council has resolved to write to the NSW Government requesting that they acquire the site from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council with due compensation and transfer the site to Council for care, control & management as part of the Waverton Peninsula Parklands reserve.

Precinct representatives advised that at recent meeting Precinct decided to engage with MALC, subject to Council being comfortable with that, to discuss their aspirations and intentions for the site.

7. Welcome to Waverton Installation

Ian Grey advised that the consensus amongst representatives of the Waverton Precinct was that they did not wish to proceed with the Welcome to Waverton sign.

However there has been a longstanding request for signage relating to the community action in saving the peninsula lands for parkland and an associated sign welcoming people to the Waverton Peninsula Parklands.

Genia McCaffery advised that the history on the Coal Loader fails to mention the history of the saving of the peninsula sites.

The Mayor suggested that the Stanton Library should compile an oral history of the story of the saving of the Waverton Peninsula Parklands, with input from all that were a part of it.

A Motion was moved by Genia McCaffery and seconded by Ian Grey,

1. THAT Council prepare appropriate signage, be that a plaque or similar, which documents community action on the Waverton Peninsula to save the Waverton Peninsula Parklands, dating from the passing of the 1903 Act to present.

Voting was unanimous.

Resolved to recommend:

1. THAT Council prepares appropriate signage, be that a plaque/s or similar, which documents community action on the Waverton Peninsula to save the Waverton Peninsula Parklands, dating from the passing of the 1903 Act to present.

8. General Business

Cafe at the Coal Loader

It was noted that the previous lessee has vacated the premises. The Mayor advised that Council's Sustainability team is taking the opportunity to refit the kitchen as fully sustainable kitchen in terms of its energy use, that can be used a model for other businesses or Councils. Work includes removing gas appliances and changing to full electric operation. An expression of interest for a new lessee with then be put to market.

Aboriginal history in the area

Ian Grey stated that there is a lack of signage documenting Aboriginal history in the area and suggested that a themed walk could be developed in conjunction with the Aboriginal community.

The Mayor noted that there was a guided walk around Berry Island [the Gadyan Track] and that the Aboriginal Heritage Office conducted regular tours of the area including the Coal Loader, Balls Head and Berry Island.

11. Next Meeting: 6 June 2023

Meeting concluded at 6.17pm.