

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting and AGM of

DOVER HEIGHTS PRECINCT

Monday 26th May 2014

At Magnolia Healing Centre Old South Head Rd, Rose Bay

Apologies: Jack Jellins, Maureen Jellins, Belinda Farrell, Robert Sassoon

Attendance: Mayor Betts, Crs Guttman-Jones and Goltsman and as attendance sheet.

John Lewis: Convenor and Meeting Chairman

Michael Lewis: Secretary

Meeting commenced at 7:38PM

Presentations:

Assessment of Council Rates

Bronwyn Kelly, Director Corporate and Technical Services, Waverley Council

Issues: DH ratepayers tend to pay higher rates than the average ratepayer in Waverley – Rates policies set by State Govt. Council has tried to alleviate some rating inequalities with Govt e.g. proposing a switch from Land Value (UCV) to Capital Improved Value

Two ways – Minimum Rate – more weight to land value

Base rate – less weight to land value

e.g. Waverley (Minimum) 2m\$ land value, \$1000 more than one in Woollahra (Base) – Randwick (Minimum), \$800 more than Waverley – Higher minimum rate. There are pensioner rebates.

JL: Council made a surplus this year – goes into services.

JL: What about increasing minimum rate and then reduce land value rate.

Subject to State caps. Council can set small rate increase – but must take into consideration UCV changes when setting increases. Drops in UCV / Rises should eventually cause a rates drop/rise respectively.

ML: Has State Govt – “more conservative” over last 3 years shown any difference in policy.?

BK:No.

BK: If changed to CIV – based on sale price, the \$5m units would no longer pay the same as a \$500K unit. Instead the owner of a \$5 million unit would pay the same as the owner of a house worth \$5m (sale value).

DF: redistributes the “pie” above the minimum.

BK: The Office of Local Government could consider reducing “its grip” on the minimum rate and allow Council to “play” with minimums etc. 50% of Waverley ratepayers pay the minimum. 100% pay annual charges – such as garbage.

JL: Can Council create move “levies”. E.g. a special Library Rate – effectively increasing minimum.

BK: “Not Legal” in the form proposed by JL – Best option to try to get State Govt to change to CIV.

Cr Betts: Went to Minister about cap on minimum rate – apply to more than 50%.

DF: Rates are not “high” by international standards – but slanted to Unit properties in Waverley. Suggested discount for annual upfront discount.

BK: More than 70% of Council’s income is raised by “User Charges”. Very high compared to other Councils. \$5m/year collected in rents from Council properties. Child Care run by Council is set up to recover all its costs through fees, grants and contributions and ratepayers are not subsidising child care in Waverley. In DH, property values have increased more quickly than rates.

Raleigh Reserve Entry Upgrade

Maree Girdler, Divisional Manager and Bianca Simpson, Open Space Planning Manager, Waverley Council.

Council had decided Lola Road entrance to Raleigh Reserve. 10-15 on-leash buffer zone with gate and fencing. A number of decisions from November 2013 based on DH meeting requests - motions. Comments about re-turfing etc. 14/15 budget will introduce a 3-4 year (financed) plan to improve & manage the Reserve turfing /fertilisation, aeration etc). Other budget for provision of items such as “doggie bags”.

DF: Have added extra dirt to “crater area” – filled but not re-turfed. Needs more work.

MG: Will be carried out and maintained in 3-4 year plan. Covers Weonga, Raleigh, Rodney.

BS: Discussed New Dog Entry – behaviour and boundaries. – Create an entry design – which by using plantings and low fencing , guides dogs into a central zone. Plus signage about dog behaviour demarcating off/on leash zones. Residents requested that seating be not provided in zone. Rubbish bin will be moved out of zone. No gate but “dog leg” provided as entrance. New entry will also look better – selecting appropriate plants and fencing – similar to Bronte Playground fence – only top shows above planting – galvanised steel – lower maintenance – blends in..

DF: Hard plastic will last longer than any metal. Salt and STP fumes – from scrubbing chemicals. Plants will be replaced if they die.

JL: Why not low brick fence?

Siobhan Kennely: Do you need fence with dense shrubbery?

MG: Could save money on fence and add to planting.

Cr Betts: Email from 6 Lola Rd –

Still dealing with dog droppings and dangerous off loading of dogs - want a definite fence.

MG: Needs more information and enforcement.

DF: If no gate, then fence serves no purpose.

Tony Krouk: Has there been consultation with other residents? It's creating an extra piece of land for those residents on edge of entry.

MG: Creates a buffer zone. Very small area.

PW: Dog walkers are releasing their dogs too early. Needs policing

VS: Need rangers on the spot – otherwise pointless.

MG: Has been quite a change in behaviour of Dog Walkers.

DF: Why not just build fence on edge and police dog behaviour.

Cr Betts: This is a compromise for all interests.

MG: Information will come back to the community.

Minutes Mon 3rdth March 2014

Arising from the Minutes

Minutes Accepted DF,VS

Convenor's Annual Report

To be attached

AGM – Election of Precinct Executive Committee

Cr Betts: Took Chair, Thanked John and Michael for their work over many years. Seconded by Cr Guttman-Jones.

All positions open

Convenor: Dov Frazer, Nominated: VS, Seconded: PW – Elected

Secretary: TBA

Sub Committees:

Parks, Reserves etc Dov Frazer, PW, VS

Traffic And Parking Ron Nothman, PW,VS

DA Rep: Paul Wilmot, DF,JL

Sub Committee Report

3 Notifications

1) Future DHP meeting location – Body Express, Jamie Hayes, 0418 281 126 corner of Blake and Military Road – OK per Jamie

2) Discussions and meetings with Bush Care Coordinator, Paul Angel and Sue Stevens about their private contractors removing trash – so far nothing removed

3) Discussion with Colleen Nisbit, Civic Pride about forming a Shared Gardening Group for Rodney Reserve – Need volunteers other than Dov

Meeting Finished 9:35PM

Next Meetings:

Monday August 25th 2014

Monday November 10th 2014

Appendices

Correspondence

From: Jack Jellins
Sent: Monday, 26 May 2014 1:39 PM
To: Michael Lewis
Cc: Robert Sassoon
Subject: Re: Raleigh Reserve Entrance - Proposed plans

Dover Heights Precinct Meeting - May 2014

Unfortunately Maureen and I will not be able to attend the precinct meeting tonight as I am leaving for overseas in a few days, and need to meet some deadlines prior to my departure.

The plans for the entrance to Raleigh Reserve will delineate the dog off-leash area from the existing pedestrian path but I do not believe will help with the existing problem where dogs run amok on the paths leading to the reserve entrance.

I do not believe that Council will be able to enforce the laws relating to the Companion Act whereby dogs are required to be on a lead in areas not designated as "off leash". Council staff believe that education will bring about a change in attitude in dog owners and walkers to make them responsible for their dogs but the evidence of numerous dogs being lead free on a daily basis on the Bondi Beach promenade indicates that Council is not able (or willing) to control the situation.

Perhaps Council needs to rethink the expenditure proposed with the changes to the entrance of Raleigh Reserve, and put the funds to better use.

Could you please table this e-mail at tonight's meeting.

With regards.

Jack Jellins.

2 Lola Road, Dover Heights.

From: B Farrell

Date: 26 May 2014 1:24:37 pm AEST

To: Sally Betts

Subject: Re: Tonight's Dover Heights Precinct meeting

Thanks Sally, you have always been consultative and open on this issue and it is genuinely appreciated. The conversation on the street that I hear seems to have shifted towards the cosmetics, whereas we feel the key issue is there needs to be a clear fence and entrance, set back from the street and footpath, with signage. We are still dealing with the daily procession of excrement and off-leash dogs up the length of Lola Rd travelling into the reserve and we believe that a distinct fence with clear signage will help. If that fence is put right on the road/footpath we are still going to be dealing with off leash dogs on the street and footpath at all hours of the day with the offloading and onloading into cars so feel that a setback is needed.

I still dont feel comfortable or safe using the reserve with our daughter and that is my choice; we appreciate other families might feel comfortable to do so and that is their right. The fence and signage will at least help me feel safer on Lola Rd and the footpath area in front of our home, and hopefully protect Council as well by being very clear about where dogs need to be on a leash vs off it.

Thank you as always for listening and I am sorry I cant be there tonight.

Regards,

Belinda

From: B Farrell

Sent: Monday, 26 May 2014 08:38

To: Sally Betts;

Subject: Tonight's Dover Heights Precinct meeting

Hi Sally, Leon, and Miriam,

I hope you are all keeping well. I'm afraid I cannot make tonights meeting, however I wanted to raise something with you that I hope will be addressed.

The agenda item #3 'Raleigh Reserve Entry Upgrade' concerns me. I understand the issue to be primarily a lack of signage to make clear to those using the reserve as to where the off leash section begins and ends. The rangers tried to do an education

campaign a while ago, however they cannot be at the reserve all the time to educate new users.

I was hopeful that a staged approach, where phase 1 could be some signage to tell people what is expected, might actually work. There is effective and clear signage at Bronte Park and also at Dudley Page reserve, and all over Woollahra, as to what is expected with leash/off leash in specific areas. Personally I would prefer to see a different type of entry to the reserve be a last resort, or phase 2, if indeed signage did not clarify for people and change their behaviour to get them to put their dogs on leashes when they get to the footpath.

I am sorry I can't come tonight, because I am hoping the agenda wording is not very clear -- the issue at hand really is changing the behaviour of some dog owners and commercial walkers, for all our health and safety, not the way the entry appears aesthetically.

Thanks for listening and I hope to connect with you at some stage soon.

Regards,

Belinda Farrell (Lola Rd)