

## OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE



### Meeting Minutes

Thursday 30 March 2023 - 4:00pm

Virtual – Microsoft Teams



GLEN EIRA  
CITY COUNCIL

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Councillors</b> Cr Simone Zmood (SZ)- Chair Cr Sam Parasol (SP) Cr Jim Magee (JM) Cr Tony Athanasopoulos (TA)
	<b>Council Staff</b> Niall McDonagh, Director Community Assets and Leisure (DSAL) Andrew Barden, Acting Manager, Parks Services (MP) Matthew Barbeta, Acting Manager, Recreation and Open Space (MRO) Lauren Dangerfield, Acting Open Space Coordinator (OSC) Eleesa Judd, Recreation Development Co-ordinator (RDC) Jess van der Werff, Coordinator Open Space Maintenance (COSM)

### Item

#### 1. Welcome / Apologies / Conflict of Interest

- 1.1. Meeting opened at 4:04pm.
- 1.2. Welcome to Country given by Chair, Cr Simone Zmood.
- 1.3. No conflict of interest declared

#### 2. Licenced Sports Clubs Allocation and Charging Policy

MRO provided background and an update on the fees and charges review. A paper was presented to Council on 6 December 2022 outlining how seasonal sports clubs are charged for Council ground, pavilion, utilities and associated facilities usage. In short, the current methodology is outdated, inequitable, ambiguous and inconsistent with usage.

The paper built on the Licensed Sports Club Allocation and Charging Policy (endorsed in 2021) which formalised Council's position on ground allocation and established a set of charging principles to guide how sports clubs are charged for the use of council sporting facilities. These principles include equity, consistency, participation, and financial sustainability. Feedback received from sports clubs identified that they agreed that fees and charges should be applied in line with these principles.

Benchmarking is difficult with other Councils as the majority are using outdated and inequitable systems.

MRO discussed charging methodology options.

Cr Tony Athanasopoulos – raised that there is a difference between revenue and profit. Clubs generating revenue and re-investing into our junior players, should be viewed differently.

Cr Sam Parasol – suggested consulting with clubs as the first stage and then address fee calculation as stage two.

Cr Simone Zmood –Suggested that the table in the briefing report include a column showing the change in existing fee for a new fee structure and comment to explain the impact for individual clubs.

A report will be prepared for a future Assembly meeting.

### **3. Bentleigh Reserve Masterplan Update**

MRO discussed the recent funding received from the State Government for a multipurpose court for cricket and netball training facility at Bentleigh Reserve. Consultation has begun with a concept masterplan with the tenant clubs and is ongoing. Council will continue to work with tenant sporting clubs to further develop the concept plan before undertaking broader community engagement.

### **4. Gates from private property into open space**

MRO discussed the issue of non-approved private access gates from residential properties into public open space – parks and reserves. This has been an ongoing issue for quite some time and raises risk issues for property owners and park users. Gates also impact on the planning and planting in our parks. Garden beds are often trampled by residents accessing the parks.

Cr Jim Magee – commented that he was not aware that this was an issue and discussed the possibilities of injuries to residents and park users accessing the gate.

Cr Simone Zmood – commented that Council needs to have clearer guidelines on resident gate access to public land.

MP commented that a lot of master planning has had to be changed to take this into consideration.

Cr Tony Athanasopoulos – commented that perhaps a policy should be developed including further research on potential liabilities and prioritise existing high-risk locations.

DSAL – commented that he believes there is a risk to Council and need to evaluate the current risks. Recommends developing a clear policy on this.

Officers to research further and provide an update at a future meeting.

### **5. Nature Strip Guidelines**

COSM discussed that the existing nature strip guidelines are outdated. Some benchmarking has been conducted to align with Council's biodiversity and Urban Forest Strategy guidelines to bring Glen Eira in line with other Councils. Presently, if nature strips are less than 1.5 metres wide, their applications must be rejected.

Cr Sam Parasol – commented that there is no uniformity and would like to ensure that nature strips look presentable.

CSOM informed that there can be restrictions so that plantings are not more than 50cm high and a recommendation for indigenous species. Discussed the options to apply a cost for a permit and options to provide a voucher to purchase approved plant species.

Cr Simone Zmood commented that this may be linked with Council's place making strategy and the opportunities to have a sympathetic series within a neighbourhood for some uniformity. The Melbourne Pollinator Corridor Handbook could provide some guidance. Discussed the possibility of edible planting however concerns were raised regarding pollution and contamination due to the close proximity to roadways. Suggested that Council provides good examples to give residents some inspiration when designing their own nature strips.

DSAL commented that indigenous planting species links with Council's biodiversity strategy.

CSOM advised that additional resources would be required to support this program.

Cr Tony Athanasopoulos commented that it would be nice to allow for some individuality so not all planted nature strips would be the same.

A report on this will be presented to a future Assembly meeting.

## **General Business**

- **Dog bag dispensers in parks**

MP discussed the provision of dog bags in parks. The provision creates an expectation they will be available – when owners should carry them at all times. A number of councils do not provide dog bags. There is a significant cost to provide and restock the bags.

Cr Jim Magee commented on the considerable cost to Council per annum.

Cr Simone Zmood commented on the concern of how the single use plastic bags aligns with Councils approach to the circular economy.

COS provided some bench marking information on neighbouring Councils for consideration.

- **South Caulfield Cricket Club - Princes Park**

Cr Jim Magee advised that the South Caulfield cricket club have their turf wicket covers stored in the Multi-Purpose pavilion rather than DC Bricker Pavilion and raised the issue of risk to park users and the club members in transporting the covers to and from the ground. Cr Jim Magee asked if there are other options for storing the covers closer to the oval. MP advised that other clubs have recently been using a new inflatable cover system and leaving covers on the ground. There are grants available through Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria clubs can apply for. Officers will reach out to the club and discuss options.

- **Shared Use Agreements**

MRO advised that a meeting has been held with McKinnon Secondary College to discuss opportunities for a joint use agreement. The school currently hires its indoor court to community sporting groups at a discounted rate. Discussions also included the possibility of access to the school's outdoor courts for community use.

**Meeting closed at 5:04pm**