MINUTES

COMMUNITY AND BELONGING STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held in the online via TEAMS on

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2020

Minutes of the Community and Belonging

Strategic Reference Group

held online via TEAMS on Wednesday 12 August 2020

Commencing at 6:05pm

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Kylie Ferguson (Chair)	
Cr Candy Bingham	
Cr Penny Philpott	
Cr Sarah Grattan	
Roslyn Marsh	Avalon Preservation Association, Arts & Culture
Simon Moriarty	Community Representative, Curl Curl Ward
Michelle Povah	Northern Beaches Child & Family Interagency
Julie Williams	Community Representative - Narrabeen Ward
Samuel Wilkins	Community Representative - Forest Ward, Youth, Arts & Culture
Maria-Elena Chidzey	Community Northern Beaches Inc. (CNB), Multi-Cultural
Cathy Hockey	Community Representative, Disability
Dan Giles	Easylink

Council Officer Contacts

Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts & Culture
Russell Peake	Manager Social Planning and Services *(item 6.2)*
Brianna Davis	Social Planning and Strategy Coordinator *(item 6.2)*
Will Wrathall	Team Leader Community Development *(item 6.3)*
Leanne Martin	Community Safety Coordinator *(item 6.3)*
Belinda Gibson	Director Glen Street Theatre *(item 6.4)*
Sarah Dunstan	Governance Manager *(item 6.5)*
Katie Kirwan	Governance Officer *(item 6.5)*
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and pays respect to Elders past and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from D Robbins, J Gordon, M Shonk and T Lee.

3.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 13 MAY 2020

S Moriarty / S Wilkins

That the minutes of the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group meeting held 13 May 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Nil

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

K Walshe, Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture provided an update on this topic. The following points were discussed:

Creative Space Avalon

Works are progressing and a contractor has been engaged. It is estimated that works will be completed by December 2020.

Creative Space Mona Vale

Engagement will be undertaken once the Creative Space Avalon works have been completed. It is estimated that works will commence in 2022.

Volunteers Program

SRG members were briefed on this topic at the last SRG meeting on 13 May 2020.

Council's volunteer policy is being finalised. This is an internal policy and will be used for Council

volunteers only. The next stage of this program is to develop an external policy which will cover all community volunteers. This work will commence early 2021.

Collaboration and Partnerships Post COVID-19

Council has contacted not for profit organisations in order to understand how are they coping during the pandemic. Concerns raised include: the need of essential goods, food supplies and financial assistance.

6.2   SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY REPORT

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Cr Ferguson introduced R Peake, Manager Social Planning and Services and B Davis, Social Planning and Strategy Coordinator to the group.

R Peak and B Davis provided a presentation and held a workshop with the SRG members. The following points were discussed:

- A review of the Social Sustainability Strategy, previously known as the Social Plan, was undertaken in March 2020. A change to the title from a "plan" to a "strategy" aligns the naming of the Strategy within the broad Council planning framework and ensures it is viewed as a long term strategic document.

- The Social Sustainability Strategy (the Strategy) is a 20 year vision (2021-2040).

- The approach undertaken with the Strategy will provide guidance to Northern Beaches Council and the community on social issues. This approach includes a detailed stakeholder engagement plan that will incorporate collaboration and partnership with key internal and external stakeholders.

- The Strategy identifies opportunities to enhance and support members of the community to experience a safe, inclusive and connected community. It also provides social planning direction to other key Council strategies and plans to ensure Council delivers on the communities vision.

- The Strategy provides a framework for building the capacity of the community to respond to social challenges through collaboration and partnership with government and community organisations.

- Three key components identified in the Shape 2028 Community Vision have been included in the Strategy being: inclusion, safety and connectedness. The Strategy will determine what these pillars mean for all groups within the community and identify opportunities to build resilience, capacity and wellbeing for all Northern Beaches residents.

- It is expected that the Strategy will be delivered in June 2021.

DISCUSSION

SRG members were invited to participate in a workshop. The following questions were formulated:

What are the current strengths in the areas of wellbeing, resilience and capacity building for each pillar for the community?

Safety Pillar	#	Inclusion Pillar	#	Connection Pillar	#
Feeling of comfort and security	12	Participation	17	Being Together	17
Safety in Public	8	Diversity	11	Network to Connect	14
Culture of Respect	7	Accessible	6	Mutual Care	7
Transport	6	Attitudes	6	Informed	5
Access to Service	5	Equality	6	Personal Feelings	2
Maintained and secure place's	5	Governance	1		
Lifestyle security	2				
Public Oversite	2				

What are the current strengths in the areas of wellbeing, resilience and capacity building for each pillar for the community?

	Safety	Inclusion	Connection
Wellbeing	• Strengths - Agencies that support • beautiful vistas • natural environment • music events • a new child safeguarding policy! • Music! Always good to have around. • healthy community, • Low crime levels	• free entertainment & amazing access to local facilities - parks, beaches, bush • high levels of community engagement • Generally shared supportive attitudes and beliefs amongst the community • community consultation	• Opportunities to participate thru Surf lifesaving clubs. • Our libraries • community kindness • many opportunities for a wide range of sports
Capacity Building	• suicide support program • community organisations • council grants to support those at risk	• libraries and currently library delivery • Council SRGS and consultation options • The SRG's • Extensive facilities and services • Supported and open employment opportunities	• social enterprises • Associations that get messages out • Community centres • Community activities • Program of events • Markets, festivals etc.

Resilience		• Volunteers that assist • Refugee welcome activities • accepting and diverse community • volunteering, inclusive events and groups no matter (E.g. GLAM youth group, music events, clubs)	• volunteers • local villages • high levels of volunteering • volunteer network • That we all work together towards a goal.

Areas of opportunity within the community:

#	Opportunity Themes	Description (summary of responses)
7	Physical Infrastructure	Upgrading or increasing physical infrastructure to support safe participation within community life.
6	Capacity Building	Increasing support to community organisations to allow for a wide and diverse breadth of opportunities for the community to participate in.
6	Social Infrastructure	A focus on increasing social infrastructure to include night-time activities and delivery of events and facilitated opportunities to address gaps.
5	Communication	Ensure information is accessible and available on all relevant platforms., with consideration of all groups in the community.
4	Funding	Attract funding from State and National level. Provide targeted fee relief to the community to facilitate participation.
3	Youth Opportunities	Re-think the approach to youth engagement and develop a new plan to best serve this group.
2	Opportunities to Participate	Look for ways to increase equity of participation across a range of areas - employment, transport, access to activities
2	Outcomes	Strengthen reporting to the community with a focus on outcomes rather than outputs.
1	Goodwill	Build community goodwill through introducing community recognition programs.
1	Innovation	Increase the use of innovation to solve community issues.

The following questions were raised:

QUESTION: How will Council ensure that the appropriate external groups are engaged?

ANSWER: Working with Council's engagement team, we will be mapping stakeholders to identify which organisations and groups Council should be engaging with.

QUESTION: Is there a plan to look more closely for a Youth Strategy?

ANSWER: The Social Sustainability Strategy will provide opportunities to identify key focus areas. This might lead to the creation of a Youth Strategy in the future.

QUESTION: I have been involved in several consultations, however on many occasions we don't know the outcome of the consultation or what action has been taken with the findings from the consultation. Which of the consultations that we have done in the past are going to be taken into account in your final cohesive plan?

ANSWER: All engagement undertaken in relation to previous Council strategies will be reviewed and findings taken into account in the development of the Strategy. This will also ensure that the same questions are not asked again.

QUESTION: Is Council going to draft a Multicultural Plan or is this going to be integrated into the Strategy?

ANSWER: The Social Sustainability Strategy will provide opportunities to identify key focus areas. This might lead to the creation of a Multicultural Strategy in the future.

6.3   COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

W Wrathall, Team Leader Community Development and L Martin Community Safety Coordinator provided a presentation on this item.

Council is developing a five year Community Safety Plan 2021-2026 (the Plan) to achieve the Northern Beaches vision of *"a safe, inclusive and connected community that lives in balance with our extraordinary coastal and bushland environment."*

The Plan will provide direction for safety related issues across the Northern Beaches and provide focus for the Community Safety Committee and key stakeholders.

DISCUSSION

The following points were discussed:

- Action plan and purpose

- Background

- Emerging themes and priority action areas of the Plan

- Next steps and timeline

SRG members were invited to participate in a workshop to review the six priorities areas of the Safety Plan, provide feedback on the objectives and identify potential partners and stakeholders.

Safe Futures	Safe Families	Safe Spaces
• Well maintained facilities • Emotional and physical safety • Feeling free from bullying, particularly on social media • Transparency around what is being done to improve safety or response to danger/events • Freedom • Security protection against criminal elements, patrolled by Police or rangers • Enable people to exercise and remain healthy • Free entertainment and amazing access to local facilities - parks, beaches, bush • A new child safeguarding policy • Refugee welcome activities • Music events • Community activities • Parent participation in schools and related groups • Accessible communication • Younger teenagers are feeling unsafe – assist them to know how to call for help • Safe indigenous people – especially youth • Barriers for youth (mental, health) getting access and help	• Physical violence, but also psychological abuse • Emergency youth refuges across Northern Beaches Council • Cross culture and inter-generational relationships. • Address the concept that family violence doesn't happen on the Northern Beaches • Improve service coordination - what about services for DV - there is no case management , services for young women 14-25yrs. • Unreported domestic violence. • Advising the community of these issues and what they can do about it • Finding a way to count financial, emotional and verbal and proactive engagement with youth to prevent the troubles • Family and parenting support. • Advertise scam details to beware of. • Safe, affordable housing • Ability to feedback to different LGAs about what we are seeing - sometimes the young people and DV are not from people who live in our area • Issues with alcohol as a cause seems to be a running theme. There may be targeted actions to address this though there may be an objective needed to focus on this as well.	• Lighting, access, enough space • Need to factor a COVID-19 layer on all this. It is going to be with us for a while • Bad behaviour in public spaces • Lighting to exercise • COVID Safety: looking at outdoor materials e.g. copper that kills people, bacteria viruses social distancing spaces in communal areas • Communicating to the community that Northern Beaches is a safe area • Safety for the homeless and rough sleepers • Look at safe places and events for young people to reduce alcohol consumption, not just punishment and ostracising. • Good street lighting, active social areas, encouraging lots of people out and about

• Stakeholders - youth groups that happen, such as Guides and Scouts etc. • Young people and drugs • Education of youth on appropriate behaviours		
Safety for seniors	**Safe travels**	**Safe Nights Out**
• Online safety • Physical and mental safety for the elderly and those living with disabilities • Safe from Covid-19 • Isolation and loneliness • Elder abuse	• Getting safely from one location to another • Improve safety for children • Transport mode changing • Light in the bus stop shelters • Multiple CCTV on transport • Synchronization of buses and ferry • Many bus stops with non-functional lights • Travel isolation • More regular transport services at peak times at night	• Accessibility, variety, responsible behaviour • How to manage and plan for high volume areas, this could be refer as healthy safety • Everyone has the right to enjoy a night out. • More live music and encouragement of venues to put on live music, not just concentrating on growth centres

NOTE: *W Wrathall thanked S Moriarty and M Shonk for participating in the assessment of the Community Development stream of the 2020/21 Community Grants Program*

6.4   GLEN STREET THEATRE - FUTURE USE OF THE FORMER RESTAURANT SPACE

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

K Walshe introduced B Gibson, Director Glen Street Theatre. A presentation was provided on this item.

In 2018 Council resolved to consider options regarding the future use of the former restaurant space at the Glen Street Theatre. Community engagement was undertaken to collect feedback that included a community telephone and online survey. The community members preference was for '*a flexible space offering live performances and food and beverages*'.

As a result of the survey outcome Randall Arts Management Ltd was engaged to provide Council with three options for activating the former restaurant space in line with the community preference.

Three options were identified:

Option 1 – Improve the current condition and continue current operation

Option 2 - Balance performance and hospitality

Option 3 – Hospitality venue, with limited performance

DISCUSSION

The following points were discussed**:**

- Location of Glen Street Theatre

- Definition of cultural hub

- Community consultation results

- Objectives of developing options for the provision of a flexible space offering live performances and food and beverages

- Costs, benefits and risks of the three options presented

SRG members discussed the three options and highlighted their majority preference being Option 1.

Members highlighted that regardless of what option is chosen, the ownership of the space should be retained by Council. Other comments included:

- *Glen Street Theatre is a very important venue and needs to be kept accessible to the community.*

- *I liked the dinner before the shows. There is a gap in dinner show activities.*

- *The Glenrose Shopping Centre restaurants provide good pre-show dining.*

- *There are a number of large events and performing art schools that are at risk of going elsewhere if Option 1 is not adopted.*

- *If Council invests more in Option 1 it could be very special.*

- *It provides opportunities for the theatre to service the community.*

Members were invited to email any further feedback to K Walshe. This feedback will be reported to Council when it considers the three options at an upcoming Council meeting.

6.5   SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MID-TERM REVIEW

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

S Dunstan, Governance Manager provided a presentation on this topic. The purpose of the presentation was to provide results from the survey of Strategic Reference Groups (SRGs), update the SRG members on the proposed interim improvements and seek feedback from current SRGs members on the role of an SRG member and their experience to assist Council in setting up for the next term of SRGs.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

The following topics were discussed:

- Survey feedback

- Continual and additional improvements

- Challenges

- Key milestones

- Role of the SRG members

SRG members were invited to participate in a workshop aiming to provide insight into the role of an SRG member from their perspective. The following feedback was provided:

- Clearer guidance is needed for new SRG members. This will help members to understand what to do with the information provided at the meeting and how to deal with confidentiality issues.

- Clarification with regards to what members are being asked to provide to the SRG

- Provide topics that suit particular interests for example music, programs activities for youth. community spaces, community centres.

- SRGs provide a good forum which enable us to share information with our own contact network.

- SRGs provide an opportunity to be informed with what is happening in Council before it goes to community consultation, hence SRG members can contribute providing feedback in advance.

- All SRG members should receive the other SRG's business papers, in order to be informed with what is happening with the other SRGs.

- Is great to have Councillors on board as they are a direct source with regards to receiving community members' comments and aspirations.

- Stakeholders are a very important representation for the SRG's membership.

- SRGs are a good forum to hear community member's opinions.

- A good option would be to advertise SRGs more widely.

- Given the current COVID-19 situation which means meetings are not being able to be held face to face, Councillors presence in the SRG membership is of great benefit as they help to include all members when discussion of a topic arise. Councillors also provide expertise on topics where they have good knowledge.

- Community and Belonging SRG is working well. It is a good outcome to see that Council staff are noticing what SRG members are saying.

- It is great to have a mix of people to bring diversity to the SRG, this leads to a good debate.

- Several items in the Agenda, and not enough time to discuss the items in depth. A good option could be to increase frequency of meetings (i.e. monthly).

- Attendance of members varies. There hasn't been one meeting where there has been full attendance.

7.0   GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting concluded at 8:23pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 12 pages
numbered 1 to 12 of the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group meeting
held on Wednesday 12 August 2020 and confirmed on Wednesday 11 November 2020