



northern  
beaches  
council

**Partnerships & Participation**  
Strategic Reference Group

# MINUTES

## **PARTNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP**

held online via TEAMS on

**WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2020**

**Minutes of the Partnership and Participation  
Strategic Reference Group  
held on Wednesday 4 November 2020  
Commencing at 6:07pm**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

Cr Sue Heins (Chair)	
Mayor Michael Regan	
Cr Kylie Ferguson	
Tony Hilliger	Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc
Ina Vukic	Northside Enterprise
Antony Biasi	
John Buggy	Belrose Open Space Corridor Association
Denice Smith	
Chris Fulton	
David Hope	North Sydney District Council of P&C Associations

**Council Officer Contacts**

Melanie Gurney	Executive Manager Library Services
Russell Peake	Manager Social Planning and Services
Natalie Watson	Coordinator Volunteer Program Development
Briana Davis	Coordinator Social Planning and Strategy
Deb Kemp	Acting Manager Place and Economic Development
Jasmine Evans	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 Cr Philpott, Jane Mecelli, Hannah Jamieson, Myriam Conrie and Andrew Grocott.

## **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 PARTNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 5 AUGUST 2020**

*K Ferguson / D Smith*

The minutes of the Partnership and Participation Strategic Reference Group (SRG) meeting held 5 August 2020, were confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

## **6.0 AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6.1 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS JUDGING PANEL**

#### **DISCUSSION**

R Peake and N Watson presented an update on the Australia Day Awards judging panel nomination process.

Council is seeking nominations from the Partnership and Participation SRG and the Community and Belonging SRG to sit on the judging panel for next year's Australia Day Awards. Information about the awards, process and timeline was provided to the group.

Nominations were received from D Smith and T Biasi, with D Hope as a backup.

### **6.2 SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **DISCUSSION**

R Peake and B Davis presented an update on the Social Sustainability Strategy development.

Members suggested that Council considers strengthening the inclusivity of words under the "Well served" element of Social Sustainability to clearly represent the Social Sector. They suggested the

wording “hospitals and other public/community services”.

A workshop was then facilitated where members were asked to offer feedback around the proposed Phase 2 and 3 engagement approach.

Members noted the tight timeframe for stakeholder engagement would have to be managed closely to ensure it was effective.

Discussion was held considering the changes that have been occurring in the community towards a busier, less connected society with less divergent views and how this could impact on the success of the engagement, hampered by a tight timeframe.

An activity was then conducted looking at the strengths, challenges and opportunities for participation and partnership when delivering the Social Sustainability engagement plan. Below is a summary of the discussion.

### **Strengths:**

Members suggested considering how strengths can be maintained within the community, as it is not a guarantee they will still be there in the future.

### **Challenges:**

- Time constraints – Break down commitments to get people involved in small ways.
- Community is changing – capacity to participate and volunteer decreasing, eg. School P&C numbers.
- Difficult to bring people together on broader platforms – groups keeping to themselves, less time and ability to collaborate and expand networks.
- Barriers to connection more prevalent as people reluctant to engage with strangers or share information for safety reasons.

### **Opportunities:**

- Hold activities outdoors to help people come together.
- Harness the power of places and spaces to bring people together. Foster community groups who are passionate about this to take the lead in promoting more outdoor activities.
- Community organisations can adapt to encourage people to participate and volunteer in ways that they can commit. Surf Life Saving clubs are a good example of this – their membership continues to grow.
- Develop programs that focus on teaching people HOW to connect with their neighbours and community groups, increasing support networks and getting to know people living around them to break down challenges associated with growing social isolation.
- Community Kindergartens – a way of reaching children and their parents.

## **6.3 NORTHERN BEACHES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN WORKSHOP**

### **DISCUSSION**

D Kemp presented an update on the Northern Beaches Economic Development Plan.

A workshop was facilitated where members were asked to offer feedback from a customer and community perspective for the questions below.

#### **What can be done to support business recovery from COVID-19 in the short-term?**

- Support for local businesses to help them raise their profile and become more visible in the community. Could Council work with young people to develop apps to make local businesses

more visible and accessible?

- Buy local campaigns with a physical presence, not just online.
- Help local businesses expand online, providing training in SEO (search engine optimisation), PPC (pay per click) and geo tagging for small local businesses.
- Could Council work with local businesses to run hubs for online services and pop up shops?
- Council intervention on similar businesses opening within the same area.

**What do you see as key barriers to growth on the Northern Beaches?**

- Lack of larger businesses that can offer career paths to their employees, resulting in people moving out of the area to seek opportunities elsewhere.
- Limited space and the cost of real estate.
- Lack of transport and connectivity to other areas.

**What are the longer-term aspirations for the Northern Beaches as a place to do business?**

- With more people working from home Council could try to attract larger businesses and virtual businesses to the area.
- Taking advantage of the natural environment by hosting sporting events such as triathlons or volley ball competitions – eg. Huskisson’s annual Husky Triathlon Festival.
- Creating and promoting dog friendly areas to attract visitors from all over Sydney.

**What are your ideas on how these aspirations will be realised?**

- A Council webpage with resources to help educate people considering starting a new local business.
- Providing information and data about existing local businesses to ensure diversity and feasibility in an area for people considering starting a new business.
- Address space issues by developing/building up existing commercial and industrial areas eg. a height increase in Frenchs Forest.

*The meeting concluded at 8:03pm*

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 5 pages numbered 1 to 5 of the Partnership and Participation Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Wednesday 4 November 2020 and confirmed on