

Community and Organisational Development Reports

Committee Consideration – 03 December 2013
Council Resolution – 10 December 2013

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CM09.13	Proposal for the City to continue to provide Child Care Services at Point Resolution Child Care
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Committee	3 December 2013
Council	10 December 2013
Applicant	City of Nedlands
Officer	Patricia Panayotou – Manager Community Service Centres
Director	Michael Cole – Director Corporate and Strategy
Director Signature	
File Reference	CMS/505
Previous Item	Item 13.5, Meeting of Council 22 October 2013

Executive Summary

At its meeting of 22 October 2013, Council:

1. authorised Administration under section 3.58(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to give local public notice that the City proposes to lease 64-66 Melvista Avenue, Dalkeith to Kidz Galore Pty Ltd for the purposes of child care services; and
2. authorised Administration to conduct a thorough investigation with the users of the Jutland Parade site regarding their willingness to pay fees which would make it break even.

The second outcome is being addressed in this report, based on the responses of the users of the Jutland Parade site – known as Point Resolution Child Care.

Recommendation to Committee

Council agrees to continue to operate Point Resolution Child Care at 53 Jutland Parade, Dalkeith, subject to the following conditions:

1. fees are increased in line-with other local long day care centres, which allows Point Resolution Child Care (PRCC) to operate on a cost-neutral basis;
2. the establishment of a Point Resolution Child Care Reserve to fund ongoing building maintenance and ground maintenance;
3. the ongoing budget for PRCC to include \$10,000 for the Point Resolution Building Reserve account;
4. the viability of the service is reviewed again at the end of the 2014/2015 financial year to ensure it is operating without subsidisation from the City; and

- 5. on the basis of the Expression of Interest submitted, and within a period of no more than 18 months, Kidz Galore will be the preferred operator should the City be unable to continue to operate PRCC at no cost to ratepayers.**

Strategic Plan

KFA: Community Development

The City provides a service which contributes to community wellbeing.

KFA: Governance and Civic Leadership

The City demonstrates good governance and civic leadership with sound financial decisions which are in the best interests of the community, whilst maintaining the City's high level of service delivery.

Background

Point Resolution Child Care was established in 1983 to provide occasional care services to residents and ratepayers of the City of Nedlands. The centre has provided a much loved and valued service to the Nedlands community since its establishment. Due to licensing and legislation changes over the years, the centre is no longer cost neutral, and ratepayers of Nedlands are effectively subsidising the cost of the service for the families who utilise the service.

The Point Resolution Child Care Centre is currently licensed for 22 children at any one time, and provides care for any one child for up to 2.5 days per week. Qualified and unqualified child care workers provide care to children aged 0- 6 years of age. The centre is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, and is closed for two weeks over the Christmas period and public holidays.

The City previously investigated moving the child care service to the Melvista Site, 64-66 Melvista Avenue in Dalkeith. The Melvista site was seen to offer more space, be able to increase licensing from 22 children to 24, and have the ability to increase the maximum number of days per child from 2.5 to 3 days per week. The Melvista site would require a number of modifications, which in 2012 were estimated at approximately \$38,200.

Even with moving the child care service to Melvista, the City would be unable to fully cover the costs of running the service without a significant increase in fees. In addition to continuing to subsidise the child care service, the City would be liable for the costs of the building modifications.

At the Council meeting on 12 March 2013, Council approved Administration calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for an external child care provider, to be located at the Melvista Pre-School site and PRCC site, with a proviso that staff and children enrolled at PRCC be included in the new service. The EOI was undertaken and Kidz Galore was recommended by Administration as the preferred provider of child care services for both sites.

At the Council meeting of 22 October 2013, Council authorised administration to give local public notice that the City proposes to lease the Melvista site to Kidz Galore. Council also authorised administration to conduct a thorough investigation with the users of the Jutland Parade site regarding their willingness to pay fees which would make it break even.

Until 1 July 2013, PRCC was licensed and registered as an occasional care centre and the fees being charged were in-line with other occasional care centres. Changes to the operating conditions of the centre and the implementation of the Child Care Benefit – a government subsidy for parents, now allows the City to charge higher fees.

Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions:

Item 10.1, meeting of Council 12 March 2013, Council approves:

- administration calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for an external child care provider, to be located at the Melvista Pre-School site and PROCC site (with a proviso that Point Resolution Occasional Child Care (PROCC) staff and the currently registered children are included in the service);
- the services provided by Point Resolution Occasional Child Care (PROCC) to cease, if opening of an approved external child care service at the Melvista Pre-School;
- relocating PROCC child care services to the vacant Melvista Pre School site, should the EOI be unsuccessful in finding a suitable provider; with City staff making the required operational changes to child care services, to assist with the application for Child Care Benefit;
- the allocation of \$38,200 in the Mid Year Budget Review to cover modification costs of the Melvista site, for PROCC child care; and
- investigation of the relocation of the Positive Ageing programme to the vacated PROCC site, should it become available.

Item 13.5, meeting of Council 22 October 2013, Council authorises:

- administration under section 3.58(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to give local public notice that the City proposes to lease 64-66 Melvista Avenue, Dalkeith to Kidz Galore Pty Ltd for the purposes of child care services; and
- administration to conduct a thorough investigation with the users of the Jutland Parade site regarding their willingness to pay fees which would make it break even.

Consultation

Required by legislation: Yes No X
Required by City of Nedlands policy: Yes X No

Families registered at PRCC were invited to complete an online survey (Attachment 1) which required a response to two questions. An information sheet (Attachment 2), was attached to the survey to provide parents background information as to why the

survey was being conducted. It also contained information on the current budget deficit and showed the proposed fees to make the centre cost-neutral.

The results are that all the respondents (61%) supported continuing to use the service if fees were increased, which is more than half the respondents.

Legislation / Policy

N/A

Budget/Financial Implications

Within current approved budget: Yes No X
Requires further budget consideration: Yes X No

A proposed amended budget from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014 and a projected budget for the 2014/2015 financial year was developed to reflect a cost neutral service at PRCC. These budgets include higher fees and charges for children attending PRCC and funding ongoing building maintenance and grounds maintenance.

Risk Management

There is a risk that even though the respondents in the survey have indicated they are prepared to pay a higher fee for their children to attend PRCC, some parents may withdraw their children from the service and the City will have to actively promote the centre to attract new clients.

If the centre is unable to maintain an average 95% utilisation rate, the service may require subsidisation from the City to continue to operate. The service will be closely monitored and reviewed at the end of 2014/2015.

Discussion

In response to Council's decision at the meeting of Council on 22 October 2013, for 'Administration to conduct a thorough investigation with the users of the Jutland Parade site regarding their willingness to pay fees which would make it break even', the following process has been completed:

1. Administration has presented families registered at PRCC with a survey to determine if the families would be prepared to pay higher fees in order for the City to continue to provide the service, and
2. the PRCC operating budget has been reviewed for the period 1 January – 30 June 2014 and a projected budget prepared for the period 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015.

The results of the above processes are:

1. PRCC users supported paying increased fees in order for the City to continue to manage child care services at PRCC, and
2. Administration staff developed a revised budget which reflected all costs for providing a service at PRCC and incorporated increased revenue to off-set operating costs, to provide a cost-neutral service for the next 18 months.

When investigating the new fees and charges, the City researched fees charged by five other local child care centres with the intention of sitting within the middle of the range. The current and proposed fees are as follows:

Current 2013/2014	Proposed 1 January 2014 – 30 June 2014	Proposed 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015
\$80/\$85 Full day	\$110 Full day	\$115 Full day
\$50/\$55 Half day	\$70 Half day	\$75 Half day

Note: The other centres in the review generally provide meals, particularly lunch, as part of their fees. PRCC will still not be providing lunch even with the increased fees as the centre does not have the facilities to do so.

The table below indicates the centre's current revenue and expenditure and the proposed changes.

	Current 2013/14	Proposed 1 Jan 2014 – 30 June 2014	Proposed 1 July 2014 – 30 Jun 2015
Expenditure			
Staff costs	\$392,200	\$217,989	\$465,599
Operating costs	\$69,000	\$35,300	\$83,350
Maintenance costs	\$30,300	\$20,150	\$41,512
Total	\$491,500	\$274,439	\$590,461
Revenue			
Fees and charges	\$336,000	\$290,352	\$614,640
Deficit/Surplus	(\$155,000)	\$15,913	\$24,179

As part of the budget review and in order to assist with future building maintenance costs, or the purchase of centre resources, an amount of \$5,000 has been factored into the revised operating and revenue budget for 1 January – 30 June 2014, and \$10,000 for the 2014/2015 financial year. This amount would be transferred to the Point Resolution Building Reserve, to fund building maintenance and purchase of resources.

The increased revenue will allow the City to make further positive changes to the operation of PRCC by:

- Increasing the hours of operation from 8.30am – 4.00pm to 8.00am – 5.00pm. This is in response to requests from PRCC users to assist with their child care needs.
- Meeting licensing requirements to have a part time teacher at the centre from 2014 onwards.

The City has applied to increase the number of children attending PRCC from 22 to 24 at any one time. This increases the revenue potential for the centre, and also allows more families to access the centre and its services. There will be one place kept as an emergency/casual spot each day.

To assist with managing PRCC at a cost-neutral level, PRCC staff will actively research and apply for grants for resources and activities that support the centre's licensing requirements and programme development.

Conclusion

Administration recommends that Council authorises the proposal for the City to continue to operate child care services from Point Resolution Child Care at 53 Jutland Parade, Dalkeith. Council has authorised administration to conduct a thorough investigation with PRCC users, which has been done. The results are that all the respondents (61%) supported continuing to use the service if fees were increased, which is more than half the respondents.

The increased fees are in-line with the fees being charged by other local child care centres and would allow PRCC, with high utilisation rates, to operate as a cost-neutral service.

Attachments

1. Parent Survey
2. Information Sheet

CM10.13	The Great Western Sandstorm Event Application - Beach closure for Swanbourne Beach
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Committee	03 December 2013
Council	10 December 2013
Applicant	Dr Mark Familton
Officer	Amanda Cronin – Administration and Events Officer Marion Granich - Manager Community Development
Director	Michael Cole – Director Corporate and Strategy
Director Signature	
File Reference	CMS/505
Previous Item	N/A

Executive Summary

This report concerns the use of council facilities and infrastructure at Swanbourne Beach for events. Certain categories of events held in public places within the City are required to be approved by the City, in order to limit any potential negative impact as well as coordinate events with effected stakeholders.

Recommendation to Committee

Council does not approve the use of council facilities and infrastructure at Swanbourne Beach for the purpose of supporting the proposed conduct of the Great Western Sand Storm on Saturday 19 April 2014 between the hours of 6am and 6pm.

Strategic Plan

KFA: Community Development

Background

The City requires event organisers to apply for approval for any event proposed to be held in a public place within the City, where the event involves any of the following:

- More than 200 people
- Open to the general public
- Wedding Ceremonies
- Road closure or temporary suspension of road traffic
- Vehicle access onto a reserve

- Erecting temporary structures such as marquees, staging or amusement equipment
- Fireworks or pyrotechnics
- Commercial filming
- Supply or sale of liquor
- Trading in public places

Smaller events not involving any of the features listed above can proceed without applying for approval.

The City has now received an event application for Swanbourne Beach and, given the previous history, is putting the matter to Council for consideration.

Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions:

N/A

Consultation

Required by legislation: Yes No
Required by City of Nedlands policy: Yes No

Consultation with the following has been undertaken:

- The event organiser, Dr Mark Familton
- City of Nedlands ECU (Events Control Unit), which includes representatives from Environmental Health, Community Development, Parks and Rangers.
- Defence Department – An email was provided with the event application of correspondence between the event organiser and Defence Support WA. Defence Support has advised that they have made arrangements for the shooting ranges to be closed for the event.

Legislation / Policy

The City has local laws relating to activities on beaches and reserves. The local law states that “On a reserve, foreshore or beach a person shall not without a permit from the local government or authorized person – (a) take part in any organised event.”

Budget/Financial Implications

Within current approved budget: Yes No
Requires further budget consideration: Yes No

There are no significant budget implications.

Risk Management

The main risk of approving the proposed conduct of the Great Western Sandstorm is the negative impact it may have on beach users. In order to safely run the event, a

beach closure would need to be issued. This may cause a major inconvenience to the general public if the whole of Swanbourne Beach was closed from 6am – 6pm on a Public Holiday weekend.

Discussion

The Great Western Sandstorm is an event organised by Dr Mark Familton and Jason Nuttman who are not representing an organisation. The event organisers are proposing to host the event on Swanbourne Beach on Saturday 19 April 2014 from 6am – 6pm. This ultra marathon/running event involves soft sand running over a variety of distances from 5km – 50km. The start-line would be 50m north of Swanbourne Nedlands Surf Life Saving Club tower, continuing 2.5km north to a turn-around point. The event organiser has requested a closure of the beach in order to ensure maximum safety for all involved.

The main objective of the event is to raise funds for Soldier On, a charity aimed at supporting Australian servicemen and women who have been wounded, physically or psychologically, in contemporary conflicts.

Swanbourne Beach is a well used community facility within the City which holds great recreational value for the community. As public open space, generally it should be readily accessible to members of the public. The beach would only warrant closure in the event of a threat to public health and safety i.e. sharks, extreme weather conditions or coastal erosions.

Closure of the beach to the general public would be essential, for safety reasons, if this event were to go ahead. As the event is scheduled for a long weekend, closing the beach to the public would mean making it unavailable at a time it would normally be used by a high number of people including country and interstate visitors who may only be in Perth for that weekend.

Therefore it is recommended that, despite the positive nature of the proposed event, it is not approved for Swanbourne Beach on the grounds that closing the beach to the public is an essential safety requirement of the event.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council does not approve the use of Council facilities and infrastructure at Swanbourne Beach for this event as the beach is an important community facility which should be accessible to the public at all times.

Attachments

Nil

CM11.13	Arts Committee and Terms of Reference
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Committee	3 December 2013
Council	10 December 2013
Applicant	City of Nedlands
Officer	Marion Granich – Manager Community Development
Director	Michael Cole
Director Signature	
File Reference	CMS/505
Previous Item	N/A

Executive Summary

It is proposed that Council consider establishing a Committee of Council focusing on art. The main focus would be implementing public art within the City of Nedlands, with a secondary focus on developing arts policy for consideration by Council.

Recommendation to Committee

Council:

- 1. establishes an Arts Committee of Council according to the Terms of Reference at Attachment 1; and**
- 2. appoints the Mayor, Cr _____ and Cr _____ as Council delegates to the Arts Committee.**

Strategic Plan

The City's Strategic Community Plan identifies the following as one of its key outcomes: "Great Communities" (that are) "strong for culture, arts, sport and recreation". This proposal helps strengthen the local arts and cultural environment, while also providing an opportunity for community members to be engaged in that process.

KFA: Community Development

KFA: Governance and Civic Leadership

Background

Public Art Works Within the City

The City already has a significant body of public artworks by major Australian artists within its borders. Most of these works have been commissioned and funded by the now terminated Nedlands Cultural and Community Society (Inc.), through its significant contribution to the local community in the first decade of this century.

Art Collection

The City also owns a modest but important collection of approximately 50 artworks or varying value, housed in the Administration building, at Tresillian Community Centre and various other City buildings. This includes the Mayoral portraits, hung in Council Chambers.

Tresillian Community Centre

The City provides a range of creative recreational courses through the Tresillian Community Centre. Tresillian also provides studios for a number of artist tenants, on a commercial rental basis.

Youth Art Projects

The City's Youth Program has traditionally provided a number of youth art projects for local young people, with the emphasis being on participation in a community art project, rather than on artistic excellence per se.

Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions:

N/A

Consultation

Required by legislation: Yes No
Required by City of Nedlands policy: Yes No

The City has not undertaken community consultation on the proposal to establish an Arts Committee. Engagement with the community is proposed as the next step, as community members with relevant expertise would be asked to nominate for membership of the proposed Committee.

It is proposed that membership of the Committee is to include the Mayor, two Councillors (appointed by Council), two community members with expertise in public art and one youth representative with an interest in public art.

Legislation / Policy

Council currently has an Art in Public Places policy, last reviewed in July 2011. It is proposed that the Arts Committee would review this policy and recommend any changes to Council.

It is also proposed that the Arts Committee would develop a draft Percent for Art policy, for consideration by Council.

Budget/Financial Implications

Within current approved budget: Yes No
Requires further budget consideration: Yes No

The proposal to establish and Arts Committee does not involve any specific expenditure and would be achieved without additional costs to Council.

Once established, it is proposed that the Arts Committee would have delegated authority to undertake expenditure on art works within the public domain, but only to the value of the budget allocation approved by Council.

Risk Management

The artworks already in the public domain within the City of Nedlands are of a high standard. They have been without exception created by significant Australian artists, all of whom have received awards and other recognition by respected arts organizations.

The main risk is that the current high standard, that has been achieved through the mechanism of commissioning by the Nedlands Cultural and Community Society, is not maintained as new art works are added.

Therefore it is proposed that an Arts Committee, made up of members with arts-specific expertise, is established to determine public artworks proposed for the City. This will ensure that the standard of artworks within the public domain remains high.

An ever-present risk is the risk of Council being approached by individuals and organizations wishing to donate public artworks that lack artistic merit. The donor may have other priorities, such as historical or personal reasons, rather than artistic merit as their chief criterion. Therefore the City needs a mechanism for assessing the artistic worth of any proposed public artwork, even if donated, in order to ensure the overall high standard of works is maintained. A committee with professional arts expertise is best place to make these assessments.

Discussion

It is proposed that Council establishes a Committee of Council titled the Arts Committee. Its primary focus would be to develop new public artworks, ensuring that

they maintain the high standard of art works currently in the public domain within the City.

The City is fortunate in now owning more than 10 significant sets of public artworks, most of which have been commissioned and donated by the Nedlands Cultural and Community Society ("the Society") during more than a decade of active achievement in this area. With its considerable arts expertise, the Society was able to commission works by recognized Australian artists. It is essential that this high standard is maintained, in any new works commissioned by the City.

While taste in art will always be a matter of individual opinion, there are general guidelines that can assist in ensuring that only works of professional and artistic merit are undertaken. These guidelines include the following considerations:

- *Ensuring that those appointing the artist and selecting the works have art-specific expertise.* This may be as a practicing artist, a recognized and appropriately qualified arts administrator or some other established record of achievement in the area of the arts.
- *Selection of recognized artists.* This involves commissioning work by artists who have already achieved a level of artistic and professional recognition. This recognition may be in the form of industry awards, significant commission or other critical acclaim.
- *Construction of Public Artworks to meet relevant standards.* All public artworks must meet relevant standards in relation to public safety, durability, maintenance minimization, graffiti coating and design to minimize risk of theft. Established professional artists will generally be aware of and compliant with these requirements. However, a body commissioning public artworks also needs to be aware of and ensure compliance with these requirements.

To date, the City has relied primarily upon the Nedlands Cultural and Community Society's professional arts expertise in the commissioning of public artworks. The Society has now wound up, following the successful completion of its aims, having commissioned works to the value of the funds available to it.

Therefore it is now proposed that Council establish its own Committee of Council to focus on the arts. This Committee would bring together individuals with arts-specific expertise, meeting the first guideline for ensuring public artworks are of a high standard. A prime consideration in selecting art work for the public domain should be its quality and standard, rather than whether one "likes" it or not. This assessment is best made by those with arts-specific expertise and a professional understanding of how the standard of the work should be assessed, as opposed to one's individual (and necessarily personal) response to that work.

The Committee would also promote awareness of the City's wide range of existing public artworks, some of which (such as the Trolley Polls artworks) are relatively discreet in their presence. The ten significant sets of public artwork already existing within the City regular attract a steady stream of visitors, but could be much more

effectively promoted. It is recommended that this is a secondary focus on the Arts Committee.

It is also proposed that the Arts Committee would have a policy review and development role. The Committee would review Council's Art in Public Places policy at least annually and recommend any changes to Council. The Committee would also develop a draft Percent for Art Policy, which would then go to Council for consideration and/or adoption. Percent for Art policies by other local governments, such as City of Vincent, would be considered as part of the development of this draft policy.

The essential consideration in setting up the Arts Committee is that it has access to a broad range of professional arts expertise. This will ensure that works selected maintain the current high standard of the City's existing public artworks.

Conclusion

It is therefore recommended that Council establish an Arts Committee and appoint the Mayor and two Councillors to be delegates on that Committee. Administration would then advertise for interested community representatives.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Terms of Reference, Arts Committee.