



City of Nedlands

# ***Minutes***

## ***Sustainable Nedlands Committee Meeting***

***4 April 2016***

### **ATTENTION**

**These minutes are subject to confirmation**

Prior to acting on any resolution of the Committee contained in these minutes, a check should be made of the Ordinary Council meeting following this meeting to ensure that there has not been a correction made to any resolution.

## Table of Contents

Declaration of Opening .....	3
Present and Apologies and Leave Of Absence (Previously Approved) .....	3
1. Public Question Time .....	4
2. Addresses By Members of the Public .....	4
3. Disclosures of Financial Interest .....	4
4. Disclosures of Interests Affecting Impartiality.....	4
5. Declarations by Members That They Have Not Given Due Consideration to Papers.....	4
6. Confirmation of Minutes .....	5
6.1 Sustainable Nedlands Committee Meeting 1 February 2016 .....	5
7. Items for Discussion.....	5
7.1 Outstanding Actions Log .....	5
7.2 Vacant Position on Committee .....	5
7.3 Switch Your Thinking .....	6
7.4 Waterwise Garden Competition .....	8
7.5 Earth Hour.....	9
7.6 Sustainable Energy Now .....	10
7.7 Landscape Awards.....	10
7.8 Demonstration Sustainable House.....	10
7.9 Use of Herbicides within the City.....	10
7.10 Underground Power .....	11
7.11 Collection of recyclable materials.....	11
8. Date of next meeting .....	13
Declaration of Closure .....	13

## City of Nedlands

### Minutes of a meeting of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee held at the City of Nedlands Council Chambers on Monday 4 April 2016 at 5.04 pm.

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#### Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5.04 pm and drew attention to the disclaimer below.

(NOTE: Council at its meeting on 24 August 2004 resolved that should the meeting time reach 11.00 p.m. the meeting is to consider an adjournment motion to reconvene the next day).

#### Present and Apologies and Leave Of Absence (Previously Approved)

<b>Councillors</b>	His Worship the Mayor, R M Hipkins	
	Councillor N Shaw (Presiding Member)	Melvista Ward
	Councillor R Binks	Hollywood Ward

<b>Committee Members</b>	Ms B Channon (from 5.22 pm)
	Ms B Tyson
	Mr R Griffiths (from 5.15 pm)
	Mr M Yap
	Mr G Davies
	Ms D Rees
	Mr E O'Loughlin
	Mr A Mangano

<b>Staff</b>	Ms P Fisher	Policy and Projects Officer
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<b>Leave of Absence (Previously Approved)</b>	None
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<b>Apologies</b>	Ms G Stubber
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#### Disclaimer

Members of the public who attend Council meetings should not act immediately on anything they hear at the meetings, without first seeking clarification of Council's position. For example by reference to the confirmed Minutes of Council meeting. Members of the public are also advised to wait for written advice from the Council prior to taking action on any matter that they may have before Council.

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**1. Public Question Time**

A member of the public wishing to ask a question should register that interest by notification in writing to the CEO in advance, setting out the text or substance of the question. Questions tabled at the meeting may be unable to be answered due to the requirement for technical research and will therefore be answered direct afterwards.

There were no public questions.

**2. Addresses By Members of the Public (only for items listed on the agenda)**

Addresses by members of the public who have completed Public Address Session Forms will be invited to be made at this point.

There were no addresses by members of the public.

**3. Disclosures of Financial Interest**

The Presiding Member reminded Councillors and Staff of the requirements of Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act* to disclose any interest during the meeting when the matter is discussed.

There were no disclosures of financial interest.

**4. Disclosures of Interests Affecting Impartiality**

The Presiding Member reminded Councillors and Staff of the requirements of Council's Code of Conduct in accordance with Section 5.103 of the *Local Government Act*.

There were no disclosures affecting impartiality.

**5. Declarations by Members That They Have Not Given Due Consideration to Papers**

Members who have not read the business papers to make declarations at this point.

Nil.

**6. Confirmation of Minutes**

**6.1 Sustainable Nedlands Committee Meeting 1 February 2016**

Moved - Ms B Tyson  
Seconded - Mr A Mangano

**Committee Recommendation**

**The minutes of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee held 1 February 2016 be confirmed**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9/-**

**7. Items for Discussion**

Note: Regulation 11(da) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* requires written reasons for each decision made at the meeting that is significantly different from the relevant written recommendation of a committee or an employee as defined in section 5.70, but not a decision to only note the matter or to return the recommendation for further consideration.

**7.1 Outstanding Actions Log**

The Outstanding Actions Log is attached to the minutes.

Mayor Hipkins updated the Committee on a 'My Great Idea' entry the Committee had previously requested be referred to the City of Nedlands Arts Committee. Mayor Hipkins has requested that this be included on the Arts Committee Agenda for their next meeting on Monday 18 April 2016. It was proposed that Mr Rod Griffiths attend the Arts Committee meeting to provide an explanation behind the idea.

**7.2 Vacant Position on Committee**

The membership requirements of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee include that 1 member position is to be allocated to a Secondary Student who resides within the City and has an interest in sustainability.

This position was filled by Susie Wang until recently, who has advised the Committee she will no longer be available to participate.

Unless an existing Committee Member is currently undertaking a programme of learning that classifies them as a secondary student to fulfil this position on the Committee, the City will need to advertise for a replacement Committee Member.

The Committee discussed that the terms of reference could be changed to allow a secondary student to a tertiary student to fulfil one member position.

Moved - Councillor Binks  
Seconded - Ms D Rees

#### **Committee Recommendation**

- 1. That the Terms of Reference for the Sustainable Nedlands Committee be expanded to include that one member position be allocated to a Secondary Student or a Tertiary Student; and**
- 2. A draft advertisement for the available position be drawn up for the Presiding Member to approve.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9/-**

### **7.3 Switch Your Thinking**

*Switch Your Thinking* is a Local Government initiative that focuses on uniting Councils together with businesses and residents to promote and encourage sustainable practices. It started in 1999 in Perth's South East and currently has 14 partner Councils, including the nearby Town of Cambridge.

Some of the key benefits of being a partner to the initiative are:

- Resident Rewards – Residents that live within participating Council areas can discounts for a variety of sustainable products, such as rain water tanks and pool covers, from prearranged agreements with suppliers;
- Resources and education – Participating Councils have access to a variety of resources and educational materials including displays, newsletters, pop up shops and community workshops. This provides consistent and quality materials that can be produced with shared resources of other Councils, saving individual Council time and expense;
- Project Initiation – *Switch Your Thinking* provide resources and time to assist with investigating new ideas and initiatives, identifying costs, feasibility and implementation planning; and
- Measurable Outcomes – *Switch Your Thinking* provide resources and time to actively measure the outcomes of initiatives.

The Sustainable Nedlands Committee received a presentation from Julie McKinn about *Switch Your Thinking* at an informal meeting on 14 March 2016. Committee members expressed an interest in pursuing participation in the programme and requested that it be brought to the formal meeting of 4 April 2016.

It was also identified that this might also be of benefit to Councils that participate as part of WESROC with the City of Nedlands, and as such a potential WESROC membership is currently being explored.

Should a WESROC membership not be possible, an individual City of Nedlands membership would need to be put forward to Council for budget consideration and approval for the next financial year if the Committee wishes to progress participation in this program.

Mayor Hipkins spoke on the proposal and advised that the total combined population of WESROC was around 50,000, and that seeking membership through the WESROC collective could be a better way of joining. Mayor Hipkins advised that he would refer a recommendation of this Committee to the WESROC agenda for their next executive meeting.

R Griffiths joined the meeting at 5.15 pm.

Moved - B Tyson  
Seconded - D Rees

#### **Committee Recommendation**

**That membership of *Switch your Thinking* be pursued through a combined WESROC membership.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 10/-**

Mr Griffiths requested at this point that item 7.7 Landscape Awards be brought forward for discussion as having a close association with the next item on the Agenda, 7.4 Waterwise Garden Competition. This was approved by the Presiding Member.

#### **7.7 Landscape Awards**

Please note: This Item has been brought forward.

Mr Griffiths had proposed the Committee enter a discussion for 'Landscape Awards'.

Mr Davies spoke on the disappointment in the interest and participation from the community in the existing Waterwise Garden competition.

Ms Tyson spoke on the original purpose of the competition, originated from an idea to reward residents for retaining trees and canopy on verges and intended to be educational in the process.

Ms B Channon joined the meeting at 5.22 pm.

Mr Griffiths proposed a new competition for landscape awards be considered to reward landscaping that was inclusive of tree canopy retentions and/or canopy area increase, which could also be linked to water conservation.

Ms Channon suggested some form of recognition from the Committee could be given for the retention of trees during development works throughout the City.

An action was agreed for Ms Channon to draft up an acknowledgement letter to be issued to residents retaining trees during development on their property. The Presiding Member agreed he would look at development application requirements to identify how this could fit into the current processes. The action log has been updated to reflect this.

#### **7.4 Waterwise Garden Competition**

The City of Nedlands is a Waterwise Council endorsed by the Water Corporation and Department of Water. The City is committed to provide leadership to the community in the area of water conservation.

Since 2011 the City has held an annual Waterwise Garden Competition as a way to encourage residents to convert high water using areas of garden (such as lawn) to waterwise, native gardens.

A policy was adopted by Council on 26 September 2014 for the Waterwise Garden Competition. The policy sets out some key principles for the competition as follows:

- The competition will run during winter of each year, to encourage residents to plant native plants during the winter which is the optimal time to be planting;
- The competition will launch in conjunction with the WESROC native plant subsidy scheme to allow residents to purchase subsidised seedlings and reduce the overall cost of the garden;
- The City will seek sponsorship from local businesses for the competition;
- The entry form will clearly state the judging criteria;
- The competition will be judged by an independent judge who has knowledge in the area of water conservation, landscape design and biodiversity principles; and
- A residential property that has won the overall prize or a finalist prize in a previous year cannot be renominated in a subsequent year.

The competition has been running for several years now with residences, business and schools eligible to nominate their own or neighbours waterwise garden for a prize. An independent expert judge visits and assesses all entries to select winners.

The competition has reached a point where existing native gardens are being entered repeatedly, with competition entries having declined since the competition started and were consistently low in the last two years.

Administration proposed that the competition be changed to increase participation for 2016, whilst keeping in line with the policy adopted by Council.

The idea is that the new competition would be for participants to enter designs, plans or drawings for the creation of a new waterwise garden on their nature strip or in their garden. The competition would encourage participants to learn and think about waterwise strategies and be creative with their ideas. Prizes would then be vouchers for native plants and materials for the winners to make a start on creating their new waterwise garden. The desired outcomes of the revised competition would be increased levels of community education about waterwise gardening, an increase in the number of waterwise gardens throughout the City and the opportunity to display and share new sustainable ideas.

Comment and support from the Committee was sought for this proposal, and for any alternative suggestions to be brought forward for increasing participation in the competition.

## **7.5 Earth Hour**

Mayor Hipkins advised he attended Earth Hour on 19 March and thought it was a delightful event with a mix of people from various age groups and locations. Will request that the Mayo Garden be given a budget to hold more events like this in future.

Mr Yap advised that the event had lots of activities that were co-funded by City of Nedlands and Town of Cottesloe with the volunteers of the garden coming together to put everything in place. It is estimated that the event was attended by around 100 people. The evening included a choir, childrens activities and musicians – achieving a number of outcomes, including promotion of the garden and having two Councils active in the environmental aspects of the event. It was the biggest event of the year for the garden and members would be happy to have the support to continue to have events in future to promote and strengthen community ties.

## **7.6 Sustainable Energy Now**

Mayor Hipkins advised he attended an event a couple of weeks back at the TAFE organised by a group he had become aware of recently with a keen interest in sustainable energy. Mayor Hipkins suggests that anyone with a shared interest would benefit from getting involved with the group. Several guest speakers (including Mayor Hipkins) had addressed various aspects of sustainable energy at the event, including Julie McKinn who had presented to the group recently.

Mayor Hipkins spoke on the City's proposals to acquire solar with new houses which had been an inclusion of an omnibus amendment that didn't proceed due to priority given to new Town Planning Scheme (TPS), however he is seeking for this to be included and covered in the new TPS.

Inclusion of this in the TPS is currently enabled by the *Planning and Development Act*.

## **7.7 Landscape Awards**

Item was brought forward, please see page 7.

## **7.8 Demonstration Sustainable House**

Mr Griffiths led a discussion on a proposal for a demonstration sustainable house.

The City of Nedlands does not currently have a demonstration house. Mr Griffiths suggested that the cottage used by Friends of Allen Park currently could be a potential site. This was the first building constructed in the area. Mayor Hipkins has already submitted a stay of execution for this building.

The Presiding Member suggested the first steps would include locating plans and identifying a scheme for how the building could be used. Mr Griffiths advised he would try to locate some papers relating to the building created by a previous City Heritage Officer that may assist.

## **7.9 Use of Herbicides within the City**

Ms Stubber requested this item be raised for discussion and sought an update on the use of herbicides by the City.

Mayor Hipkins advised that new research work is being undertaken after questions raised by the World Health Organisation, and glyphosate is being re-evaluated with results being anticipated for June or July. Mayor

Hipkins had put forward a proposal that the City cease using until the pending results are known, however this was not supported by Council.

There was discussion around steam treatment and a key issue of this being that it does not work on playing ovals and grassed reserve areas. Alternative options are not being investigated at this stage by Administration.

The Presiding Member advised this matter is an active item on Administrations agenda and invited Ms Channon to bring any findings of alternative solutions to a future meeting.

## **7.10 Underground Power**

Mr Mangano provided an update on Underground Power that was distributed to Committee Members by email on 29 March 2016.

Administration are currently preparing a report on Underground Power for consideration by Council.

Mr Mangano advised the Committee why underground power is more sustainable than overhead, which in summary is:

- Less power loss due to resistance heat loss (the underground power cable is much bigger diameter than overhead) typically 7% of energy is lost in overhead vs 2% in underground;
- Tree pruning is reduced, reducing costs and improving canopy and micro-climate reducing energy use in hotter months; and
- Opportunity to introduce LED street-lighting where undergrounding occurs to further save energy.

To put this into context, in a typical household using 24kWh per day, another 1.7kWh has to be generated and lost as heat energy in overhead areas, vs only 0.5kWh in underground areas.

Mr Davies also raised the impacts of overhead power on tree growth and pruning costs, but also how the trees can impact on the effectiveness of street lighting currently.

## **7.11 Collection of recyclable materials**

Mr O'Loughlin requested that the Committee be provided with information as to where the City's recyclable waste ends up.

Through the three bin system the City currently diverts approximately 48% of kerbside waste from landfill: this equates to a saving of approximately \$200,000 per annum on disposal costs.

The City also provides two bulk verge collection service per year to residents. Recyclables, greenwaste, metal, mattresses and e-waste are collected separately and directed to resource recovery processing as appropriate.

The majority of easy gains on landfill diversion have now been made by the City, which is one of the leading metropolitan councils in the diversion of waste from landfill. Additional measures are required to allow the City to maintain this position and achieve the 2020 waste diversion target of a 65% diversion.

The City of Nedlands approach is to change community attitudes and behaviours towards waste so that “waste” materials can be thought of in terms of resources to be avoided, recovered, reused and recycled at every opportunity.

Following the introduction of the three bin system in 2006 there was a significant drop in the proportion of the City’s waste being diverted to landfill, and a corresponding increase in the greenwaste disposal. This has provided a significant environmental and financial benefit to the City, but there has been little further improvement on diversion rates since the introduction of the three bin system. Since that time the diversion rates have remained relatively steady.

Approximately 5,200 tonnes of putrescible waste, 2,400 tonnes of greenwaste and 2,600 tonnes of recyclable materials are collected annually by the City through the kerbside collections. The putrescible waste currently all goes to landfill, with the greenwaste and recyclables diverted to resource recovery facilities.

In the residential waste stream, 56% is composed of organics. Of this 79% is food waste with the remainder consisting of mostly textiles and greenwaste. In addition the residential waste bins also contain 24% of materials that would be suitable for the recycling bin. Perthwaste has commenced trials on a new composting facility which it is anticipated will have the capacity to convert approximately 23,000 tonnes of garden and food waste into high grade compost annually, providing the ability to divert more waste from landfill.

The City’s current contract provides a suitable mechanism to allow the City to take advantage of this facility as soon as it is operating fully. Perthwaste is currently organising certifications for the compost and mulch that is being created from the City’s greenwaste being composted at the new facility. The next step would be to investigate the feasibility of adding food waste to this process to further divert waste away from landfill, for which Perthwaste have already commenced the development of a proposal for the City to consider.

The Director Technical Services is a guest speaker at the informal meeting in May and can provide more information on this topic if required.

Councillor Binks spoke on the subject having been involved in some work involving the WMRC several years ago, looking at sending our 22,000 tonnes of waste to their facility. A detailed analysis on the requirement identified it was a not a viable solution for the City, instead the City utilises Perthwaste who are composting and mulching the greenwaste they collect.

The City is not currently purchasing this back for use as it is not yet AS4454 certified as we the City requires to ensure no disease. Councillor Binks advised in further detail on the City's processing of recycling and putrescible waste and that the City made significant savings through the procurement of waste services in recent years.

Mayor Hipkins advises the City has the second highest recycling rate for the lowest cost service.

**8. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Monday 13 June commencing at 5.00pm.

**Declaration of Closure**

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6.25pm.

## SNC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Date of Meeting	Item Discussed	Action	Assigned To	Comments/Completed
10 March 2014	Potential Recycled Water Project	Members to collate ideas regarding promotion of project within community	All members	<b>Administration and WESROC actively progressing this.</b>
10 March 2014	Demonstration Energy-Efficient House	Members to bring ideas for possible energy efficient house project	All members	
5 May 2014	Greenwaste Bins	Discuss with full Council the provision of greenwaste bin services to churches	Mayor & Councillor Shaw	<b>Director Technical Services to advise</b>
7 July 2014	Heat Island Effect	Ask Gail Stubber to email to SNC members any relevant information gathered at the Heat Island Effect workshop that she attended	Councillor Shaw	<b>Complete</b>
7 July 2014	Innovation Award	\$2000 sponsorship for Innovation Award (and cease sponsorship of the Waterwise Garden award in 2015)	Gordon Davies	<b>'My Great Idea' Award (innovation) – Complete</b>  <b>'Waterwise Garden Competition' – closed with awards to be made on 27 October 2015</b>
1 September 2014	"Towards More Sustainable Street Lighting" practise note	1. Prepare a letter to the Honourable Dr Mike Nahan, Minister for Energy, to provide support for the Recommendations for State Governments contained within the "Towards More	Not assigned	<b>Meeting held with Western Power who have a model now for LED lighting. Synergy are developing tariffs.</b>

## SNC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

		<p>Sustainable Street Lighting” document, and request a response.</p> <p>2. Prepare a letter to Mr Paul Italiano, Chief Executive officer of Western Power, to provide support for the Recommendations for Utilities contained within the “Towards More Sustainable Street Lighting” document, and request a response.</p>		<p><b>Administration is currently looking at a proposal trial area to upgrade to LED.</b></p>
1 September 2014	Promotion of Sustainability at City Events	Discuss with administration an initiative to encourage sustainability at the City’s public events	Pollyanne Fisher	<b>Complete and events promotion completed at 7 events throughout February and March 2016.</b>
1 September 2014	Youth (secondary school student) member	Provide an update to the SNC regarding the recruitment of a youth member	Administration	<b>Complete; Presented to SNC 1 November 2014 meeting</b>
3 November 2014	Household energy usage	Develop a methodology for a concept of providing personal energy use to residents	Susie Wang	<b>Susie Wang now has ethics approval from UWA. Next stage is to finalise the proposal.</b>
10 August 2015	‘My Great Idea’ innovation award	‘My Great Idea’ ideas to be displayed at Administration front counter	Pollyanne Fisher	<b>Complete</b>

### SNC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

10 August 2015	'My Great Idea' innovation award – entry by June Hicks	To be investigated as a Council project through referral to the Arts Committee	Mayor	<b>Mayor Hipkins has referred to Arts Committee meeting 18 April 2016</b>
4 April 2016	Recruitment of Student Member	1) Update terms of reference to allow secondary OR tertiary student member. 2) Draft advertisement for student member recruitment.	Pollyanne Fisher	
4 April 2016	Recognition letter for retaining of trees during development works	B Channon to draft letter to be issued in recognition of retaining trees and Cr Shaw to look at fitting this into current DA processes.	B Channon and Cr Shaw	