



City of Nedlands

Minutes

Sustainable Nedlands Committee Meeting

1 February 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.

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City of Nedlands

Minutes of a meeting of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee held in the Council Chambers, 71 Stirling Highway, Nedlands on Monday, 1 February 2016 at 6.00 pm.

Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6.03 pm and drew attention to the disclaimer below.

Present and Apologies and Leave of Absence (Previously Approved)

Councillors His Worship the Mayor, R M Hipkins
Councillor N Shaw (Presiding Member)
Councillor R Binks

Committee Members Ms B Tyson
Mr R Griffiths
Mr M Yap (arrived at 6.11pm)
Mr G Davies
Mr A Mangano
Ms Diana Rees
Mr Ed O'Loughlin

Staff Ms P Fisher Policy and Projects Officer

Press A POST newspaper representative was present

Guest Speaker Paul Barber Arbor Carbon

Leave of Absence None
(Previously Approved)

Apologies Ms S Wang
Ms G Stubber
Ms B Channon

Disclaimer

Members of the public who attend Committee 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 a Committee 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 the Committee.

1. Public Question Time

Nil questions received.

2. Public Address Session (only for items listed on the agenda)

Nil public address requests received.

3. Disclosures of Financial Interest

There were no disclosures of financial interest.

4. Disclosures of Interests Affecting Impartiality

There were no disclosures affecting impartiality.

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

None.

The Presiding Member provided a welcome to the new members of the Committee at this point.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Sustainable Nedlands Committee Meeting – 5 October 2015

The Minutes of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee held on 5 October 2015 are to be confirmed.

Moved: Ms B Tyson
Seconded: Cr Binks

The Minutes of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee held on 5 October 2015 are confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 10/-

7. Outstanding Action List

The Outstanding Action list is attached.

8. Items for Discussion

8.1 Canopy Cover and Condition in Nedlands

Presentation by guest speaker Paul Barber from Arbor Carbon.

Mayor Max Hipkins introduced Paul Barber and advised that Arbor Carbon's work is directly relevant to the Committee. An excellent presentation was received showing the data capture possible to monitor heat island effects, vegetation health and cover in urban environments through which various environmental improvements can be achieved.

Arbor Carbon is already working with the City however have not been engaged to capture aerial imagery at this time, although examples of aerial imagery captured for other Local Government areas was provided along with information and real examples as to how this data has been used.

8.2 Committee Commencement Time

At the Sustainable Nedlands Committee Meeting held on 5 October 2015, Ms B Tyson requested that the Committee enter discussion and give consideration to schedule future meetings to start at an earlier time of 5.00 pm.

This matter was deferred to the next agenda of the new committee following Council Elections and as such, is now listed again for discussion.

All future Sustainable Nedlands Committee meetings are changed from this point forward, unless notified otherwise, to commence at 5.00 pm.

8.3 Drying Climate in WA

Mr Ed O'Loughlin requested that the Committee consider the matter of the drying climate in Western Australia and changes in water flow and/or volume available from bores supplying parks and gardens in the City of Nedlands.

A media release was posted to the City's website in January 2016 about recycled water initiatives that is relevant to this matter. This document was handed out at the beginning of the meeting to all Committee members. This is attached and is also available to download at nedlands.wa.gov.au.

The Mayor advised that as a general indication we know that the water table has dropped about 1.5m over the last decade. Water allocation available to Local Governments is fixed and there is a small increasing demand currently for parks and gardens. The City has approached the Water Corporation to enquire after using some of the water available from the nearby water treatment plant in Subiaco that is currently

‘dumped’ in the ocean following partial treatment. A tentative design has been developed for using this water as part of a full treatment process to provide recycled water across the Western Suburbs to irrigate selected public spaces.

This proposal has been embraced by surrounding Western Suburbs, the Department of Education, The University of WA and other organisations, however the Water Corporation now plans to utilise this water and direct this water into groundwater replenishment schemes. Investigations are now underway into a joint project that seeks to share this water for climate proofing parks and gardens. The City is actively pursuing this.

The capital costs for a recycled water development would be approximately \$12m and would provide for all of the Western Suburbs. A feasibility study indicated that following capital works, the running costs would not differ significantly to current operational running costs for water supply and irrigation.

8.4 Swanbourne Beach Oval and Surrounds

Mr Ed O’Loughlin requested that the Committee consider maintenance and sustainability issues, including dog clean-up signage, refuse bins, and enhanced dog control at the Swanbourne Beach Oval and surrounds.

Mr O’Loughlin suggested that the City address the lack of trees around the oval amongst the coastal shrubs, and the lack of signage directing dog owners to clean up after dogs.

The Presiding Member advised that he will raise this with the relevant Administration department.

8.5 Degraded nature strips in Swanbourne

Mr Ed O’Loughlin requested that the Committee consider degraded nature strips in Swanbourne and what legislation may enable the City to take action.

Specifically there is a vacant block on Marine Parade in a poor state regularly parked on by large vehicles. The kerb has deteriorated away and the nature strip is now a ‘sandpit’.

The Presiding Member advised that he will raise this with the relevant Administration department.

Mr Rod Griffiths raised that there is a connection between poorly maintained nature strips and tree canopy cover.

8.6 Allen Park Improvement Plan

Mr Ed O’Loughlin requested that the Committee consider the status of a plan for the Allen Park Improvement Plan.

There are plans to proceed with completing and releasing the Allen Park Precinct master planning between the next 18 months to two years. It is high on the City’s agenda for completion.

8.7 Sunset Transformation

Mr Andrew Mangano requested that the Committee consider the Sunset transformation and what can be done to ensure benefit to the Nedlands community. He requested to know to what extent can the City advocate for the onsite developments to be of benefit to the Community

The City has documented what it would like to see developed at the site and submitted to the relevant organisations, however this site is owned by the State Government and the City has no vesting in the land.

8.8 Underground Power

Mr Andrew Mangano requested that the Committee consider underground power in areas of Nedlands without it. He advised that the various issues presented by overhead power as opposed to underground provide a case for it to be considered by the Sustainable Nedlands Committee. Mr Mangano advised that he believed the Western Power substation on Rockton Road is planned for closure and suggested the City commence negotiations with Western Power for underground power works to be progressed in alignment with any new impending works as part of the closure. Mr Mangano also suggested that carrying out the works in small stages at a time would save on costs, and that the City should consider seeking estimates from alternative contractors than just Western Power.

The Presiding Member advised that the City approved a consultancy budget at the end of 2015 for engaging with Western Power to finalise a more detailed cost estimate for underground power.

Mayor Hipkins raised equity issues relating to the payment of the work. Historically work was stretched over a period of years resulting in rate payers paying different amounts towards the works due to the costs of services increasing throughout the implementation period.

8.9 Sustainability of Council Operations

Mr Andrew Mangano requested that the Committee consider the sustainability of council operations and the opportunities to improve.

This matter is ongoing and improvements are based on the recommendations of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee. Mayor Hipkins advised he had raised this matter at meeting with the City Directors this same day and proposed that a staff presentation to the Committee be organised.

9. Other Business

Mayor Hipkins gave notice of an event being held by John Grimes, CEO of Australia Solar Council at the Guide Dog Conference Centre, 61 Kitchener Avenue, Victoria Park, on 4 February 2016, 3.00 - 4.00 pm. This is a free event and focusses on the barriers to the uptake of solar and energy storage, policies and solar Councils work.

The Committee were also advised of a 'sustainable energy now' meeting at the central TAFE in East Perth, on 21 March 2016, 5.30 to 7.30pm. This includes a presentation on solar requirements and energy.

The next informal meeting of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee is on 14 March 2016 at 5.00 pm in Administration Meeting Room. Attendees will work through the outstanding action list and there will be a presentation from a guest speaker from 'Switch Your Thinking'. Mayor Hipkins advised that he will be an apology for this informal meeting.

The next formal meeting of the Sustainable Nedlands Committee is on 4 April 2016 commencing at 5.00 pm.

Declaration of Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

SNC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Date of Meeting	Item Discussed	Action	Assigned To	Comments/Completed
5 October 2015	My Great Idea	My Great Idea entries application to the City of Nedlands	All members	
10 March 2014	Potential Recycled Water Project	Members to collate ideas regarding promotion of project within community	All members	Project deferred. No action at this time.
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	Raised with Director Technical Services. Director Technical Services is yet to respond to the Mayor.
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	Complete
7 July 2014	Innovation Award	\$2000 sponsorship for Innovation Award and additional \$2000 sponsorship of the Waterwise Garden award in 2015	Gordon Davies	Complete, the City funded the Waterwise Garden Competition this year and Davies Anderson Real Estate provided sponsorship funding the the My Great Idea award.
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	Mayor	Letter has been sent to Western Power with proposals for more sustainable street lighting.

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>Response and meeting with Western Power – next step would be to identify a trial area for LED lighting and obtain quotes.</p>
1 September 2014	Promotion of Sustainability at City Events	Discuss with administration an initiative to encourage sustainability at the City’s public events	Mayor	<p>The Committee is yet to decide what areas are to be promoted. There are a number of events that the City run. Consideration must be given to organisers of the events and their capacity for designated space.</p> <p>Policy and Projects officer to check the City’s marketing banners that relate to sustainability.</p>
1 September 2014	Youth (secondary school student) member	Provide an update to the SNC regarding the recruitment of a youth member	Administration	<p>Completed; Presented to SNC 1 November meeting</p>



SNC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

3 November 2014	Household energy usage	Develop a methodology for a concept of providing personal energy use to residents	Susie Wang	Susie Wnag now has ethics approval from UWA. Next stage s to finalise the proposal
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January 2016

Innovation in water for community benefit

The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) has partnered with the Department of Water (DOW) and the Water Corporation to explore solutions to the supply and quality of groundwater.

Groundwater levels in the western suburbs continue to fall and salinity has increased in certain areas.

City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins said, "It is becoming increasingly difficult to source water to irrigate parks, gardens and sporting fields."

There are a number of options for how recycled water from the Subiaco wastewater treatment plant may be used to address this.

WESROC has already conducted preliminary investigations into using recycled water for directly irrigating parks and public open space. Another option is managed aquifer recharge (MAR) where recycled water could 'top up' the superficial aquifer for reuse, which would also address the salinity and tree stress issues.

A third option is that wastewater from the Subiaco treatment plant be developed by the Water Corporation as a future drinking source via groundwater replenishment to the deeper Leederville aquifer.

A fourth option is additional road soak-well installations and potentially excess stormwater for managed aquifer recharge.

To assess the costs and benefits and to determine the best outcome for the public good, a summary of the five options to be assessed are:

- use of scheme water for irrigation, offset by groundwater replenishment (Water Corporation proposal);
- direct piping of recycled wastewater for irrigation;
- managed aquifer recharge of treated wastewater for irrigation;
- stormwater infiltration; and
- water use optimisation.

Water use optimisation is not a 'full' option and is already well advanced among WESROC with practices such as hydrozoning and various waterwise initiatives. It will, however, be further explored by the Department of Water and is likely to complement whichever option or options prove most feasible.

The Department of Water is funding the development of a conceptual groundwater model for the area and a pre-feasibility study of managed aquifer recharge for the western suburbs.

WESROC will fund the stormwater infiltration investigation, the cost-benefit analysis of the five options and provide in-kind research and coordination.

The Town of Cottesloe implemented a local MAR in 2006 – 2009.

Town of Cottesloe Mayor Jo Dawkins said, “The three-year Restoration of the Groundwater Aquifer on the Cottesloe Peninsula Project has and is continuing to meet its main objective of preventing saltwater intrusion into the localised aquifer”.

ENDS

About WESROC

The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) comprising the Towns of Claremont, Cottesloe, and Mosman Park, the Shire of Peppermint Grove, the Cities of Nedlands and Subiaco with the Town of Cambridge work on a voluntary partnership on cross-boundary regional projects.

About the City of Nedlands

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of over 21,000 live in the suburbs Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

For further information please contact communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au or 9273 3500