LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Environment and Recreation Committee of Leichhardt Municipal Council held in the Supper Room on 5 August 2009.

Present at the commencement of the meeting:

Crs: Rochelle Porteous (Chair), Jamie Parker, John Stamolis.

Gillian Leahy, Kim Wheatley, Belinda Giblin (Bartz), Bronwen Campbell, Philipa McIntosh, Brent Jones.

Staff Present:

Aaron Callaghan, Vince Cusumano, Doug Anderson, David Eckstein.

Meeting Commenced: 6.35pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

I acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation on whose Country we are meeting today, and their elders past and present.

Cr Rochelle Porteous performed acknowledgement of country in the capacity as chair.

BUSINESS:

ITEM 1

APOLOGIES

ERC41/09 RECOMMENDED

That apologies be accepted for the non attendance of Bev Maunsell, Cr Vera Ann Hannaford, Cr Daniel Kogoy and Gill Dawson.

ITEM BROUGHT FORWARD NOT ON AGENDA

WASHINGTONIA PALMS – WAR MEMORIAL PARK

A number of local residents attended the meeting to speak on the issue of transplanting a number of cotton palms (23 in total) from Victoria Road to War Memorial Park, O’Connor Reserve and Railway Parade. An overview of the project, the offer from the RTA (concerning relocation of the Palms) and planting options proposed was provided by the Parks Manager.

Concerns expressed from local residents in relation to War Memorial Park were raised in relation to:

- altering the open space characteristics in the park
- site line issues
- current informal sports

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- reduction of amenity of the park
- reduction of open space
- maintenance of the trees (ongoing by Council)
- incorrect specimens for the park
- inadequate consultation with local residents
- master planning for the park (War Memorial Park)
- original plantings at War Memorial Park carried out by the local community in partnership with Council
- Urban Forest Policy – supports indigenous tree plantings not exotic

One local resident suggested it would be more appropriate to remove the Oleander bushes from along Catherine Street and replace these with the Palms rather than planting them down the path network which led to the Central Fig tree.

ERC42/09 RECOMMENDED

1. That further discussion is held with the RTA on maintaining the Washingtonia Robusta Palms until consultation with the community over appropriate locations is finalised and the matter is further considered by Council.

2. That Council consider locating the 23 palms in a number of different locations across the LGA rather than in one specific park.

3. That the palms be considered as part of upcoming plans of management for parks and that adequate community consultation is undertaken as part of this process.

4. That the Palms are only considered in formalised parks where there are already existing exotic specimens present.

ITEM 2
MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 3 June 2009

ERC43/09 RECOMMENDED

That Council adopt the minutes of the Environment and Recreation Committee meeting held on 3 June 2009 with the accompanying recommendations.

ITEM 3
SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

ERC44/09 RECOMMENDED

That the information in the Summary of Resolutions be received and noted.
ITEM 4
CORRESPONDENCE

ERC45/09 RECOMMENDED

That the letter sent to the State Transit Authority of NSW (Southern Region) requesting for a meeting in relation to possible community access and use of land not set aside for development, specifically to land adjacent and surrounding the former Cable store (now a temporary car park) be noted.

ITEM 6.1
CLIMATE CHANGE TASKFORCE MINUTES

ERC46/09 RECOMMENDED

That Council adopt the minutes of the Climate Change Taskforce meeting held on 20 May 2009

1. with the following changes to the Corporate Taskforce minutes:
   
   • correction to item 2 of the actions list

   2. A report to be provided at the next Taskforce meeting regarding the costs and benefits (in terms of emissions and dollar savings) of providing mains gas supply to LPAC and Leichhardt Oval #1.

   • addition to the actions list

   3. Report back on costs and savings associated with implementation of co-generation at LPAC.

2. That the Climate Change Taskforce minutes are to be reported to the Ordinary Meeting of Council with the minutes included in the Environment Committee for noting.

ITEM 7.1
UPDATE ON CELTIS SINENSIS

ERC47/09 RECOMMENDED

1. That Biodiversity Officer to produce a Celtis sinensis information leaflet for targeted distribution to residents. The leaflet to include alternative trees suitable for planting which are good food and habitat sources for small birds and possums.

2. That a programme including the issuing of control notices, community education and eradication measures to control Celtis sinensis be implemented as outlined in Section 4 of this report.

This is page 3 of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on 5 August 2009.
3. That Biodiversity Officer to be authorised to issue weed control notices.

4. That the Light Rail feasibility study address the issue of the greenway project, protection of small bird habitats and the issue of *Celtis sinensis* removal as part of the brief.

**ITEM 7.2**  
**NATIVE PLANTINGS IN VERGES**

**ERC48/09 RECOMMENDED**

1. That Council initiates a pilot programme in cooperation with residents to determine community interest in, and likely acceptance of, a broadscale native verge planting programme and that the program be considered as part of the Living Streets Project.

2. That Council carry out community consultation in a selected street to gauge the likely participation and cost implications to undertake and adopt-a-verge programme of planting native plants instead of grass and that the results of this consultation be brought back to the Environment and Recreation Committee.

3. That the street chosen for the pilot programme will be derived from the current footpath replacement programme.

**ITEM 9**  
**ITEM FOR INFORMATION**

**ITEM 9.1**  
**BIRCHGROVE PARK – REPORT ON FOREST REDGUM FROM THREE WISE MEN PTY LTD**

Council’s Parks Manager presented an update and an overview on the specialist advice relating to the Forest Red Gum hazard appraisal at Birchgrove Park.

The report highlighted structural concerns associated with the upper canopy of the specimen and recommendations associated with the future of the tree.

Recommendations from the specialist Arboriculture report were provided which included removal of the tree and replacing it with an appropriate specimen, significant crown pruning and fencing of the limb drop off zone.

Discussion was held on future plantings for the park which were raised in respect to the current plan of management for the park.

**ERC49/09 RECOMMENDED**

1. That an immediate exclusion zone be established around the Forest Gum Tree advising the public of the safety issue.

This is page 4 of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on 5 August 2009.
2. That a site meeting is held with the community on the 15th August 2009 to discuss options outlined in the Tree Wise Men Australia Pty Ltd report on the future of the Forest Red Gum at Birchgrove Park.

ITEM 10
OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 URBAN FOREST BROCHURE
Discussion was held on progress associated with the brochure and its creation.

ERC50/09 RECOMMENDED

That the brochure is distributed in the next Council newsletter.

10.2 BALLAST POINT PARK

Discussion raised by Cr Stamolis on issues associated with current management and maintenance of the new park. Council’s Senior Parks and Open Spaces Planner informed the Committee that a request had been lodged with SHFA representatives for a meeting to discuss management issues.

ERC51/09 RECOMMENDED

That a report be brought back to Council and the Committee on management arrangements (if any) associated with Ballast Point Park, SHFA and Council in relation to ongoing management of the park.

ITEM 11
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7 October 2009 at 6:30pm.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm

Meetings for 2009

7 October
2 December