



MINUTES

Greening Randwick Committee

Wednesday 15 July 2020

Meeting held at 6:00pm via Microsoft Teams

Attendee Name	Organisation	Initials
Cr Kathy Neilson	Randwick Council	KN
Cr Lindsay Shurey	Randwick Council	LS
Cr Philipa Veitch	Randwick Council	PV
Joe Ingegneri	Randwick Council	JI
Dennis Flaherty	Randwick Council	DF
Bronwyn Englaro	Randwick Council	BE
Kerry Colquhoun	Randwick Council	KC
Peter Maganov	Randwick Council	PM
Graham Turner	Community Representative	GT

Item		Action
1.0	Welcome	
1.1	Committee members were welcomed to the meeting.	Note.
2.0	Apologies	
2.1	Cr Brendan Roberts, Heidi Dokulil, Peter Ryan and Lynda Newnam.	Note.
3.0	Draft Environmental Strategy	
3.1	<p>Council's Manager Sustainability, Peter Maganov presented the Draft Environmental Strategy to the committee members. It is the first of five strategies and has a 10-year plan that will be reviewed annually. The strategy includes 5 principles, 4 themes of Biodiversity, climate change, resource conservation, coastal protection, and approximately 30 actions associated with these themes.</p> <p>Following enquires on targets and performance measures, Peter Maganov advised that action plans will be developed following community consultation. The strategy focuses on operational objectives and measures will be against set targets. As it is a new strategy and the first of the five strategies, there are currently no baselines. However, baselines will be determined against the aspirational stretch targets; the data we aim to have for the establishment of the measures.</p> <p>The strategy will be included in the upcoming Council meeting held on 28 July 2020 for endorsement and public exhibition.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p>
3.2	An invitation was extended to Peter Maganov to join the Greening Randwick Committee. It was determined that Peter would be invited to attend to discuss and present on agenda items relating to his work responsibilities.	Note.

4.0	Greener Places	
4.1	<p>The committee was advised of the Draft Greener Places Design Guide currently on exhibition by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment.</p> <p>The Draft Greener Places Design Guide framework provides information on how to design, plan, and implement green infrastructure in urban areas throughout NSW. The draft guide provides a consistent methodology to help State and Local Government, and Industry create a network of green infrastructure.</p> <p>Bronwyn Englaro advised that Council has been utilising the methodology provided in the document to-date in various projects, including the Recreational Needs Study and are in a good position for the SEPP.</p> <p>Committee members were advised that Council will be making a submission prior to the closing date on 7 August 2020. Dependent on timeframes, it may be included in the upcoming Council meeting.</p> <p>On behalf of Lynda Newnam, Joe Ingegneri advised that Lynda has included comments on the Green Places Guide that will be forwarded to the relevant sections of Council to be considered in Council's submission.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p>
5.0	Impact of council baiting programs on wildlife	
5.1	<p>The Birdlife Australia webpage provides information on the impact of rat poison on wildlife and consideration was made on council's current baiting program.</p> <p>It was noted that baiting products are very common and easily obtained in supermarkets and hardware stores. It was suggested for Council to develop an educational leaflet to inform the community of the impacts to wildlife.</p> <p>There was discussion about current practices for rodent control and whether alternative approaches are feasible to address the impact on birdlife.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>RCC to investigate alternatives and report back to the Committee.</p>
6.0	Significant tree review, Significant and established tree removal notifications	
6.1	<p>A workshop on street trees is planned that will cover tree damage, the request for tree removal, intervention and options, and include methodology for assessing the costs.</p> <p>The outcomes of the workshop and new process will be presented to a future Cr Briefing and to Council.</p>	Note.
7.0	iTree data attributes	
7.1	<p>A list of tree attributes collected by the I-Tree System was sent to the committee members via email prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The committee reviewed the list and discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of data collected, including tree defects, maintenance works and risk. There is opportunity to sort based on attributes such as tree species, works required and canopy cover. • An enquiry was raised on the subjectiveness of some of the attributes such as life expectancy and age of tree. 	Note.

	<p>Dennis Flaherty advised that these are determined by qualified arborists that will assess the trees and make these estimations. GPS location accuracy is within 30cm and Council staff will undertake data cleansing to ensure accuracy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data will include comments on defects such as cavities and branch failure. These are all listed under the contract. • Following enquires on the consistency, it was noted that the consultants have advised that they will be using the same staff to do all the assessments. • The canopy assessment needs to determine the bulk of the canopy and is important to habitat, canopy assessment, and canopy density. • It was noted that the density of the canopy is dependent on species, health influences and can be seasonal for some species such as deciduous trees. • It was advised that I-Tree came out of the US forestry industry but has been adapted to Australian Species including growth rates. Centennial Park, North Sydney and Hornsby are among those using this approach. • Data collection has not yet commenced. Council is in discussion with the consultants to address finer details of the process. • The different values to wildlife of different tree species. • Data on the infrastructure damage and asset damage potential. • The data can be analysed to determine avian habitat suitability. • Using the data to track trees over time and monitor change in canopy and health. <p>Following discussion of the attributes, it was noted that further tree attributes can be collected. However, this would increase the cost per tree.</p>	<p>Note.</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Adopt a Tree Program</p>	
<p>8.1</p>	<p>At the recent Clovelly Precinct Committee meeting, members raised enquires relating to the Adopt a Tree Program run by Council.</p> <p>Joe Ingegneri advised that the program was developed by Bryan Bourke and was adopted by Council in 2009 with mixed community participation. However, it could be reoffered to the community.</p> <p>In the past, Council used to put a notice in the letterbox to the adjacent residents at the time of planting. This could be done again and include information about the tree species that has been planted and its attributes.</p> <p>The program would aim to encourage the community to take more ownership of public tree assets. The brochures could provide information on how looking after the tree could prolong life expectancy throughout drought, provide educational information and other benefits of the community looking after the tree. The committee discussed the information to be part of the brochure and suggested it be re-written by Council's Communication team, be available on the Council website and at the time of tree planting and in conjunction with National Tree Day or other Environment Day media coverage.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>Note.</p> <p>RCC to develop a brochure and add information on the website.</p>

	<p>The establishment of new trees and the role of the community was discussed. It was pointed out that the community believe tree establishment is Council's responsibility. Currently, Council look after the trees for 6 months with the prospect of extending this to 12 months. Staking of trees to protect them is currently undertaken. Consideration is required about the limitation on residents' ability to assist during times of drought and water restrictions. However, there is less tree planting during water restrictions because of the lower chance of establishment of trees.</p>	Note.
9.0	Future Meeting – Committee input into the Planning Process	
9.1	<p>The committee discussed the LEP review/DCP and how these principles can be embedded into the planning process.</p> <p>Bronwyn Englaro offered to provide a presentation at next committee meeting on Council's existing controls and potential direction for the DCP based on what other Councils are doing. Feedback would be sought from the committee on the presentation.</p>	<p>Note.</p> <p>BE to organise presentation for the next meeting.</p>
10.0	General Business	
10.1	<p>The Committee were informed about the New Greening Our City Program Grants announced under the 5 Million Trees Program. The grant program is on a dollar for dollar basis. Bronwyn Englaro advised she would coordinate a grant application for the 19 August 2020 deadline. The grant funding can supplement adopted tree planting funds to accelerate the rate of tree planting.</p> <p>An enquiry was raised about the availability of resources. It was highlighted that tree canopy is a target in the new Environmental Strategy and will be resourced accordingly to implement the activity and achieve targets.</p>	<p>BE to coordinate grant funding application.</p> <p>Note.</p>
10.2	<p>An enquiry was raised on whether there had been any tree loss from the recent strong winds. The committee was advised that only one tree has been lost.</p>	Note.
11.0	Next Meeting	
11.1	<p>On behalf of Heidi Dokulil, a request was made on whether the meetings could be changed from Wednesday to Thursday. It was agreed that Thursday night was suitable subject to confirmation of availability with those who were not present at the meeting.</p>	<p>Jl to confirm with LN and PR if they are available on Thursday nights for future meetings.</p>
11.2	<p>The next meeting to be confirmed for Wednesday, 16 September or Thursday, 17 September 2020. Location and format to be confirmed.</p>	Note.
12.0	Close	
12.1	<p>The meeting closed at 7.55pm</p>	Note.