

ITEM 7. NAMING PROPOSAL - ROBYN KEMMIS RESERVE

FILE NO: X004851

SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council approve the naming of a public park located at 20-40 Franklyn Street Glebe, "Robyn Kemmis Reserve".

The late Robyn Kemmis was a long-term resident of Glebe, highly regarded, with close ties to the local community. Robyn also served as a City of Sydney Councillor and Deputy Lord Mayor.

On 16 May 2016, Council resolved to give in-principle approval to name the public park "Robyn Kemmis Reserve" and to exhibit the naming proposal for public comment. The proposal was exhibited for public comment from 1 July to 3 August 2016 and generated 15 formal submissions. The large majority were in support.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the name "Robyn Kemmis Reserve" for the pocket playground located on Franklyn Street, Glebe; and
- (B) an application be made to the Geographical Names Board for the naming of the Reserve as approved in clause (A), in accordance with the Geographical Names Act 1996.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Map showing the location of the Reserve.

Attachment B: Images of the Reserve

BACKGROUND

1. The City received a request from the Glebe Society to commemorate the life and community service of the late Councillor Robyn Kemmis through the naming of a local pocket park situated at 20-40 Franklyn Street, Glebe. The request was supported by the partner of the deceased and the Principal of the Glebe Public School.
2. The City was appointed Reserve Trust Manager of the park (a Crown Reserve) in 2004. The park comprises grass lawns, shrub and tree plantings, a barbecue and a children's playground. The park does not have a formal name and is locally known by its street address – Franklyn Street Playground.
3. Robyn Kemmis was a Glebe resident for over 35 years and an active member of her local community. Robyn served as a City of Sydney Councillor for eight years, from March 2004 to September 2008 and again from September 2012 to the time of her death in December 2015. During this time, she held the position of Deputy Lord Mayor, playing an important role in delivery and implementation of the Sustainable Sydney 2030 Strategy.
4. Robyn was an advocate for social justice, equal opportunity, women's rights, social housing, local youth and she was influential in improving the welfare of public housing tenants. Robyn was involved on the board of the Glebe Public School and was instrumental in the creation of the Community Centre located adjacent to the Franklyn Street Playground.
5. On 16 May 2016, Council gave in-principle approval to name the public park "Robyn Kemmis Reserve" and to exhibit the naming proposal for public comment for a period of 28 days.
6. The naming proposal was exhibited on the City's website from 1 July to 3 August 2016 and advertised in the local press (Inner West Courier and Central Courier). Local residents were also informed about the naming proposal through a letter box drop and a public notice displayed on site.

Overview of Submissions and Comments Received

7. The naming proposal generated 15 submissions. Thirteen submissions expressed support for Robyn Kemmis Reserve. One submission objected to the naming proposal, expressing a general preference for parks to be named by their physical address/location, and one submission expressed no objection, but declined to actively support the naming proposal.
8. Comments received in support included general messages of support and affirmations and tributes of Robyn's well regarded work in the local community:
 - (a) "Robyn was not only a great civil servant, she was a very dear neighbour."
 - (b) "Robyn was a tireless advocate for those less fortunate and great supporter and creator of community."
 - (c) "Robyn encouraged participation...and suggested opportunities for residents to become directly involved."

- (d) “Robyn was an active champion in the re-opening of the Glebe Youth Service and much appreciated by social housing tenants and the police force for her active participation and dedication to social justice in Glebe.”
9. A quick poll published on the Sydney Your Say website attracted 103 participants and indicated 97% support of the naming proposal. The Sydney Your Say website also generated 12 comments, 11 of which were in support of the naming proposal.
- (a) “Important recognition for a tireless community advocate!”
 - (b) “Robyn worked hard for and in the Glebe community that to have this park named after her would be a lasting recognition of her outstanding contribution.”
 - (c) “Robyn was a wonderful hard working authentic and sincere woman.”
 - (d) “Robyn made a very great contribution to the community and went out of her way to help very many people.”
10. A number of submissions suggested a physical memorial to commemorate Councillor Kemmis. New park signage will be installed at the park entrances following completion of the naming process. This signage will include interpretive panels featuring biographical information about the life and contribution of Councillor Kemmis within the local community.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

11. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. The naming proposal is aligned with the following SS2030 strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling – formally naming the Reserve will facilitate wayfinding and recognition of the site.
 - (b) Direction 10 - Implementation through Effective Governance and Partnerships – formally naming the site “Robyn Kemmis Reserve” commemorates the life and civic contributions of a local Councillor who enjoyed inveterate links with the local community, including the Glebe Society, the local public school and enriched the lives of many local residents.

Organisational Impact

12. The existing park signage will need to be updated to include the new name and to provide interpretive biographical information about Councillor Kemmis.

Social / Cultural / Community

13. The naming proposal will commemorate Councillor Robyn Kemmis and will raise the awareness of current and future generations about her well-regarded contributions and achievements within her local community.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

14. The naming proposal has no significant budget implications. New park signage will be funded from current parks operational budgets.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

15. The Geographical Names Act 1966 - the recommended name, if supported by Council, will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board NSW for consideration and assessment in accordance with their process for the naming of public places.
16. The recommended name meets the Geographical Names Board guidelines.

OPTIONS

17. Council may opt not to approve the proposed name – this option is not recommended because the naming proposal gained wide community support.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Naming Procedure

18. The process for naming public spaces generally proceeds as follows:
- (a) in-principle approval by Council of the proposed name;
 - (b) public notification of the naming proposal with a minimum 28 day response time;
 - (c) Council approval following community consultation;
 - (d) assessment by the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales through its formal application process; and
 - (e) approval by the Geographical Names Board and subsequent publication in the NSW Government Gazette.
19. The Geographical Names Board will also notify the public through the local press as part of their routine procedure for the naming of public places. If objections are raised, the proposal is returned to Council for further comment or amendment.

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