

Naming Proposal - Post Exhibition - Kepos Street Playground

File No: X14220

Summary

This report summarises the outcome of the proposal to name a pocket park located on the corner of Zamia and Kepos Streets, Redfern.

On 19 March 2018, Council resolved to name the pocket park the 'Kepos Street Playground' and to place the proposal on public exhibition for community comment for a minimum of 28 days.

The proposal was exhibited from 24 April until 25 May 2018. In total, 55 submissions were received; 10 in support of the proposed name and 45 opposed. The consultation process indicates there is majority community support to retain the original name of the site as 'Elizabeth McCrea Playground'.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note that the proposal to name the pocket park located on the corner of Zamia Street and Kepos Street, Redfern, 'Kepos Street Playground' was placed on public exhibition for community comment and that the public exhibition period has now closed;
- (B) Council note that the outcome of the community consultation referred to in clause (A) indicates that naming the pocket park located on the corner of Zamia Street and Kepos Street, Redfern, 'Kepos Street Playground' is not supported;
- (C) Council approve the name of 'Elizabeth McCrea Playground' as the name for the park located on the corner of Zamia Street and Kepos Street, Redfern, based on the outcome of the community consultation referred to in clause (A); and
- (D) an application be made to the Geographic Names Board in accordance with the Geographical Names Act 1996 for the naming of the site as 'Elizabeth McCrea Playground'.

Attachments

Attachment A. Location and Images of the Park

Attachment B. Assessment of Submissions

Background

1. The pocket park located at 39-45 Kepos Street, Redfern, is owned by the NSW Housing Corporation, but has been managed and maintained by the City of Sydney, or South Sydney City Council following boundary changes, since 1953.
2. In 1953, the City of Sydney resolved that the playground be officially named 'The Mrs Elizabeth McCrea Playground' in honour of Elizabeth McCrea, "an old identity and highly respected citizen of the Redfern district".
3. The City refurbished the playground with a new layout and new facilities including play equipment, shade sail and landscaping in 2017. The park was officially reopened to the public on 17 February 2018 (refer Attachment A).
4. Following the upgrade, it was proposed to name the site 'Kepos Street Playground' to reflect its geographic location on Kepos Street.
5. On 19 March 2018, Council resolved to exhibit the new name for community comment for a minimum of 28 days.

Outcome of Community Consultation

6. The proposal was exhibited from 24 April until 25 May 2018. In total, 55 submissions were received; 10 in support of the proposed name and 45 opposed. An assessment of submissions is contained in Attachment B.
7. Of the 10 submissions in support, the majority expressed general support for the proposal.
8. Of the 45 submissions opposed:
 - (a) 31 expressed preference to retain the name Elizabeth McCrea Playground; and
 - (b) 10 submissions expressed their preference for other names.
9. The submissions and feedback received indicate a community preference for the original name given to the site by the City of Sydney in 1953, 'Elizabeth McCrea Playground'.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

10. 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. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling - naming the site will assist in wayfinding and will facilitate recognition and visitation.
 - (b) Direction 6 - Inclusive and Reliant Communities - naming the site will raise community awareness of the name and the site history.

Organisational Impact

11. The naming proposal will not have any significant organisational impact. The approved park name will be added to the park signage.

Social / Cultural / Community

12. Retaining the name 'Elizabeth MCrema Playground' would reflect the sentiment expressed by a majority of the submissions from the local community and would preserve the historical connection between the site and a local working woman who contributed to local community life.
13. Naming the site 'Kepos Street Playground' would also provide a connection to the history of the area as Kepos is a Greek word for garden and the land on which the playground sits was once part of a nursery and market garden established in the 19th century by John Baptist.

Budget Implications

14. Funds are available in the current operational budgets approved by Council for the update of the park signage.

Relevant Legislation

15. The approved name needs to comply with the Geographic Names Act 1966 and the Geographic Names Board Guidelines.
16. The Geographic Names Board may consider that the name previously approved by the City of Sydney in 1953, 'Elizabeth McCrema Playground', is a long standing name and considered to be a recorded name although it has not officially been registered in the Geographic Names Board register of place names.

Options

17. Council may choose to approve the name 'Kepos Street Playground'. This would not reflect the majority community sentiment expressed through the consultation process.

Public Consultation

18. The naming proposal was advertised for community comment in the local press (Central Courier and Southern Courier), public notices were installed on site and a letter was delivered to properties within the surrounding catchment area (approximately 1,600 addresses). Information was also available on the Sydney Your Say website.
19. The process for naming public places generally proceeds as follows:
 - (a) in-principle approval by Council of the proposed name (completed);
 - (b) public notification of the naming proposal with a minimum 28 days response time (completed);
 - (c) Council approval following community consultation (pending);
 - (d) assessment by the Geographic Names Board NSW through its formal application process (pending); and
 - (e) approval by the Geographical Names Board and subsequent publication in the NSW Government Gazette (pending).

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