

Item 5

Matters for Tabling

5.1 Disclosures of Interest

Disclosure of Interest returns that have been lodged in accordance with the City of Sydney Code of Conduct will be tabled.

Recommendation

It is resolved that the Disclosures of Interest returns be received and noted.

5.2 Petitions

(a) Upgrade Chisholm Street Reserve

Councillor Scott gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Monday, 17 May 2021, she will table and speak to a petition (containing 110 signatures) with the following terms:

Unfortunately, Chisholm Street Reserve has been sadly neglected by the council.

The condition of the park is far below that of similar parks in the area.

The council recently estimated it would be 8 years before significant work could be done.

This petition is to request that the council commit to upgrading the park over the next year.

We also request that the council conduct community consultation on the upgrade, with the aim of providing the following:

- Park benches for people to sit and eat lunch.
- A bin to throw away rubbish.
- Grass for people to sit on.
- A path through the park so the grass doesn't get trampled.
- Fencing to allow dogs to be released safely.
- A piece of play equipment of local children.

(b) Save KU Laurel Tree House Children's Centre Issue

Councillor Scott gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Monday, 17 May 2021, she will table and speak to a petition (containing 664 signatures) with the following terms:

The Department of Lands and Housing is planning to imminently sell 61 Arundel Street in Glebe.

This site currently operates as KU Laurel Tree House Children's Centre. The service began in 1983 and educated over 1,500 local children.

The current forecast is that our KU Centre will be forced to close at the end of 2021.

Why should you care?

Selling off assets that support our children is wrong. Doing so without community consultation is abhorrent. It does not support a fair go for children and their families.

The City of Sydney's own Child Care Needs Analysis paper of 2019 recognises that the City's population is expected to grow exponentially in the next 20 years. This demonstrates that the availability of sufficient high quality child care options will become more important than ever. **For a growing population we need more high quality affordable childcare and education centres, not less.**

KU Laurel Tree provides exceptional care, having achieved the highest National Quality Standards ratings possible. It is also one of the few not-for-profit services with lots of outdoor space for children. The Director and staff of the service are an integral part of our community and they deserve to be appropriately valued and recognised!

In other words, the service is a 'rare as hens teeth' place for the children of Forest Lodge and Glebe to receive very high quality early childhood education and to experience a 'backyard'. It also provides care at an affordable price point. It may not be the newest centre, but it is the most loved!

What do we want?

We want our elected representatives, KU Children's Services, the City of Sydney and the Department to take **immediate steps** to halt the sale of the KU site and to save that site and the KU service (or at the very least, a comparative service), in perpetuity, for the benefit of our children and families.

In other words, to love out their mandate and respective responsibilities to ensure that there is adequate high quality and reasonable cost education for our young children and services and infrastructure for our families. Now and into the future!

Recommendation

It is resolved that the Petitions be received and noted.

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