

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 are being received and collated by staff.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council note that Disclosures of Interest returns will be received and noted following the resumption of in-person meetings.

5.2 Petitions

(a) New Public Square at Waterloo, Fitzroy and Corben Streets, Surry Hills

Councillor Scully gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Monday, 26 July 2021, she will table and speak to a petition (with 16 households in support) with the following terms:

Further to your letter August 13, 2020, and with the help of neighbour Tara Morice, we have sought a community response to our vision of creating a new public square by part road closure of Fitzroy Street.

The plan and artist's sketches were letter box dropped to 20 households in the immediate area of the intersection of Waterloo, Fitzroy, Little Riley and Corben streets, and a further number were distributed by email.

A summary of replies is attached, with many supportive, and with comments to consider. We consider there is sufficient local support to encourage the Council to pursue this proposal.

The basis of our original concepts for this area was the local community street gardens created by the local residents and my proposal to remove as many bins as possible from the heritage streetscape. We consider that this local community pride should be supported by this endeavour.

(b) Request for Upgrade Lighting off the Paths at Joynton Park and Review of the City's Current Lighting Code

Councillor Scott gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Monday, 26 July 2021, she will table and speak to a petition (containing 134 signatures) with the following terms:

Petitioners request that the City of Sydney upgrade lighting off the paths at Joynton Park and review the City's current lighting code to ensure that it provides for a safe community for all.

(c) Paddington Reservoir

Councillor Scott gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Monday, 26 July 2021, she will table and speak to a petition (containing 76 signatures) with the following terms:

I am on a sub-committee representing the owners and residents of Paddington Central Apartments (47 apartments). We are writing to you to ask for additional signage and patrols in the Paddington Reservoir Gardens as per the following:

1. Drones prohibited
2. No amplification
3. Please respect our neighbours and others enjoying the park by keeping noise to a minimum

As you are probably aware, the Paddington Reservoir Gardens is completely unique in terms of attraction, its proximity to residents just metres from the reserve, and the acoustics, amplifying even just general chatter much louder than that of normal parks.

In particular, we are having specific problems, especially on weekends, with the issues described below which are all violating our right to “quiet enjoyment” of our homes:

1. Amplification of music from photographers and people filming dance routines for tik tok
2. Loud cheering and screaming from large bridal parties, encouraged by wedding photographers. This is particularly bad in peak wedding season (from September to May) where there can be up to 5 bridal parties taking over the western chamber at any one time, sometimes up to 20 bridal parties in the space over a few hours.
3. Illegal drone usage – mostly by wedding photographers

The conditions sign at the Strong Memorial Reserve include words to the effect of “no amplification” and “please respect our neighbours by keeping noise to a minimum”. Does that CoS have a policy or protocol governing the use of sound equipment applicable to a park like the Paddington Reservoir in terms of acoustics and proximity to residents?

Given the attraction of the Reservoir to wedding photographers who insist on using drones, we believe additional signage regarding drones is also required and appropriate. The rules for flying drones according to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority indicate that drones would not be permitted in a park such as the Paddington Reservoir given that other people and residents are always within 30 metres.

Please note that we don't want to stop people using the park, and we accept a certain level of background noise (which is already amplified due to the acoustics), but since the start of Covid-19 our right to “quiet enjoyment” has been completely violated and the trend is getting worse. People are increasingly working from home with work hours becoming less defined.

Hopefully additional appropriate signage, and additional ranger patrols, will be a great start for the residents being able to regain their “quiet enjoyment” which is their right.

(d) Love Letters to KU Laurel Tree House

Councillor Scott gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Monday, 26 July 2021, she will table and speak to a petition (containing 33 testimonials) with the following terms:

The “love letters” that follow were written by Laurel Tree House parents and children past and present, in response to the news that KU Children’s Services intend to close the KU Laurel Tree House Children’s Centre at the end of 2021. This incredibly disappointing decision was triggered by notification from the landlords (the Land and Housing Corporation) of their intent to sell the property at 61 Arundel St, Glebe, where Laurel Tree House has nurtured and educated generations of children for nearly 40 years. These testimonials were collected by members of the “Save Laurel Tree House Parents’ Action Group” with the encouragement of Councillor Linda Scott, whose support, and that of Jamie Parker MP, we very gratefully acknowledge.

Our stories speak to the enormous, positive difference that the Laurel Tree House team has made in our lives, demonstrating what will be lost when KU close the doors at Laurel Tree House.

These are stories about children. Children welcomed and valued. Children treated with unflinching kindness and respect. Children happy and thriving, paid attention to and loved. Children forming friendships. Children exploring the world through play. Children given the best start in life – growing and learning to become strong, independent, curious, inquisitive, self-motivated and active participants in the world. All of this thanks to the hard work, skill and dedication of the wonderful team at KU Laurel Tree House and the highest quality early learning experience they deliver.

They are also stories about families and family wellbeing. Families helped and families heard. Families shown true generosity and care. Expat families and isolated families, families struggling with the bewildering demands of new babies and of caring for little people growing in the world, women returning to the workforce – all of supported in our lives, in our professions, and as parents because the KU Laurel Tree House team was there for us as for our children.

KU Laurel Tree House is much more than a building in need of maintenance, much more than small centre offering too few “places” to be worth saving. It is a team of caring, professional women all doing an amazing job guided by Sharmila’s expert and committed leadership. It is a shining example of just how great – just how transformative – an early childhood education centre can be. It is a foundation for our children’s lives and futures, and for our own. It is a community in the best and fullest sense of the word. For many of us and for our children, it is a second family. We value it beyond words. For our children, and for future generations, it must not be allowed to close.

Recommendation

It is resolved that the Petitions be received and noted.

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