

SERVICES DELEGATED COMMITTEE

MINUTES

(Open to the public)

Monday 7 December 2020

Council Chamber, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell and Delivered Online.

Commencement 7.32pm

Attendance

Councillor Jane Addis (Chairperson)
Councillor Garry Thompson (Mayor)
Councillor Jim Parke
Councillor Felicity Sinfield
Councillor Victor Franco
Councillor Wes Gault
Councillor Di Gillies
Councillor Lisa Hollingsworth
Councillor Cynthia Watson
Councillor Susan Biggar
Councillor Nick Stavrou (Via Video Link)

Apologies Nil

Officers

Phillip Storer	Chief Executive Officer
Daniel Freer	Director Places & Spaces
Shiran Wickramasinghe	Director Urban Living
David Thompson	Manager Governance & Legal
Tina Bourekas	Manager Civic Services
Belinda Crockett	Coordinator Projects and Strategy
Elizabeth Manou	Senior Governance Officer
Helen Pavlidis	Senior Governance Officer
Jacob Westley	Network Engineer

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1. Adoption and confirmation of the minutes

MOTION

Moved Councillor Thompson

Seconded Councillor Watson

That the minutes of the Services Delegated Committee meeting held on 14 September 2020 be adopted and confirmed.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of conflict of interest of any councillor or council officer

Nil

3. Presentation of officer reports

3.1 Gordon Barnard Reserve - Dog Friendly Play Area

At the Services Special Committee (SSC) meeting held on 10 August 2020, Council resolved to proceed with the development of a reduced scope Fenced Dog Play Area (FDPA) in a portion of Gordon Barnard Reserve (GBR) between the pool and eastern oval. Council further resolved to commence the process to amend Council's Order for the Control of Dogs (made under section 26 of the *Domestic Animal's Act* 1994) to designate the proposed location within the reserve as an off-leash area.

This report presents to Councillors the feedback received through community consultation on the proposal to amend the Order and seeks a resolution to make the Order by way of public notice in the Victorian Government Gazette and a local newspaper (see ATTACHMENT 1) to establish the area set aside within GBR as a designated, fenced dog off-leash area.

The amendment seeks to establish a 'Designated off-leash Area' within GBR as distinct from a 'Designated off-leash Reserve.' The FDPA area will be demarcated by fencing and the remainder of the reserve will retain its on-leash status.

The consultation to amend the Order took place between 21 August and 20 September 2020 and consisted of an online survey, which attracted 48 written responses. In addition, Council received eight (8) separate email submissions, seven of which were not in favour of the proposal. The eighth email submission was an enquiry about whether or not Greyhounds will be able to be exercised in the proposed FDPA. Due to the legal requirements of Greyhound ownership, including the requirement to remain on leash at all times, Greyhounds will not be permitted to be off-leash in the FDPA. This submission was neither clearly in support or against the proposal.

A total of fifty-six (56) submissions were received during the consultation. Thirty-five (35 of 56) or 63% of the submissions demonstrated support for the proposal and nineteen (19) responses (or 34%) were not in favour. Two responses, representing 3% of responses were neither clearly in support or opposition to the proposal.

A number of submissions which were in support of the proposal offered suggestions for the design phase of the project. There were also a range of key concerns raised which form the key points for discussion in the report, including:

- The likelihood for increased use of the reserve by dog owners and their dogs and the potential for issues with dogs remaining *under effective control*;
- Safety, amenity and environmental impacts to the reserve, it's birdlife, nearby residents and other users of the reserve;
- Suitability of the location given nearby sporting facilities;
- Definitions and terminology used to describe the area; and
- Funding and whether it could be better spent elsewhere.

GBR has been identified as the preferred location for a FDPA following an extensive site assessment process and community consultation in March 2020 (detailed in the previous report to SSC on 10 August 2020 in ATTACHMENT 2) and further feedback gained during August and September 2020, indicating a positive level of support for the establishment of a FDPA at GBR.

Councils 2020/2021 draft budget includes an allocation of \$470,000 for the development of a FDPA in Boroondara.

In summary, the feedback from the community demonstrates support for the proposal to amend the Order to establish a fenced, designated dog off-leash area at GBR. If the Services Delegated Committee decides to amend the Order, community consultation on a concept design for the FDPA in the delineated portion of GBR will follow, with a view to achieving the outcome of establishing the FDPA by June 2021.

One speaker opposed to the officers' recommendation addressed the meeting.

MOTION

Moved Councillor Watson

Seconded Councillor Parke

That the Services Delegated Committee resolve to:

- 1. Receive and note the community feedback on the proposal to designate a portion of Gordon Barnard Reserve as a fenced, designated dog off-leash area.**
- 2. Amend the Order by way of a public notice in the Victorian Government Gazette (to align with the installation of the fencing) and the Progress Leader/Herald Sun newspaper, to establish the identified area within Gordon Barnard Reserve (refer to Figure 1) as a fenced, designated dog off-leash area.**

CARRIED

Councillor Biggar and Councillor Franco requested the Minutes reflect they voted in opposition of the motion.

4. General business

Nil

5. Urgent business

Nil

6. Confidential business

Nil

The meeting concluded at 8.33pm

Confirmed

Chairperson

Date
