

TOWN OF BASSENDEAN
MINUTES
BASSENDEAN RIVER PARKS COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 48 OLD PERTH ROAD, BASSENDEAN
ON TUESDAY 7 AUGUST 2018, AT 3.00PM

1.0 **DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Presiding Member opened the meeting, welcomed all those in attendance and conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

2.0 **ATTENDANCES, APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Present

Cr Melissa Mykytiuk, Presiding Member
Cr Bob Brown, Deputy Presiding Member
Cr Kathryn Hamilton
Augustine Okom, Dept, of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions – Rivers & Estuaries Branch
Peter Kane, Dept. of Planning – Lands & Heritage
Stephen Summerton, DFES
Naomi Bannister, Community Representative
Nonie Jekabsons, Community Representative
Jane Bremmer, Community Representative
Paul Bridges, Community Representative

Staff

Jeremy Walker, Senior Environmental Officer
Ken Cardy, Manager Asset Services
Simon Stewert-Dawkins, Director Operational Services
Amy Holmes, Minute Secretary

Apologies

John Wood, Community Representative
Tim Sparks, Department of Water

3.0 DEPUTATIONS

- 3.1 Augustine Okom of the Department of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions - River & Estuaries Branch, tabled the attached Marine Non-Compliance Report and the attached Marine Incident Report for inclusion in the minutes. Augustine provided an overview of the Marine Water Policing activities undertaken in the upper reaches of the Swan River and advised that members of the public can go on line at www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine/contact-marine-and-coastal.asp to submit speeding vessel reports.
- 3.2 Nonie Jekabsons advised the Committee on the Bindaring Wetlands Forum, being held at Bindaring Park, Hyland Street on Saturday 25 August 2018.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

This item was dealt with later in the meeting following a query by Jane Bremmer.

5.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

6.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

7.0 BUSINESS DEFERRED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil

8.0 REPORTS

- 8.1 **Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage - Draft 2018-2023 Ashfield Flats Reserve Works Program (PARE/DESCONT/6) Simon Stewert-Dawkins Director Operational Services**

APPLICATION

The purpose of the report is to provide an update in regards to the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage draft Ashfield Flats Concept Plan and the public consultation currently being undertaken

Cr Mykytiuk advised that at the community briefing the WAPC provided an overview on the management of the land. The WAPC are keen to work with the community to get the best possible outcome. There have already been a number of submissions received on the Your Say website.

COMMITTEE/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 8.1

RPC – 1/08/18 MOVED Paul Bridges, Seconded Naomi Bannister, that the Committee notes that the:

1. Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage's draft Ashfield Flats Reserve Concept Plan and Works Program has been promoted via the Bassendean Briefings and Facebook posts and made available for public comment from the 11 June 2018 until the 13 August 2018 using the "Your Say Bassendean" website; and
2. Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage has indicated that it will provide a report on the community feedback received to the River Parks Committee to be held on 6 November 2018.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 10/0

8.2 Ashfield Flats Reserve – Fox Activity (Ref PARE/MAINT/68 - Jeremy Walker Senior Environmental Officer)

APPLICATION

The purpose of the report is to present to the committee the fox monitoring reports for Ashfield Flats, Bindaring & Pickering Park.

COMMITTEE/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 8.2

RPC – 2/08/18 MOVED Peter Kane, Seconded Naomi Bannister, that the Committee recommends to Council that it:

1. Receives the May 2018 Fox Monitoring reports for Ashfield Flats, Bindaring Park & Pickering Park;
2. Notes that Officers do not recommend that soft jaw traps be implemented within Ashfield Flats or Bindaring & Pickering Park due to potential injuring to domestic animals;

3. Recommends the cage-trapping program be implemented, targeting both foxes and feral cats within Bindaring & Pickering Park during the month of October, in accordance with the Natural Area Consulting Management Services (NAM) report recommendation;
4. Recommends cage trapping be implemented targeting foxes within the Ashfield Flats Reserve in the month of October, in accordance with the Natural Area Consulting Management Services (NAM) report recommendation with the cost divided proportional on the basis of the land area being managed by Department of Planning Lands & Heritage and Town of Bassendean.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 10/0

8.3 Water Corporation Drainage for Liveability Program Stormwater Drains (Ref WATR/MAINT/2 – Jeremy Walker, Senior Environmental Officer)

APPLICATION

The purpose of the report is to provide the Bassendean River Parks Committee with an update on the Water Corporation's Drainage for Liveability Program.

The Committee commented on the illegal dumping of uncontrolled fill at May Holman Drive compensating basin. The Department of Environment and Regulation are investigating and will provide a response to the Town. The Director Operational Services will provide further information to the committee following a response from the Department of Environment. Have the railway museum been contacted by the Town on this issue?

The Swan River Trust reports (2009) have identified contamination in these drains. Jane Bremmer requested the reports be considered by the Town and also presented to Water Corp. The Director Operational Services will follow up with Tim Sparks of Water Corporation about consideration of the 2009 reports.

Augustine Okom of the Department of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions - River & Estuaries Branch gave the following update:

“The WAPC has provided DBCA with \$200,000 in funding to undertake a hydrological survey at Ashfield Flats, commencing in 2018/19. The two existing drains on site, Chapman Street and Kitchener Street, currently influence the hydrology of the site and divide the federal threatened ecological community (TEC). A hydrological survey was identified as being required to inform better management of the TEC and to inform the development of a water balance model for the site. This information will confirm whether intervention structures such as a constructed wetland is recommended for the site. The study is expected to take 2.5 years to complete and in July DBCA conducted a literature review of the past studies at the Ashfield Flats project site and reviewed the information available on the project.

We have prepared a detailed study proposal for the work and are looking to advertise for a hydrologist to undertake the work. Perth NRM recently included a request in the Regional Land Partnerships funding round for this study, TEC protection and weed control on site. The outcome of this funding request should be known shortly.”

COMMITTEE/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION- ITEM 8.3(a)

RPC – 3/08/18

MOVED Paul Bridges, Seconded Cr Hamilton, that the Committee recommends that Council:

1. Notes the Water Corporation’s intended actions for drainage at sites located at:
 - 9994 (Second Avenue and Third Avenue);
 - 9984 (Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue);
 - Railway Museum - east compensating basin; and
2. Notes that the Western Australian Planning Commission has commenced a Hydrological Study of the Ashfield Flats Reserve, including the Chapman Street drain, as outlined in the 7 August 2018 River Parks Committee agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 10/0

Paul Bridges moved additional points.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 8.3(b)

RPC – 4/08/18

MOVED Paul Bridges, Seconded Cr Hamilton, that Council:

3. Requests the above studies include consideration, where practicable, of increasing the groundwater table to enhance the Town’s urban forest.

CARRIED 8/2

REASON: The main drain system was established to drain wetlands and facilitate development and compliments the local authority's street drainage network to mitigate local flooding. These main drains continue to perform the function of lowering the natural ground water table. Given the science that our rainfall is decreasing and the heavy draw on groundwater for potable water, it is timely to consider adjusting open drain depths and weirs so that more water stays in the ground to support tree growth. The optimum time to consider raising the ground water table is when open drains are being considered for use as living streams. The longer it takes for the water to reach the river, the greater the ability for nutrients to be removed and more water is available to support an urban forest.

Peter Kane left the meeting at 4.20pm and did not vote on this motion.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 8.3(c)

RPC – 5/08/18 MOVED Paul Bridges, Seconded Cr Hamilton, that Council:

4. Requests the Ashfield Flats Hydrological Study includes water testing of the compensating basin at the end of West Road (known locally as Lake Bettink) to assess the water quality given that the basin was dug in potentially acid sulphate soil within the last 30 years.

CARRIED 7/2

REASON: Lake Bettink was dug c1988 as an alternative to draining street water into the river at Sandy Beach Reserve where people could swim. It would be of interest to know whether compensating basins dug in acid sulphate soil have an ongoing detrimental effect on water quality or this diminishes over time. The channel dug in the early 1970's to create Ron Courtney Island and relieve river flooding event impacts was dug through acid sulphate soil and it would be of interest to know if this significant disturbance has created a long term negative impact on the environment or has stabilised over time. Currently the knowledge that soil is potentially acid sulphate creates a concern that may outweigh an environmental benefit over the longer term if it was disturbed.

Peter Kane returned to the meeting at 4.23pm.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 8.3(d)

RPC – 6/08/18 MOVED Paul Bridges, Seconded Cr Hamilton, that Council:

5. Approaches the Water Corporation with a view to working towards a pocket park at the vacant lot at 7 Fourth Avenue in conjunction with the Drainage for Liveability Programme.

CARRIED 9/1

REASON: The vacant lot at 7 Fourth Ave was set aside as part of the land to form the main drain which it now abuts. It is coded R20 and in an area destined for higher density development that has an acute shortage of local open space. Council has recently purchased two vacant crown lots in Chapman and Lord Streets under a programme that allows a local authority to purchase crown land at a major discount. Such a purchase by Council would potentially satisfy a need for open space in this locality with an adjacent living stream feature.

Jane Bremmer moved an additional point.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 8.3(d)

RPC – 7/08/18 MOVED Jane Bremmer, Seconded Nonie Jekabsons, that Council:

6. Requests the Ashfield Flats Hydrological Study includes water testing for PFAS chemicals and pesticide residues.

CARRIED 8/2

9.0 **MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

Nil

10.0 **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NOTICES OF MOTION FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

10.1 **Turf Management Practices - Nonie Jekabsons**

That the Bassendean River Parks Management Committee liaise with Town of Bassendean staff to improve the processes and procedures around turf management of the Town's parks, reserves and street verges with a view to minimising the pollution of our waterways and the Swan River.

10.2 PFOS and PFAS Groundwater Sampling – Nonie Jekabsons

That the Bassendean River Parks Management Committee request the Town of Bassendean include testing for PFOS and PFAS in the ongoing groundwater sampling programme to ascertain whether these chemicals are present.

11.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Peter Kane and Stephen Summerton left the meeting and did not return, the time being 4.58pm.

Jane Bremmer requested the following additions and amendments, as shown in bold:

Item 3.0 Public Question Time

- **How do community reps raise issues on this committee and have them included in the meeting papers.**

Item 9.1, Committee members raised the following points:

- **What aggregate and other materials in consideration of environmental pollutants is being used in the riverbank structures.**
- **Natural Resource Management – sustainable weed control and ongoing management.**

COMMITTEE/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 4.1

RPC – 8/08/18

MOVED Nonie Jekabsons, Seconded Naomi Bannister, that the minutes of the Bassendean River Parks Committee meeting held 8 May 2018, be confirmed as a true record, as amended:

Item 3.0 Public Question Time

- **How do community reps raise issues on this committee and have them included in the meeting papers.**

Item 9.1, Committee members raised the following points:

- **What aggregate and other materials in consideration of environmental pollutants is being used in the riverbank structures.**
- **Natural Resource Management – sustainable weed control and ongoing management.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

12.0 **CLOSURE**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 November 2018, commencing at 3.00pm.

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 5.00pm.