

Meeting 9 October 2017

Manly Bowling Club, Raglan Street, Manly NSW 2095

Welcome

- The minutes of September meeting accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Reports:

1. Treasurer's report –

The Treasurer advised there was nil to report and the account remains static.

2. Botanic Garden progress | The report was noted.

Matters for discussion / action:

3. Trees in the Manly Ward area.

Following emails and calls from concerned residents GMRF wrote to NBC in relation to the removal of several mature native trees from the Manly Ward in general, and the fact that they are not being replaced. NBC were asked to respond urgently, which they did.

Mr Steve Lawler | Local Government Manager, Open Space Management, Ms Nikki Griffin | Manager Place & Economic Development, and Mr Andrew Thor | Senior Tree Management Officer all attended the meeting and provide an excellent briefing on NBC policy on trees, current issues and resolution of those issues.

The forum was given the opportunity to discuss street tree planting policies, and were advised that the NBC are developing a new tree policy to cover the entire Northern Beaches area. This policy should be available for exhibition and comment by the public late December this year. We were advised that as this time frame is in the middle of the holiday season the exhibition period will be extended to ensure residents have an opportunity to make submissions. We were also advised the NBC is developing a biodiversity strategy which will also be exhibited for comment and submissions.

Tree removal Manly Scenic Walkway | The potential removal of a tree on Manly Scenic Walkway was discussed in depth. The NBC took on board the concerns of residents with a decision made the week after the meeting to disallow the removal of the mature native tree from the public area.

Choice of trees for Balgowlah Plaza | The trees chosen to replace the mature trees removed for the upgrade of Balgowlah Plaza were discussed, with NBC providing reasoning for the choice. Whilst the forum was not convinced the best choice had been made, as the progress on the Plaza is too advanced to change, the decision was accepted. NBC were asked to consult more closely with residents and the wider community in the future. It is noted decisions on the make-up of Balgowlah Plaza were made prior to the amalgamation.

Balgowlah carpark tree removal – Great concern regarding continuing slow removal of mature trees that provide shade, improve the ambience of a hot black tar carpark and provide habitat to a very large number of Australian animals and birds was discussed. Following a briefing by NBC and discussion, Steve Lawler of NBC agreed to fully review the car park with a view to possible reduction of a small number of parking spots to save existing healthy trees and enable the planting of new trees to maintain this unique area in a very highly built up area.

Note: Since the October meeting GMRF have been asked to provide feedback on possible removal of trees in the Manly Ward area. GMRF will continue to closely monitor tree removals from public space as the impact on our health and the lifestyle of the area in general is at stake.

Thank you to NBC | GMRF thank Steve Lawler, Nikki Griffith and Andrew Thor for not only attending the meeting, but also for genuinely engaging with us.

4. Open Forum

- **Manly Lagoon | Dogs “off Leash”** – discussed. Candy Bingham and Sarah Grattan advised NBC is developing a strategy for the area within the next 3 months. This is a very complex and sensitive issue. A great deal of research and science has been undertaken in the past and should be taken into consideration when developing the strategy.
- **Place Managers** | NBC advised the Council has developed new positions, “Place Managers”, who will be tasked with working within the various regions within the NBC area. GMRF will be notified of the “Place Manager” for the Manly area once they are appointed.
- **Manly Co-Op** | Keelah Lam advised that Manly Food Co-op would benefit from higher patronage and asked for support from GMRF in promoting the Co-Op. GMRF agreed to place posters in notice boards as appropriate and asked Keelah to provide a link to the Manly Food Co-Op site to be added to our website. Manly Food Co-Op will also place a link to GMRF on their website.

5. Updates

- Drop in maintenance standards – to be addressed at next council meeting 24/10/17
- Additional Portaloos for NYE at Delwood and Fairlight beaches – **agreed by council**
- Manly public toilets – to be addressed at next council meeting 24/10/17
- Community Notice boards – This is something that has fallen through the cracks and will now be reviewed and addressed over the next 6 months. To be added to “watch it” list.

Resolutions

1. **Tree on Manly Scenic Walkway adjacent to 31 Fairlight Street.** The meeting resolved to ask NBC to maintain the tree it has been asked to remove as it provides shade, is strong and healthy, and provides an excellent habit and adds to ambience of the area.
2. **Balgowlah Plaza rear Carpark.** The meeting agreed with the strategy proposed by NBC to place an immediate hold on removal of any trees in the carpark, review the carpark in relation to the trees currently growing there, review the car park with a view to replacing those trees already removed and consider, if necessary a reduction of some carparking spots to facilitate the health of the trees in the area and allow replacement planting. The current trees provide an important habitat for local fauna, reduce the heat produced by the asphalt in the carpark by providing shade. The trees also provide shade from the sun and protection from severe southerly storms for the residents of the unit blocks between Sydney Road and the carpark.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm

Next meeting: Monday 13 November 2017
