**Conversations with Councillors – Gateway Ward**

**Meeting notes**

Saturday 15 October 2022

10:30am – 12:00pm

In attendance:

Cr Pearl, Cr Martin, Cr Cunsolo

Approx 20 community members

**Aged Care in the Home**

* **Question/comment:** Staff have been excellent, caring and diligent. This program is highly valued.
* **Councillor response:** Noted. This is partially funded by State Government, but is likely to change. Recommend contacting local MP to lobby for continued funding.

**Port Melbourne Foreshore**

* **Question/comment:** Enhance aesthetics of Port Melbourne foreshore, tidy up, plant trees for shade and make area inviting for tourists, especially from cruise ships.
* **Councillor response:** Encourage lobbying to Victorian Government for enhancement of the Gateway to Melbourne, especially prior to election. Appropriate development at Waterfront Place encouraged and need to uplift area.

**Development at Waterfront Place**

* **Question/comment:** Will the new development be contested at the Supreme Court? Is there a way for Council to work with developers to beautify the area?
* **Councillor response:** Not yet had the opportunity to talk to council officers about the VCAT decision. Very expensive to go to Supreme Court and Council does not do this often. Council would love to work with developers to beautify the area, but unsure of the appetite from developers.
* **Follow up:** Council has decided not to pursue this further and a planning permit has been issued.

**Lagoon Reserve**

* **Question/comment:** Concerns about upgrades to reserve and loss of space for dogs and general public to use due to dedicated sporting areas.
* **Councillor response:** Due to problems with soil and higher rate of use by dogs, ground have been unsuitable for sporting clubs to use. Clubs have moved to other grounds temporarily and the space has recently been predominantly used by residents with dogs. We understand the tensions with shared space and try to accommodate various uses. We plan to sure up the soil at Lagoon Reserve to return sporting to area whilst minimising the impact that dogs have on grounds. Would like to have more stand-alone dog off-leash areas in the future.
* **Question/comment:** Lights appear to be on without need during daylight savings hours – when still light. Please ensure they are turned off.
* **Follow up:** Has been followed up on and will be rectified.

**Maintenance of nature strips and small reserves**

* **Question/comment:** Naturestrips and small reserves (eg. Howe Parade Reserve, Beach St) not maintained well, overgrown with weeds, unsightly – initial investment in planting is valued, better upkeep needed. Letter received by resident (2016) stating that monthly maintenance will occur, although this does not seem to be the case. Can community organisation or residents support the maintenance?
* **Councillor response:** Rained a lot more than usual in the past 3 years which has accelerated growth. More needs to be invested into maintenance, it has also been hard to get contractors. Where the work has not been done, contractors have not been paid. Community members are able to support maintenance, suggest for safety reasons not on main roads.
* **Follow up:** We will make sure that we get the contractor to do work monthly as stated in previous promise.

**BMX Pump track**

* **Question/comment:** Update on what is happening with regard to BMX pump track. Is it possible to consult with local primary school students?
* **Councillor response:** Council will be engaging with the community from November on which of three proposed sites it would like to see the track built in Port Melbourne.
* **Follow up:** Consultation dates: 9 November – 18 December 2022. Council officers will be reaching out to local primary and secondary schools during this period.

**Scouts**

* **Question/comment:** Port Melbourne Scouts have outgrown Sol Green centre and are in need of additional storage as well. Request to find a new place to house the group.
* **Councillor response:** Already aware of the need and will keen in mind new venue for Scouts. Understand that there is funding promised from Scouts Vic.

**Tourism from cruise ships**

* **Question/comment:** How can we make it easier for tourist to obtain Myki and travel on public transport? Propose government pay for a day pass for cruise ships.
* **Councillor response:** Myki tickets are sold on the pier. Volunteer program already exisits called ‘Waterfront Welcomers’ support tourists disembarking.

**Hooning on Beach St**

* **Question/comment:** Since the new lane has been implemented on Beach St cars have hooning as soon as they leave the speed hump to reach high speeds with loud music. Request that can the speed hump be levelled out to avoid the noise issues.
* **Follow up:** Council will look into it.

**Solar panels**

* **Question/comment:** Restrictions make it hard to get solar panels on heritage buildings on street frontage. Can Council prioritise solar panels?
* **Councillor response:** Applications are assessed on an case by case basis and preference is given to maintain the character and look and feel of heritage whilst supporting sustainability initiatives. If solar panels are able to be placed facing other frontages that don’t impact character that is preferred.

**Blocked drain Bay St**

* **Question/comment:** Maintenance needed at top end of Bay St, near dead end. Leaves collecting in blocked drain impacting flooding.
* **Follow up:** Noted, and will be followed up

**South Melbourne Districts Little Athletics**

* **Question/comment:** Lagoon Reserve needs to be updated – too many twisted ankles, unsafe. Lakeside Stadium cost prohibitive with no allowance for fundraising activities. Club needs support from council.
* **Councillor response:** Concerns noted. Council no longer has a board seat on Melbs Sports Centre but has requested meetings but with little response. Will continue to follow up.

**Fishermen’s bend gymnastics club**

* **Question/comment:** Is there a long term plan to find a facility for the club? Currently paying expensive rent. Need support from council in order to keep hiring the venue.
* **Councillor response:** Council is awareof the issueand is also aware that state government has been prioritising traditionally male-dominated sport to ensure females are accommodated at the expense of more traditionally female-dominated sports.
* **Follow up:** Will continue to look into it. Possibility of securing civic space within private developments in the area in the future.

**Town Hall event**

* **Question/comment:**  Thank you for holding this event today, is it possible to do the same in South Melbourne?
* **Councillor response:** Absolutely, then St Kilda Rd
* **Follow up:** Set date for next town hall meeting in Sth Melbourne.

**Ludwig Stamer Reserve, South Melbourne**

* **Question/comment:** Disappointed with community engagement opportunities. Two options were presented with no field for not agreeing. There will be huge impact due to excavation.
* **Councillor response:** Stay after this session and we can look at the detail to address your concerns.
* **Follow up:** State funding for this reserve has been received. Councillors will speak with officers how this impacts the project.

**Murphy’s Reserve**

* **Question/comment:** What is the progress on this resurfacing? Concerned about heat emanating from the pitch.
* **Councillor response:** Water level has been an issue, grounds get ruined after light amount of play. The proposed surface will incorporate new technology that is porous and allows pitch to be used often into the future. Further consultation will occur on the pitches in this reserve.

**South Melbourne library**

* **Question/comment:** Ares with no books on shelves in South Melbourne library. Few books seem to be located at this library and doesn’t seem like it’s being used as it could be.
* **Follow up:** Will look into it.

**Flooding in South Melbourne**

* **Question/comment:** Flooding on Dorcas St, Sth Melbourne near market tram stop. Flooding due to leaves. Leaf-blowing not a good idea. Need to be picked up, not blown.
* **Councillor response**: Flooding not due to leaves. Recent repairs were done to the childcare centre. Concrete was poured into the drain and has since been drilled it out - it should be rectified now.