

Samson Precinct Group

Minutes of Meeting held 2 April 2019

Venue: Annex Room, Samson Recreation Centre

Meeting Opened: 6:33pm

Attendance: David Trimble (Chair), Councilor Jeff McDonald, Councilor Sam Wainwright, Karen Pina, Richard Evison, Alison Evison, Tony Miosich.

1. Minutes of previous meeting held 5 February 2019

- a. The Chair advised the meeting that the minutes of the previous meeting had been amended as follows at point:
 - i. 2n from Monument Hill to Cantonment Hill; and
 - ii. 4g and 4j to more accurately record the comments expressed by Councilor McDonald at the meeting.
- b. Moved by Richard Evison, seconded by Karen Pina that the minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

2. Business arising from previous meeting:

The Chair advised the meeting that all issues raised at the February meeting had been forwarded to the City of Fremantle (City) for attention. Responses had been received from the City to all matters and on 18th March he had emailed Ryan Abbott asking if he was able to provide an update on any of the ongoing matters that I could report on at this meeting. All responses are reported as follows.

- a. Fencing around grassed area;
 - i. The following email received on 28 March from Mr Ryan Abbott (Mr Abbott), Manager Parks and Landscape, the City was read to the meeting: *"We have appointed the Contractor and the fencing realignment works will commence towards the end of next week/early the following week. The works are in accordance with the scope previously sent through and noted following:*
 1. *Realign the fence behind the basketball ring to allow an area of runoff for stray balls.*
 2. *We will also keep the track behind the court open taking on-board the community feedback about this being a well utilised winter access track when the central grass area is wet in winter.*
 3. *Sections of the fence will be straightened up. The original alignment was to follow the bush/turf edge, however as noted this has resulted in some areas weaving in and out. We will adjust the fencing and work on the turf / mulch areas to suit the straightened alignment.*

4. *Additional stays and heavy duty corner posts will be added at corner points where required. The tension on this fence is lower than a stock fence which is why the Contractor didn't use as many stays, however it is evident we need more installed to sure up some areas.*
 5. *The opening opposite the basketball court that was cut open will be reclosed. This will be supported by signage and fencing at the other end of the track to prevent people wandering down and being trapped, we will incorporate this into the revegetation program over the coming years”.*
- ii. At the time of the meeting none of these works had commenced and after discussion it was agreed to monitor the planned work and discuss at next meeting.
- b. Dead area of bush land on the northeastern corner of the park;
 - i. The Chair advised that in an email received on 11 February from Mr Abbott he stated that he had noted the reported poor condition of the bushland in the northern corner of Samson Park (corner of Sellenger and McCombe Avenues) with the natural areas team, and that this can be part of future revegetation efforts.
 - ii. The email from Mr Abbott was noted and it was agreed to monitor the City's revegetation efforts in this area.
 - c. Verge bushes growing on McCombe Avenue on the southeastern side of the intersection with Petterson Avenue causing a problem for drivers from Garden Parklands Village;
 - i. Noted that these verge bushes have been trimmed.
 - d. Fencing around playground / barbeque / picnic area;
 - i. The Chair briefed the meeting on the reply received from Mr Abbott in his email dated 21st February in response to the email from this group suggesting that the playground, picnic and barbeque area could be completely fenced off. The meeting accepted Mr Abbott's comments. Notwithstanding it was agreed that this matter would remain under consideration by the Samson Precinct Group.
 - ii. There was discussion concerning an email dated 21st March received from Anthony Ruhland concerning a safety issue with the fence of the playground area at Samson Park. All present at the meeting were briefed on the issue and the action taken by the City and that the damage to the fence had been fixed that day after Mr Ruhland's email to Mr Abbott.
 - iii. The meeting noted Mr Abbott's email dated 25th March concerning this matter and his comments that the team that had earlier attended to fix the fence in response to the issue raised at the precinct group February meeting should have spotted the damaged fence and fixed it. Also that he felt the initial response was unacceptable and was addressing it with the team that had attended.

- iv. It was stated that the prompt action taken by the City to address the safety issue raised by Anthony Ruhland demonstrates that the precinct group process is effective and communication lines available between the Samson Precinct Group and the City can promptly address community concerns.
- e. Water collecting in large concrete and limestone drainage holes in the central grass area;
 - i. Emails received from Mr Abbott on 11th February and 25th March were discussed. He had advised that the drainage is on the engineering maintenance schedule for cleaning. He has followed up with them to check and they will be attending the site to clean as necessary. They have replaced the pit lid that was broken and reported at the precinct meeting.
 - ii. The action taken / to be taken by the City regarding this issue was accepted.
- f. Formalizing of bush tracks;
 - i. Emails received from Mr Abbott on 11th February and 28th March were discussed. He advised that they plan to be on site in Sir Frederick Samson Park from late April and construction will be for 2 - 3 weeks. The first phase of works will focus on the south west side of the park.
 - ii. The correspondence was noted.
- g. Entrance to Samson at McCombe Avenue and South Street;
 - i. The meeting was advised that it had been observed on 2nd April that the City had pruned street trees on South Street west of McCombe Avenue.
 - ii. The meeting discussed Mr Abbott's email dated 11th February advising that the maintenance of the landscape at the above location has been identified as substandard by the City's facilities management team. The City currently have a tender out to appoint a new landscape contractor and there will be an improvement in the service level of the landscape maintenance once a contractor has been appointed.
 - iii. The email from Mr Abbott was noted and it was agreed to monitor the City's efforts in this area.
- h. Verge bushes growing on the southwest corner of McCombe Avenue at the intersection with McKenzie Road restricting the vision of motorists driving east on McKenzie Road and entering the roundabout at this intersection;
 - i. Noted that these verge bushes have been trimmed.
- i. Planning approval for Perth Sauna and Massage Centre;
 - i. Councilor McDonald advised that the change in planning authority from a grocery store to a massage and sauna centre had been approved by a Planning Officer under "*delegated authority*". This was in accordance with proper City procedure.

- j. Condition of the vacant block at the corner of McCombe and Peterson Avenues;
 - i. The meeting discussed the email received on 14th February from Christopher Scanlan, City of Fremantle. He advised a Community Safety Team member had attended this location and assessed the block. While it is not deemed a fire hazard it presented as untidy. He stated that some weeds and ground cover are required to prevent the erosion of the sand and that he will follow up with the owner to ensure the block remains tidy.
 - ii. The Chair stated that he had forwarded a copy of the email to Garden Parklands Village.
 - iii. The correspondence was noted.

- k. The footpath from the Garden Parklands Village gate to McCombe Avenue;
 - i. The meeting discussed the email received on 1st March from Lee Wharton, City of Fremantle. He had stated that the City had inspected the footpath outside the entrance from Garden Parklands Village to McCombe Avenue. He stated that *“There is very little sand on the path that look’s like it could be getting washed onto from the retic at the top end, however there is slightly more near where they have demolished the building down the road we will be removing those 2 bollards at the redundant crossover”*.
 - ii. The meeting noted the email.

- l. Freospace webpage.
 - i. The Chair advised the meeting that the Freospace webpage was fixed and is now working fine. The Minutes from the February meeting are posted on there as is agenda for this meeting. All future minutes and agendas will be posted there, as will the dates and times of meetings and other events. The web address is <https://samson.freospace.com.au>

3. General Business

- a. The Chair advised the meeting of the City’s Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan and the survey that is currently being conducted. Hard copies of the survey were available at the meeting for those who wanted them or the survey could be completed on line at mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/communitysafety The survey will be open until 12 April 2019.

- b. The Chair read the following email received from Tony Miosich dated 23rd March re dogs off leash in Samson Park.
 - i. *“Could it please be clarified by the next meeting the correct ruling for dogs off leash on bush tracks in Samson Park. There is no signage prohibiting dogs off leash on bush tracks. There is no local bylaw reference siting the offense and relevant penalty for non compliance. There is no reference to the dog act stating same. The only signage is*

pictured below “requesting” dogs be on a leash in the bush area. This implies it is discretionary whether dogs are on a leash or not. Ratepayers have been lead to believe that it is compulsory to have dogs on a leash on bush tracks but the signs relating to this are contradictory. Would it be possible for a Ranger to attend the next precinct meeting to alleviate the confusion?”

- ii. The Chair advised the meeting of the following in response to the email received.
 1. When the dogs on leash policy was first introduced the City had placed signs at entrances to the tracks within the park advising the public of on leash / off leash areas, however many of these signs had been vandalized, stolen or the poles removed and thrown into the bush.
 2. He could find no requirement under the Dog Act 1976 or the City’s Local Laws Relating to Dogs that requires the City to post signs as suggested.
 3. Section 31 (1) (a) Dog Act 1976 creates an offence for a person who has a dog off leash in a public place.
 4. Section 31 (2) (a) Dog Act 1976 allows for a person to have a dog off leash in an approved dog exercise area.
 5. As the City has declared only the central grass area and the limestone path from Sellenger Avenue to the picnic area as the dog exercise area, the bush tracks within the park are to be considered as a public place within the meaning and subject to the provisions of Section 31 (1) (a) Dog Act 1976. Accordingly dogs must be kept on leash on these tracks.
 6. After discussion the meeting decided it was not necessary to invite a Ranger to attend the next meeting to discuss this matter.
- c. Mr Abbott has advised that there will be a community-planting day at Samson Park. The date is to be advised, however it is expected to be during the winter. Further information will be provided to the community and the SPG as it becomes available.
- d. The meeting was advised that signs have recently been erected at Samson Recreation Centre stating that parking is restricted to customers at all times and that a parking permit is required. The signs further state that penalties apply under the City of Fremantle Parking Local Law. Comment at the meeting included the following:
 - i. Parents (**who are City ratepayers**) use this car park to drop off and collect their children from Samson Primary School. This practice has been taking place for the last 40 years with drop off occurring before 8:50 am in the morning when school starts and pickup occurring around 3 pm in the afternoon when school finishes. The parents use this car park due to the congestion in Lawrence Way, the street in which the school is situated. It is felt that by reducing vehicular congestion around the school in Lawrence Way

- they are reducing the risk of an accident occurring involving a primary school child and a car.
- ii. Some ratepayers use this car park whilst using Sir Frederick Samson Park. There is no other parking available at the park, only verge or street parking which causes congestion and sometimes blocks footpaths.
 - iii. Those present were disappointed that the City had taken this action without any consultation or notification to the precinct group or the community. The City is reminded of its own words in paragraph 2 of its Precincts Policy that the precincts *“are an avenue for informing the local government of community opinion and maintaining two-way communication between community members and the City of Fremantle”*.
 - iv. Those present at the meeting could not recall occasions when they had seen the car park full, even at school drop off or pick up times, which made the introduction of these parking restrictions even more bewildering.
 - v. Councillor McDonald to report back on this matter to next meeting.
- e. The lack of access for wheelchair users to the toilets and picnic area within Sir Frederick Samson Park was raised. The only verge parking available is on Sellenger Avenue near Baird Place, however there are no paths from the footpath on Sellenger Avenue from that location into the park. Chair to email the City and raise matter for consideration.
- f. The issue of Bindi weeds growing in the grass area of Sir Frederick Samson Park was discussed and what plans the City had in place to treat this problem. Chair to email the City for response.
- g. Councillor McDonald informed the meeting that new solar panels had been installed at the Samson Recreation Centre.
- h. Councillor Wainwright informed the meeting that the City of East Fremantle might restore some funding to the City to enable their residents to continue to use the Fremantle Library and other City services.
- i. Councillor Wainwright informed the meeting that the majority of houses in Samson have trees planted on their verges. The next planting of trees is scheduled for May.
- j. Councillor Wainwright informed the meeting that the supply of underground power to Samson is still under consideration, however it has major financial implications. Notwithstanding it remains part of a ten-year plan.

Meeting Closed 7:45pm

The next meeting is on Tuesday 18 June 2019 at 6:30pm in the Annex Room, Samson Recreation Centre.