

Samson Precinct Group

Minutes of Meeting held 6 August 2019

Venue: Annex Room, Samson Recreation Centre

Meeting Opened: 6:32pm

Attendance:

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

Apologies: Councilor Jeff McDonald

1. The Chair thanked the staff at the Fremantle Leisure Centre and Samson Recreation Centre, especially Dee, who assisted him today by arranging a key for him for the room tonight after he forgot to pick it up yesterday. He complimented them on the service provided.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting held 2 April 2019:**

Moved by Richard Evison, seconded by Karen Pina that the minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

3. **Business arising from previous meeting:**

The Chair advised that where necessary, issues raised at the April meeting had been forwarded to the City of Fremantle (City) for attention. Responses had been received from the City for all matters.

a. *Standing Agenda Item:* Fencing around grassed area.

i. The meeting noted the:

1. Realignment of the fencing behind the basketball court;
2. The reopening of the track between the grass area and Tuart Track; and
3. The mulch that had been applied and replanting that had occurred on the bush sides of various areas of the fence.

ii. It was reported that at the July meeting of the Friends of Samson Park Group, they had discussed planting native creepers etc along the fence to try and reduce its adverse visual impact.

iii. Clarification to be sought from the City regarding whether any further realignment of the fence line is planned. **Action Trimble**

b. *Standing Agenda Item:* Dead area of bush land on the northeastern corner of the park.

- i. The meeting noted that despite the poor condition of this small section of the park being raised with the City on previous occasions no action has been taken regarding its improvement.
 - ii. It was felt that this area of the park could be visually improved as a minimum action just by having a maintenance team attend and remove the dead trees and ground litter.
 - iii. After discussion it was agreed that transplanting a few Grass Trees into this area and planting other native trees etc as has been done recently in many other areas of the park be requested as a priority. This would present a much better impression of this bush forever site than the eyesore that currently exists in this section of the park.
 - iv. Clarification to be sought from the City regarding what action is planned for this area and a response to the suggestions outlined above. **Action Trimble**
- c. *Standing Agenda Item*: Entrance to Samson at South St and McCombe Ave.
- i. The meeting noted that no action has been taken by the City regarding improvement of this area.
 - ii. After discussion it was agreed that attention to the median strip on South Street in this area and the verges on South Street and at the corner of McCombe Ave need not be extensive and could consist of minor landscaping of the area that would include:
 - 1. More regular mowing of median strip and attention to edges; and
 - 2. Removal of weeds etc on verges and replaced with mulch and native ground covers and shrubs, Grass Trees etc.
 - 3. **Action Councilor Wainwright**
- d. Samson Recreation Centre Parking.
- i. The Chair advised the meeting that inquiries had revealed that:
 - 1. The introduction of the parking restrictions was caused by non patrons using the car park when they were attending activities at the Samson Primary School such as sports days, evening concerts, award nights etc.
 - 2. This resulted in paying patrons of the Recreation Centre being unable to park there.
 - 3. Recreation Centre management had raised this with Samson Primary School administration and believed parents had been advised not to park in the Recreation Centre car park during these events but some parents chose to ignore this advice.
 - 4. Parents using the Recreation Centre car park in the mornings and afternoons when dropping off and

collecting children from the school was not an issue with Recreation Centre management and infringements would not be issued to parents doing this.

5. Karen Pina will raise the issue at the next Samson Primary School P & C meeting and request that parents be reminded not to park in the Recreation Centre car park when attending sports days, evening concerts, award nights etc. **Action Pina**

- e. Access to toilets and picnic area at park for wheel chair use.
 - i. The meeting was advised that this issue had been raised with the City by email on 16/04/19 and an email reply was received from Mr Ryan Abbott, Manager Parks and Landscaping, City of Fremantle, on 02/05/19 stating in part that *"There is currently a program of audits occurring on footpaths/pram ramps across the city to inform a program of work for new and improvements to existing infrastructure. Data for parks has not yet been captured. With reference to Samson Reserve, it isn't overly accessible for inclusive access, and wheelchair access in particular is limited. While we haven't developed specific projects yet for Samson Reserve to improve access, it has been identified and will be considered as a future project. Linking the existing disabled bay on Sellenger down to the play area and picnic area would be hugely beneficial and would even help facilitate pram access."*
 - ii. It was further discussed that even if wheelchair access was improved the existing toilets are not suitable for use by people using wheelchairs and major modifications would be required to the toilet block to arrange this.
 - iii. The meeting noted the timely response from Mr Abbott on behalf of the City and accepted the information provided.
- f. Bindi weed growing in grass area.
 - i. The meeting was advised that this issue had been raised with the City by email and an email reply was received from Mr Ryan Abbott, Manager Parks and Landscaping, City of Fremantle, on 02/05/19 stating that *"The precinct team responsible for Samson Park have inspected all of the turf areas at Samson Park but found no Bindi weeds. Is there a specific location you can help out with? They have located some isolated patches of medic (burr) in the turf and hand pulled (this may have been it and misidentified. The turf areas have recently been sprayed with Barricade (pre-emergent) herbicide for the control of winter germinating weeds. Parks will be undertaking ongoing turf inspections to identify and control any weed germination that the Barricade is not successful against. Hope this helps."*

- ii. The Chair informed the meeting that he had spoken with City staff at the park who informed him they had been / were looking for outbreaks of Bindi weed and sought help in identifying specific areas.
- iii. The meeting noted the response and the work being conducted by the city to identify and eradicate Bindi weed as it occurs.
- iv. Those present agreed to photograph any future growth areas of Bindi weed they identify, and email photos and specific locations to the City to enable staff to attend and treat the affected area/s.

4. General Business

a. Establishment of formal parking bays on Sellenger Avenue between Kirby Way and Sowden Drive.

- i. Discussion occurred concerning the parking of cars on the verge along Sellenger Ave adjacent to Sir Frederick Samson Park opposite Baird Place. There is one concrete disabled parking bay at this location with a long section of verge that is just sand and weeds being used by other cars that park there.
- ii. Sir Frederick Samson Park has no parking area and it was felt that the establishment of a number of parallel parking bays along Sellenger Avenue at the above location would be advantageous as it would:
 - 1. Enhance community safety as it would prevent those irresponsible motorists encroaching over the footpath when they park as occurs now; and
 - 2. Provide the City with the opportunity to improve the visual impact of the area as the main entrance to the park, the City's premier bush forever site.
- iii. It was unanimously agreed that no verge trees should be destroyed in the construction of parking bays. Any work should be conducted around them.
- iv. Councillor Wainwright stated that the Precinct Group should raise the matter as a formal request with the City and ask that they note this. **Action Trimble**

b. City of Fremantle Bike Plan 2019 – 2024.

- i. The Chair advised the meeting that he had been notified of the City of Fremantle Bike Plan 2019 – 2024. It is available on the City website. The specific impacts for the suburb of Samson are the:
 - 1. The 5 + Year Plan includes a proposed bike bridge over Stock Rd connecting Hilton to Samson at the western end of Sowden Drive and the local bike network to continue along Sowden Drive, Sellenger Drive, McCombe Ave, Petterson Ave then on to path through Alan Edwards Reserve into Kardinya. This is

dependent on MRWA approving and funding the bridge over Stock Rd. Councilor Wainwright provided some context regarding the likelihood of funding being provided for this project.

2. The 5 + Year Plan includes an extension of bike lanes on McCombe Ave. Currently the bike lanes only run from South Street to Petterson Avenue. Councilor Wainwright and others stated that the section of McCombe Avenue to Winterfold Road was not currently wide enough to permit a bike lane so major road work would need to be undertaken for this to occur.
- c. The Chair informed the meeting that he had attended the Friends of Samson Park meeting held on 15 June 2019.
- i. The Friends of Samson Park Group had reformed with Paula Lorie elected as Chairperson;
 - ii. Katrina Sachse, City of Fremantle attended the meeting and spoke on a number of issues concerning the City's plans for the park and how they could help the group;
 1. She mentioned a long term intent of the City to reintroduce native animals (bandicoots etc) to the park if their safety could be ensured
 2. She stated the City has installed a dog trap and a cat trap in the bush area of the park and these had successfully caught one dog and cat in each one at this time.
 - iii. The group discussed some short and long term objectives. These were noted for further discussion at the next meeting.
 - iv. Alison Evison stated that she attended the second meeting of the group. They felt that there was some overlap from the Precinct Group and their group on matters relating to the park however it was not considered a problem.
- d. Formalisation of bush tracks in Sir Frederick Samson Park.
- i. The Chair referred to an email the Precinct Group had received from Mr Ryan Abbott, Manager Parks and Landscaping, City of Fremantle, dated 01/05/19 stating *"Please be advised that the planned track works will commence in Samson Park this coming Monday 6 May 2019 and is estimated to run for approximately 3 weeks. There will be some disruptions to track access and closures will be in place to facilitate works. Signage will be placed in the park to advise the community and we have timed the works to avoid the recent school holidays. The works are occurring on the tracks in the southern portion with the main upgrade on the track that enters from the corner of Sellinger/McKenzie and the tracks entering off Mckenzie."*
 - ii. The Chair informed the meeting he had raised this issue at the Friends of Sir Frederick Samson Park meeting held on

15/06/19. He stated at that meeting that the City had formalised 2 tracks leading into the park from McKenzie Rd, the wide track leading from the south west corner of Sellenger Drive into the park, and a track leading off this track into the centre grass area. He had asked Katrina Sachse, City of Fremantle if the City intended carrying out further work to formalise any further tracks within the park. She stated that this was not the City's plan at this stage as they wanted to study the effect of the work they had done first.

- iii. With the exception of the track leading down into the centre grass area the work carried out by the City was in accordance with the information provided by Mr Abbott by email on 01/05/2019.
- iv. On 19/06/19 the Chair became aware that the City had commenced formalizing a single person sand bush track in the park that runs in a north south direction adjacent to Sellenger Avenue on the western side of the park. It was previously only wide enough for 1 person to walk along but is now a limestone path, that is a minimum 2.5 metres wide at its narrowest point, generally 2.7 to 2.8 metres wide, and at one point is 3 metres wide, on a series of random measurements he took.
- v. The meeting noted that the City had published a document in 2018 detailing its plans for formalizing tracks in the park and which tracks it intended to formalize. It shows a map of the park depicting these tracks. The track that was turned into a limestone path on or about the 17/06/19 is believed to be the one clearly shown as being left as a "*bushwalking dirt track*", not one of the tracks to be formalized. If it is not this track then it is not even considered in their scope of works.
- vi. Construction of this new limestone path as described above has resulted in the destruction and damage of grass trees and we would suspect other natural fauna in this bush forever site.
- vii. It was resolved that the City be asked to answer a number of important questions that had been raised concerning this issue, such as:
 1. Was this work approved?
 2. If so, who approved it and when?
 3. Why were local councillors / Precinct Group not informed?
 4. Why was Katrina Sachse not informed?
 5. If this was a mistake:
 - a. What action has the City put in place to avoid similar mistakes occurring in the future? and
 - b. Does the City intend to take action to restore this bush forever site to its previous state

Action Trimble

- e. Bushfire Hazard Assessment. The meeting noted that both the agenda (at pages 169, 170 & 178) and the minutes (at pages 183, 184 & 193) for the Full Council meeting held on 26/06/19 refer to Sir Frederick Samson Park as being in Hilton. Those present were disappointed that City staff preparing and approving such important documents permitted such mistakes to occur on a document subject to approval at a Full Council meeting. Resolved that email be forwarded to the City requesting they advise staff to be aware that Sir Frederick Samson Park is in Samson. **Action Trimble**

- f. Progress / information from City re dog fountain and signage in park:
 - i. Email to be forwarded to the City requesting update on progress re dog fountain.
 - ii. Discussion occurred on the naming of the approved walking tracks within the park. Currently only two tracks are named and signposted, these being Woodland Walk and Tuart Track. After discussion it was agreed that all approved tracks within the park should have name signs posted at both ends. This is a community safety issue as it will aid in identifying a specific area of the park should an ambulance, police or fire services be needed.
 - iii. Upgrading of the flora and fauna information signs in the park is required as the current ones are faded and difficult to read and some have been damaged by graffiti. Karen Pina informed the meeting that the Friends of Sir Frederick Samson Park Group was also supportive of new signs within the park providing details concerning the native flora and fauna. They will also be raising this with the City.
 - iv. Email to forward to the City requesting consideration and attention to above issues.
Action Trimble

- g. Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2019-24
 - i. The Chair advised the meeting that he had been notified of the development of the CSCP Plan that had involved extensive community engagement in late 2018 & 2019. This saw nearly 500 community members, businesses and local stakeholders contribute their thoughts. In conjunction with statistics, this information was used to develop 45 actions in three theme areas.
 - ii. You can find both the engagement report and draft CSCP Plan on mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/communitysafety - the draft is open for feedback until Friday 23 August.
 - iii. Councillor Wainwright informed the meeting that the acquisition of a CCTV trailer that was part of this plan was a significant asset that can be used in response to community safety and crime issues.

h. Councillor Wainwright

- i. Informed the meeting that Gardening Australia was doing a segment on the City's verge / street tree project and was seeking residents to interview on why / why not they had agreed to participate. Discussion identified pros / cons for participation in the street tree project. One person present at the meeting agreed to be interviewed by Gardening Australia. Councillor Wainwright to pass their details on.
 - ii. The Town of East Fremantle has restored its funding to the amount of \$150,000 per year thereby permitting its residents to use the City of Fremantle Library and associated facilities.
 - iii. Provided an update on issues concerning the recent housing development on South Street that is accessed from Jose Court. This site is adjacent to the City's border with the City of Melville. He advised that:
 1. The housing is operated under boarding house rules as whilst the occupants have separate living and sleeping facilities, they share kitchen facilities;
 2. The car park for the development is on land purchased by the developer from the City of Melville;
 3. The laneway permitting access between Jose Court and South Street is on City of Melville land and is in need of clearing and repair as a result of this development. This matter has been raised with the City of Melville, without success at this time but efforts will continue.
- i. It was reported that community members had requested that rain shelters be provided over the picnic tables in the BBQ area at the park. Discussion also considered that these would be useful in providing sun protection for most of the year also. Email to be forwarded to the City requesting consideration and approval of request. **Action Trimble**
- j. Community members had reported that some of the seats in the park had wooden slats that needed to be replaced. Specific details of which seats requiring maintenance had not been provided. Email to City bringing the matter to their attention. **Action Trimble**

Next meeting to be on Tuesday 1st October 2019 commencing at 6:30pm.

Meeting closed at 8:10pm