

Samson Precinct Group

Minutes of Samson Precinct Group Meeting held on Tuesday on 3 December 2019

Venue: Annex Room, Samson Recreation Centre

Meeting Opened: 6:33 pm

Attendance: David Trimble (Chair), Karen Pina, Councillor Frank Mofflin, Alison Evison, Richard Evison, Tony Miosich, Christopher Scanlan (City of Fremantle), Paula Lourie

Apologies: Councillor Sam Wainwright

1. **Councillor Mofflin** was welcomed to the precinct group meeting as a newly elected councillor. He provided a brief introduction of his plans for working with the Samson and Hilton Precinct Groups over the next four years and representing our interests with the City of Fremantle (the City).
2. **Presentation from City of Fremantle** Chris Scanlan, Team Leader, Community Safety, City of Fremantle, addressed the meeting and:
 - a. Provided an overview on new cat laws to be introduced by the City. Once introduced this program would include Cat traps being placed in Samson Park. Cats that are caught will be taken to the Cat Haven for processing and will be returned to their owners if they can be identified. Cat traps will be in place overnight only.
 - b. He stated that about 116 (mainly feral) cats had been caught in a recent 12-month period in parks and industrial areas within the City's boundaries.
 - c. Stated that a fox has been photographed in Samson Park.
 - d. Provided information regarding the working hours and powers of the Rangers employed by the City.
 - e. **Action Item from October Meeting. Vacant block on the corner of McCombe Ave and Petterson Ave:** The Chair advised that an email was received from Mr Scanlan on 11/10/19 advising that the block *"has been inspected by the team and is compliant with the relevant legislation"*. Mr Scanlan provided more detail to his email comments and added that the City would continue to monitor the condition this vacant block.
 - f. Stated that there had been a significant fire in Samson Park about 3 weeks earlier. Prior to this he had met with officers from Murdoch FESA and identified areas of high risk with heavy fuel load levels in the central to north areas of the park. The fire was believed to be arson.
 - g. Mr Scanlan was thanked for his attendance and informative comment on the subjects discussed.

3. Minutes of previous meeting held 1 October 2019:

Moved by Karen Pina, seconded by Tony Miosich that the minutes be accepted.
Carried unanimously.

4. Business arising from previous meeting:

Issues raised at the October meeting where necessary were forwarded to the City for attention on 9 October 2019. Responses are reported as they arise on the agenda.

- a. **Standing Agenda Item: Fencing around the grassed area.** The meeting noted the general condition of the fence is deteriorating and it needs some maintenance work.
- b. **Standing Agenda Item: Dead area of bush land on the north-eastern corner of the park.** The meeting noted the email reply received from Mr Abbott, Manager Parks and Landscape, City of Fremantle, on 18 October 2019 in which he stated *“Agreed as noted, we will be taking a further look at this in the context of aesthetics, revegetation program and the requirements of management for fire hazard mitigation. We will provide further information once we have assessed this in more detail”*. The meeting also noted the excellent clearing and bush beautification work that was being done by the City and their contractors, Natural Area Consulting Management Services in bushland areas on the north west corner of park. This had continued into the area of bushland behind the bbq area and then in the area behind the toilet block. The Precinct Group hopes that this work continues and includes the north-eastern corner of the park, as it is exactly what we have been requesting the City to do in this area for several years.
- c. **Standing Agenda Item: Improvement to the entrance to Samson at South St and McCombe Ave.** The meeting noted the email received from Councilor Wainwright dated 3/12/19. After further discussion it was reiterated that an increase in the maintenance program on the median strip and the verges on South Street in the vicinity of the intersection be requested, accompanied with an improvement (beautification programme) and ongoing maintenance programme on the street verges in the area around McCombe Avenue, Bradbury Way and South Street. **Action Councilor Wainwright**
- d. **Establishment of formal parking bays on Sellenger Avenue between Kirby Way and Sowden Drive.** Email to be forwarded to Mr Graham Tattersall, Director Infrastructure and Project Delivery, City of Fremantle after February 2020 Precinct meeting stressing the importance of this request. **Action Trimble**
- e. **Bushfire Hazard Assessment.** The Chair advised that an email was forwarded to the City 09/08/19. The meeting noted the reply received from Mr Abbott, on 18 October 2019.
- f. **Lack of progress / information from City re dog fountain.** The meeting noted that the dog fountain had now been installed in Samson Park and thanked the City for completing this project.

- g. **Naming of approved tracks.** The meeting noted the email reply received from Mr Abbott on 18/10/19 advising that *“There are currently **four** established named trail walks within the park as below”*. He included a picture depicting these **4** tracks with a short description of each. Unfortunately, this information is incorrect and contradictory to previous information he had provided to the precinct group. The picture he attached states there are **3** named tracks in the park, the 4th track is a nature trail and you are advised to follow the information signs (impossible). There are only **2** tracks within the park which are sign posted. These are Woodland Walk (2 name signs) and Tuart Walk (1 name sign). The track depicted in his email as Banksia Walk is depicted as running from Sellenger Avenue in an easterly direction towards Woodland Walk. Members of the Precinct Group have lived in Samson for many years, some since 1981 and this track has never been signposted. Furthermore according to the attachment (<https://mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/samson-park-dog-on-lead/faqs#36924>) included in Mr Abbott’s email forwarded to us on 16/08/19 supporting the construction of the limestone track on the western side of the park adjacent to Sellenger Avenue the track called Banksia Walk is not depicted and no longer exists. The Precinct Group would like the City to explain is the attachment included in Mr Abbott’s email dated 16/08/19 a correct depiction of the tracks in Samson Park, or is it the tracks as depicted in the email forwarded to us on 18/10/19? Regarding the naming of the tracks Mr Abbott advises that the City *“In the past 2 years, the City has engaged a Noongar Elder to provide information on the Noongar cultural and ethno-botanical knowledge of area”*. The Precinct Group queries this extended time frame. We are fully supportive of the intent expressed by Mr Abbott to incorporate traditional owners of the land in the naming process however we feel this can be achieved in a timelier manner. Furthermore, we have previously advised the City that we consider the naming of these tracks to be a safety issue should a medical, fire or police emergency arise (email 08/09/19). The Precinct Group notes the comment regarding track naming in the Samson Park Bushfire Hazard Reduction Plan 2019 commissioned by the City, and recently completed by Natural Area Consulting Management Services and accepted by the City which recommends at point 6.3 on page 31 that *“pedestrian tracks should be effectively marked and “directional signage be installed to inform park users and fire responders of distances to and locations of exits within the park”*. These comments are also noted by Mr Abbott in his email dated 18/10/19 yet the City feels this issue is significantly unimportant enough to be deferred to the 20/21 budget cycle. The Precinct Group would like the City to:
- i. Review the decision regarding funding for track signage within Sir Frederick Samson Park and fund it from the 19/20 budget cycle;
 - ii. Expedite the naming process for the tracks within the park; and
 - iii. Advise us what map of tracks within the park is the correct one for our reference, the attachment to the email dated 16/08/19 or the email dated 18/10/19?

- h. **Improved signage within the park.** The meeting noted the email reply received from Mr Abbott on 18/10/19. The Precinct Group expressed disappointment that this information signage was also being deferred to the 20/21 budget cycle as it has been a long standing agenda item for this group, similar to the previous item regarding the naming and adequate sign posting of tracks.
- i. **Shelter over picnic tables in BBQ area.** The Chair advised that an email was forwarded to the City 09/08/19. The meeting noted the email reply received from Mr Abbott on 18/10/19 advising that *“The level of amenity provision in Samson Reserve would be good to discuss further with the Precinct group and Friends of Samson Park as there are other amenity upgrades we could consider for the park as part of a budget submission. Some of the ones we have heard from the community / discussed internally are accessibility to BBQ/play area from disabled bays, park furniture provision including shelters, extension of play area (with nature play?), resolving the drainage issue in the middle of the park and the presentation of the entries. I’m sure the precinct have a range of other ideas as well which would be good to discuss and form part of a budget submission”*. After discussion it was agreed that Alison Evison would represent the Precinct Group at a meeting as suggested by Mr Abbott.
- Action Trimble**
- j. **Repairs to benches in park.** The Chair advised that an email was forwarded to the City 09/08/19. The meeting noted the email reply received from Mr Abbott on 18/10/19 advising that he had forwarded this to the maintenance for inspection and action. The Chair advised the meeting that he had observed that repairs had been completed to the bench next to exercise station 2, and the bench next to the basketball court.
- k. **Report from Precinct Conveners Meeting 3/10/19:** Trimble reported that he had attended this meeting and:
- i. **Lack of response from the City:** He had spoken with members of other Precinct groups individually and asked if they had experienced similar problems with a lack of response from the City to email requests from them regarding community issues. They unanimously stated that they did not correspond directly with the City regarding anything they wanted done, but all requests were directed to their elected councillors to address. They further stated that all their requests are attended to by the City. After discussion it was decided that the Precinct Group would continue with its current practice of directing some issues to our councillors for attention and emailing other matters direct to the City for attention.
 - ii. **Hilton Precinct Group** gave a presentation on an activity they organized to promote the suburb. This involved hiring the tourist tram and running 30 minute tours around sites within the suburb attending bakeries, businesses for tastings and viewings etc. It was very successful.

- iii. **South Fremantle Precinct Group** gave a presentation on a community function they held to celebrate the completion of City works along South Terrace within the Precinct. This was also very successful and was planned to be held again.
 - iv. **White Gum Valley Precinct Group** gave a presentation on how they commenced as a group about 20 years ago. They currently have about 20 people attend their meetings. In the past they used part of their City funding to do a postal drop to all residents within the precinct advising them of the details (time / date / venue etc) of meetings. As well as the current notifications for Samson Precinct Group Meetings it was suggested that a post could also be placed on the Samson Community Facebook Page. **Action Trimble**
- I. **Samson Park Management Plan:** The meeting noted the email received from the City on 11/10/2019 from person only known as David advising that:
- i. *“There is no later version of the Samson Park Management Plan, only the 2006 version exists.”* and
 - ii. *I have forwarded your email to the Parks & Landscapes team in regard to representation of the Samson Precinct Group and the Friends of Samson Park Group for any new management plans for Samson Park”.*

After discussion it was agreed that lack of a current management plan for the park possibly contributes to the confusion at the City regarding issues concerning the park and the extended time frames to achieve simple outcomes.

5. General Business:

- a. **Community Development Team:** The meeting wished to express special thanks to Rhiannon Bristow-Stagg, Community Development Team for her ongoing assistance provided to the Samson Precinct Group over the past 12 months. Both Rhiannon and Kahlia Belli attend to any issues we raise with them promptly, efficiently and in a friendly manner. The Community Development Team overall are very pleasant and helpful to deal with and represent the City in a very professional manner. **Action Trimble**
- b. **Report on picnic in park 1/12/19:** It was reported that this event was well attended and very successful. Some Samson Precinct Group funds were used to provided games etc for kids and an ice cream truck attended.
- c. **Community activity in Park around Easter 2020:** Discussion occurred on holding a community event in the park around Easter 2020. The meeting authorised Karin Pina and Alison Evison to liaise with other community members and form a Working Group to progress this issue. An application to use Samson Precinct Group funds for this event would be made to the City. **Action Pina & Evison**

- d. Seating around Samson Park:** It was raised that there was no seating provided around the footpath surrounding Sir Frederick Samson Park. It was commented that whilst there was adequate bench seating provided within the park not all residents, especially the elderly or disabled walked inside the park. If they were walking around the park and needed to rest, there was no place for them to do so. It was agreed to email the City and bring the matter to their attention. **Action Trimble**
- e. Councillor Mofflin:** Spoke on City budget issues and Precinct Group impacts,
- f. Rubbish bin at Samson Park:** The meeting was advised that the rubbish bin at the main entrance to Samson Park was overflowing with rubbish and had bags of rubbish stacked up on the ground next to it. Rubbish from this bin had been blowing into the park and around Sellenger Avenue and Baird Place. This was not rubbish from the Picnic in the Park event on Sunday 1/12/19 as all rubbish from that event was bagged and removed by the organisers. The Chair advised the meeting that he rang the City to report the matter in the early afternoon of 2/12/19 and was advised that the matter would be treated as a priority and listed as urgent and should be attended to within 24 hours. On his way to this meeting at 6pm on 3/12/19, approximately 29 hours later the rubbish bin had still not been emptied and rubbish was still spread around the park and the streets. It was unanimously agreed that issues such as this should be attended to more expeditiously by the City. Email to forwarded to the City. **Action Trimble**

Next meeting to be on Tuesday 4th February 2020 commencing at 6:30pm.

Meeting closed at 8:10 pm