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MINUTES

Hearing of Submissions meeting to be held
at Darebin Civic Centre,
350 High Street Preston
on Tuesday, 15 March 2016
at 6.30 pm.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS
COMMITTEE OF THE DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL
HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.31 PM

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr. Vince Fontana (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Bo Li

Cr. Trent McCarthy (6.45 pm)

Cr. Steven Tsitas

Cr. Oliver Walsh (Deputy Mayor)

Council Officers

Rasiah Dev – Chief Executive

Patti Wenn – Director Culture Leisure and Works

Eddy Boscarior – Manager Economic Development and Civic Compliance

Jody Brodribb – Acting Coordinator Council Business

2. APOLOGIES

An apology was lodged for Cr. Williams and Cr. Villella and for the initial absence of Cr. McCarthy.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

**4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS HEARING OF
SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Committee Decision

MOVED: Cr. B. Li

SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

THAT the Minutes of the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on 28 September 2015 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

5.1 JOHNSON PARK PROPOSED DOG OFF-LEAD AREA

Author: Manager Economic Development and Civic Compliance

Reviewed By: Director Corporate Services

Report Background

A petition signed by 424 residents requesting the creation of an off lead area in Johnson Park, Northcote has been received by Council.

In response, it was recommended that the northern area of the park, which has no formal recreational usage, be considered for designation as an off lead area and that Council invite submissions in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* from the community regarding the proposed changes.

This report is in response to the resolution dated 23 November 2016

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 23 November 2015 the Council resolved:

That Council:

- (1) *Designate the northern area of Johnson Park as an off-lead area.*
- (2) *Write to surrounding residents and publish a public notice in local newspapers inviting submissions from the community regarding the proposed change to the off-lead designation at Johnson Park, Northcote.*
- (3) *Note submissions will be in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 and are to be submitted by a date which is not less than 28 days after the date on which the notice is published.*
- (4) *Capital works and safety works be referred to this year's capital works budget: eg fencing and other safety treatments/child safety.'*

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

There are a number of shared goals in the Council Plan which support the strategic direction of the Order under the *Domestic Animal Act 1994*.

Sustainable and Resilient Neighbourhoods

- Protect and enhance biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage assets, wildlife corridors, local forests, waterways and the built and natural heritage areas.
- Develop policies to encourage the ethical treatment of all animals and to support responsible pet ownership.

Excellent Service

- Create a business culture that focuses on customer service and the provision of timely and meaningful responses to community needs and requests; and analyse all customer feedback, using it as an opportunity to improve the quality of our services.

Summary

Letters were sent out to residents within 1 km radius of the park surrounding Johnson's Park on 14 January 2016, as well as advertisements in the Preston and Northcote Leader on 12 and 13 January 2016 respectively, inviting them to make a submission to Council's proposal to designate the northern area of Johnson Park as a dog off-lead area. Residents had until 12 February 2016 to lodge their written submissions.

Sixteen submissions have been received which includes ten against the proposal and five in support, with one submitter providing general comment regarding enforcement (neither supports or objects) for the proposal to designate the northern area of Johnson Park as off lead. Most of the submitter's main concern is that of safety for other users, particularly children, pedestrians and cyclists using the paths through the Park. The common recommendation was that the area would need to be fenced in order to address the identified issues. Also, seven questioned whether there would be sufficient enforcement if the park were to be made off-lead.

Presentations

At the invitation of the Chairperson, Cr. Fontana, the following people spoke in support to their written submissions.

- Myf Browning
- Ro Packer
- Andrew Wear

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairperson, Cr. Fontana, thanked all speakers for addressing the Committee in support of his/her written submission.

Committee Decision

MOVED: Cr. B. Li
SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

THAT the Hearing of Submissions Committee:

- (1) Note that a further report be made to Council on 4 April 2016 appraising the written submissions received and the verbal presentations heard by the Committee in respect of the proposed Johnson Park Dog-Off Lead Area.
- (2) Note that officers will write to persons who made a submission to thank them and notify them of Council's decision and the reasons for it.

CARRIED

Cr. Walsh temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 6.44 pm and returned at 6.46 pm.

Cr. McCarthy entered the meeting at 6.45 pm.

6. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 6.49 pm.