



Shire of Busselton
Geographe Bay

ADDENDUM NO. 2
to
Council Agenda

25 February 2009

ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS FORMATS ON REQUEST

Issue Date: 23 February 2009

SHIRE OF BUSSELTON

COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2009

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16. COMMUNITY AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT**16.5 DECISIONS FROM THE GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS CONDUCTED ON 4 FEBRUARY 2009**

FILE NO: COM1
ATTACHMENT(S): Nil

PRECIS

This report is presented to enable the Council to consider the outcomes of the annual meeting of electors that was convened at the Baptist Centre on 4 February, 2009. There was a variety of issues discussed and four motions carried. These decisions, in accordance with the Local Government Act, now require the consideration of the Council.

BACKGROUND

At the electors' meeting, the attendees moved and carried a motion that the Council considers the needs of pedestrians in the CBD. The meeting's decision was:

Moved Mr VS Barker, seconded Mr Graham Edwards;

That the Council give urgent consideration to the needs of pedestrians in the CBD, particularly those with disabilities.

A second motion was moved and carried by the meeting in relation to the potential to purchase land on which Shire offices could be constructed. The meeting's decision was:

Moved Ms Clare Dean, seconded Cr Anne Ryan;

That the land opposite the Shire offices on the corner of Causeway Road and Southern Drive currently for sale be considered for purchase by the Shire and offices be built to accommodate staff for the next several decades and with the view to later constructing other offices as suggested in the current proposal for the community hub.

The third motion related to the provision of shade at public playgrounds in the Shire. The meeting resolved:

Moved Ms Pauline Edwards, seconded Mr Stuart Anderson;

That shade be provided in all public playgrounds.

Finally, there was a resolution for the Shire President and Deputy Shire President to stand down. The meeting's decision was:

Moved Mr Rob Griffiths, seconded Ms Geraldine Gamble;

That the Shire President and Deputy Shire President stand down from those positions at the next Council meeting and not seek re-election to those positions.

CONSULTATION

Discussions and questions regarding these matters that took place at the electors' meeting resulted in the carrying of the four motions. Of the 68 members of the public in attendance at the meeting, all supported the motion for urgent consideration of the needs of pedestrians, no one dissented to the motion to consider the purchase of land for the Shire offices, although several abstained from voting, as was the case for the motion that related to shade in playgrounds. With regard to the motion for the President and Deputy President to stand down, 48 people voted in favour, 9 voted against and 11 people abstained from voting.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1995, in accordance with Section 5.33, that decisions made at an electors' meeting are to be considered at the next ordinary Council meeting, or if that is not practicable at the first ordinary meeting after that meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

If at a Council meeting the local government makes a decision in response to a decision made at an electors' meeting, the reasons for the decision are to be recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting.

It is the role of Councillors in accordance with Section 2.10(c) of the Local Government Act to facilitate communication between the community and the Council. An electors' meeting is one such forum for this to occur.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Discussed within the officer comment where implications are evident.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Discussed within the officer comment where implications are evident.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Discussed within the officer comment where implications are evident.

OFFICER COMMENT

Needs of pedestrians in the CBD, particularly those with disabilities

The Shire supports two groups that consider matters within the CBD, including pedestrian access and walkability. Shire officers form part of the community meeting groups and liaise with members on various issues within the CBD in relation to pedestrian safety and future pedestrian opportunities. The groups are:

- * Access and Inclusion Committee - regularly meets to discuss and action improvements for disabled community members within the CBD;
- * The Busselton 2020 Group - regularly meets to discuss and action CBD initiatives including pedestrian friendliness of the CBD.

Should any member of the public have concerns about disabled access throughout the CBD, or pedestrian access generally, they could make representation to the above groups or the Shire with any specifics in order for the issue/s to be addressed. The motion as it was carried is very broad and it can be shown that by the existence of the two groups mentioned, consideration is consistently given to the needs of pedestrians and particularly those with disabilities.

In order for the specific issues raised at the electors' meeting to be given consideration, the mover and seconder of the motion, and anyone who raised matters relating to disability access, can be invited to make representation to the Access and Inclusion Committee. The opportunity for matters of pedestrian access in the CBD generally to be addressed would be via the Busselton 2020 group and an invitation could also be extended for these matters to be raised in this forum.

It is therefore recommended that the decision of the electors' meeting be noted and that the Shire facilitates the presentation of these matters to the Access and Inclusion Committee and/or the Busselton 2020 group as appropriate, by inviting presentations or written submissions from the electors' meeting attendees who raised matters of this nature.

Consideration of purchase of land on the corner of Causeway Road and Southern Drive for the purpose of Shire offices

The Council has resolved to "*seek to create a Community Hub on the land comprising the existing Shire Administration and Lot 42 Causeway Road with the intent of accommodating the following:*

- (a) *A Shire Operations facility and Council Chamber (including facilities for Civic Receptions) to cater for the organisation for the coming 40 - 50 years to a five star Green Star rating.*
- (b) *Use of the existing Shire Administration Centre for public purposes either as a Community Resource Centre or accommodating Government Agencies.*
- (c) *The needs of Rotary Club of Busselton-Geographe Bay including high amenity Public Open Space."*

In accordance with the ensuing decisions of the Council, this will be a staged process and reports relating to the first stage will be presented to the Council in the next two months. These reports will examine how the organisation's needs can be met for the next 40 to 50 years on the current site and Rotary Park.

Other options would need to be explored if the needs cannot be met either for spatial reasons, outcomes of the environmental audit or any other relevant matter arising as part of this first stage progression of the existing Council resolution.

It is therefore recommended that the Council may consider any potential purchase of other land, and its associated implications, when it is in receipt of information on the first stage of the currently approved process. In order to consider the purchase, as requested by the motion carried at the electors' meeting, the Council would need to know, in the first instance, the cost of the land. This information, in relation to the lot identified in the electors' meeting decision, is readily obtainable and at this stage is known to officers.

It is the recommendation of officers that the decision of the electors' meeting be noted and that the Council considers the potential for purchasing other land if necessary at a time when it is in receipt of the information required from the first stage of the existing process.

Provision of shade in public playgrounds

There are approximately 30 areas of public open space (POS) with play equipment installed throughout the shire. Shade sails cost (the sail alone) \$1,500 per 35m² and an average set of play equipment such as that at Rotary Park covers an area of 450m². Therefore, the costs of the sail would be in the region of \$20,000, on top of this a structural design and supply and installation of the poles.

On average a basic site could cost \$30,000 to \$50,000 (these figures exclude maintenance, the installation and removal on a yearly basis for the winter and summer periods and vandalism) and for 30 sites this could potentially cost \$900,000 to \$1,500,000. If the Council is willing to fund this work then the Shire would implement the program based on the funding provided.

Shade for playgrounds is a preferred option in most instances by Community Infrastructure. At present the Shire's technical specifications (under review) do not address shade sails for playgrounds within subdivisions as part of the requirement for developer contributions within POS.

In most instances where a playground is to be situated within a new subdivision by a developer, it would be appropriate to ensure new playgrounds are fitted with a shade sail as a compulsory item if a new or extended playground is to be installed. Some flexibility will be required dependent on the site where established trees provide shade or part shade in the summer months. Established trees will need to meet appropriate design in open surveillance, shade between 11.00am and 3.00pm, healthy trees, pruning, etc.

Where the Shire is implementing a playground in an established POS then similar methodology will apply as for new subdivisions and be matrixed to ensure shade by buildings, vegetation and artificial sails is addressed for the particular time of year or solar orientation aspects.

As part of a long term shade initiatives, trees shall form part of shade establishment as replacement of shade sails on a regular ongoing basis will be expensive. Provision of shade sails where playgrounds are to be installed are recommended to be incorporated as part of the technical specifications review.

Positions of Shire President and Deputy Shire President

As attendees at the electors' meeting, the President and Deputy Shire President are aware of this decision. The decision has been included in this report to comply with Section 5.33 of the Local Government Act and it is therefore recommended that the decision be noted by the Council.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That the decision of the electors' meeting regarding consideration of the needs of pedestrians in the CBD, particularly those with disabilities, be noted and that the Shire facilitates the presentation of these matters to the Access and Inclusion Committee and/or the Busselton 2020 group as appropriate, by inviting presentations or written submissions from the electors' meeting attendees who raised matters of this nature.
2. That the decision of the electors' meeting regarding the potential purchase of land on the corner of Causeway Road and Southern Drive be noted and that the Council considers the potential for purchasing other land if necessary at a time when it is in receipt of the information required from the first stage of the existing process.
3. That the decision of the electors' meeting regarding the provision of shade for public playgrounds be noted and that the Council notes that the provision of shade sails where playgrounds are to be installed is recommended to be incorporated as part of the technical specifications review.
4. That the decision of the electors' meeting regarding the President and Deputy President standing down be noted.

