

# Northern Grampians Shire Council

## Stawell Recreation Advisory Group Meeting - Minutes

The meeting held at **6.00pm** on 15 July **2021** in the **Bennett Room at Western Highway Office Stawell.**

**Chair: Cr Emerson**

**Present:** Cr Murray Emerson, Cr Lauren Dempsey, Reg Smith, Kay Dalton, Ian O'Donnell, Nathan Baker, John Griffiths, Rob Lembo, Zander McDougall (NGSC) Tony Dark (NGSC)

**Apologies:** Lynne Jenkinson, Scotney Hayter

**1. Minutes of the previous meeting: 24 February 2021**

Motion moved that they were true and correct Reg Smith and seconded Kaye Dalton

**2. Business arising from the previous meeting:**

**3. General Business**

Item	TOPIC	Discussion	Action/ Outcome
1.1	North Park Netball Courts	<p>Discussed the project which is an outcome of the 2011 North Park Masterplan. The project has been successful in achieving funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV).</p> <p>Grant outcome successful and a media opportunity was organised for the Stawell Times news where several members were present. SRV will require a participation plan which will involve all groups that utilise the courts and it involves a plan around what we said in the application about participation and how the courts will be activated to deliver what we said.</p>	<b>Action:</b>

		<p>Tender process is nearly complete with applications closing on 13/7 where we had over 25 look at the proposal and 5 submissions received and were all within the budget and parameters of the process. Council will make a decision on 2/8/21 to award or not award the contract.</p> <p>Timeline if approved by council, will be for a start on 9/8 and completion by February 2022 for Contract works and NGSC works will be undertaken to be completed by April. Swifts have been consulted in relation to the start date and for their last home game on the 14 August the netballers will play at Central Park and football at North Park. The club will not be hosting a final this year due to the tight timeline to get the courts finished during the warmer months and allowing the acrylic surface to be installed. Given the scope of the project and the need to ensure it is started early with council preparing the area with activities such as demolition and excavation of contaminated soil etc it is priority to start as early as possible. As like many projects there are usually unforeseen delays and if the acrylic is not installed by Feb/March 2022 then there is a threat that there could be no netball at North Park during 2022 which is not acceptable therefore the earliest possible start is required to prevent such issues that are avoidable.</p> <p>Discussed the parking situation and the number of parks around the netball courts which was calculated at about 120. Included in the design is access for emergency vehicles and pedestrian footpaths and that the new design ensure a safer connectivity for all users.</p> <p>There will be site access changes and interruptions which will mean users will need to review how they use the facilities. The clubrooms will be accessible to everyone during the netball court construction and there will be signs advising this.</p> <p>Media and Communications - Community, clubs, users, schools will be notified of the project and its impacts.</p>	
--	--	---	--

		<p>Discussed the importance that all advisory group members, whilst are advocates for their individual clubs, are also responsible to represent other users when approached about projects and impacts etc.</p> <p>Discussed existing access issues and it was pointed out that the advisory group was membership of most users and it is important to utilise that environment to communicate, create partnerships and an understanding of working together to manage expectations and activities at the reserves.</p>	
<p><b>1.2</b></p>	<p><b>North Park Skate Park</b></p>	<p>Concept designs tabled and the project is a part of Council's 10-year capital program proposed to be delivered in 2022/23 through the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Fund program which is to be confirmed. Murray advised that there has been \$4.2M spent on the new clubrooms plus additional \$3M on other projects plus we need more money for SSAC so the funding will be required to be signed off by council.</p> <p>The concept designs are a part of the process to plan (design, consultation and funding) well prior to the final designs and project delivery.</p> <p>Next step is detailed design so it is ready for tender/construction.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p>
<p><b>1.3</b></p>	<p><b>North Park Masterplan</b></p>	<p>Previous Masterplan was 2011 and a new plan will be created and discussion points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council briefed about the current stages of the project on 5/7</li> <li>• Consultant engaged – Otium Planning Group who has extensive experience in recreation planning.</li> <li>• Key purposes – 10 Year plan, recreation opportunities, safety and connectivity, inclusive spaces, community engagement, fit for purpose infrastructure, costs and agreements/tenancy will be a part of the process.</li> <li>• Timeline – Now until December</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b></p>

		Discussed current access issues for clubs when gates are closed and that the masterplan process will be a good opportunity to feed this type of information into.	
1.4	<b>User Fees 2020/21</b>	<p>With 2019/20 fees already waived Council considered user fees and charges for the 2020/21 year due to be invoiced to clubs in June were assessed under the Covid and Hardship policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome is that Council approved waiver of the 2020/21 fees.</li> <li>• Future fee structure to be reviewed through the North Park Masterplan process</li> </ul>	<b>Action:</b>
1.5	<b>North Park Soccer Lighting Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The design of lighting project was tabled at the February meeting for discussion to support the World Game Application to provide lighting for the soccer pitch and athletics track. The project is a part of Council's 10 year capital program to enable the Stawell Pioneers Soccer Club to be able to train under satisfactory lights. The project was fully supported by the group and we discussed the grant application which was unsuccessful. Zander has organised a meeting with SRV on Monday to discuss the next steps of the application. Rob advised that the club had been successful in gained funding from the Federal Government (Dan Tehan) to go towards the project.</li> <li>• Rob advised that the pitch is in need of attention and for training they are using the main oval to train under lights which is working for now.</li> </ul> <p>Cr Emerson provided feedback that it can sometimes take a while to get funding as it doesn't happen overnight so clubs need to be patient.</p>	<b>Action:</b>
1.6	<b>Stawell Parks Precinct Plan - Outcomes and Actions</b>	<p>Project update relating to the precinct as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Central Park Fencing – Completed.</li> <li>● Portable grandstands – Completed by Easter 2021.</li> <li>● Waites Robson – Project deferred until future date due to other projects delivered as a part of Council's funded project delivery.</li> <li>● Concept design tabled and discussed for female friendly change rooms and some outcomes to be delivered as a part of Council's 10 Year Capital Program. Stage 1 to be delivered in 2022/23 through the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Fund program.</li> <li>● Next steps – Detailed design and Heritage Victoria and Permit approvals</li> </ul>	<b>Action:</b>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Second netball court at Central Park – Concepts presented and also discussed the Athletic Club storage which will be impacted. Tony met with the Athletic Club earlier in the year and the club is receptive to talk about what options are available.</li> <li>● Heritage Victoria and permits required for any works and Tony is liaising with Heritage Victoria directly.</li> <li>● Further design will be required to ensure all aspects are covered.</li> <li>● The road and connectivity between Central Park and Cato was considered as part of the Stawell Parks Planning. The item of possible road closure was brought up and Cr Emerson said that they had walked the site with the Roads Minister and it was not seen as a preferred option or even a possibility to close or change the road conditions for a future project.</li> </ul>	
1.7	<p><b>North Park - New Multipurpose Clubrooms</b></p>	<p>Project update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official opening was completed in May which went well.</li> <li>• Terracing works will be completed after the football season.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion about use:</p> <p>IO: Facility working well for club - social functions have been a huge success. Working through problems as they arise. Carpet cleaning done a week after event but should have booked in next day. Original water leak fixed and water creep is not an issue in the amenities.</p> <p>Reg: drainage problem near ramp</p> <p>RL: Working well - liaising with Swifts. Can club get fob for season access and Tony will look into this.</p> <p>There has been some events such as Under 13 jumper presentation, Swifts Cabaret which is normally held at the Town Hall and this went well. Cr Dempsey held a work session at the venue and there were some issues in relation to technology and cups/cutlery that needed to be sorted</p> <p>Cr Emerson suggested that there is volunteer strain in managing facilities like North Park and central Park and we should consider incorporating cleaning fees into user fees.</p> <p>Cr Dempsey advised that council had sought suggestions for a name for the facility and the outcome is North Park Community Sports Centre will be recommended by Council.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p>
1.8	<p><b>Old Football Clubrooms</b></p>	<p>Cr Emerson opened the discussion and said that this has been discussed several times but Council needed some more direction from the group and asked that everyone be respectful of each others views during the discussion.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p>

		<p>Cr Emerson invited Reg to say a few words about the proposal they have for the clubrooms. Reg read the letter that the brigade had sent to Council and some key points mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CFA were involved in the original building construction and would like to take a lease on building and make renovations to make it fit for purpose train all year around, state brigade and junior development, maintain at no cost to council, demo would be \$30,000, only would get 15 car spaces. Toilets need to be close by for juniors and adults to use them as the new ones are too far away.</li><li>• A hand marked up design was presented that showed changes to the amenities, kitchen changes and access remodeled.</li><li>• The facility would be used for training, catering and social gatherings as well as an important part of future state events.</li></ul> <p>JG: Clubrooms aren't up to standard, toilets etc and the reason for the new ones was because the old facilities are not usable.</p> <p>IO: Club was involved in the construction of the old building and when SRV informed Swifts that it would not provide funding for the old facilities as they were too old and not worth renovating and they were under the impression that it would be demolished. Cr Emerson agreed that was the initial conversation. Would give more parking, clean the site up etc.</p> <p>Cr Dempsey asked Reg if they would use the clubrooms for storage and training and the new ones are accessible for use by all clubs and organisations.</p> <p>TD: Asked about the use and as a part of the masterplan project whether there was an opportunity to look at a new purpose built facility closer or in better proximity of the track would be considered rather than remodeling an old building.</p> <p>NB: Hard to comment as not sure of fire brigade operations.</p> <p>Cr Emerson advised that the toilets behind the rooms would be demolished and that the conversation about the clubrooms had changed from initial discussions about use. Cr Emerson explained that a training facility is more favorable than a duplication of the new facility built where \$4.2M has been spent.</p> <p>Cr Emerson and Cr Dempsey agreed that they would take the feedback to Council for consideration at the next opportunity.</p>	
--	--	--	--

**Other business:**

- Community garden and Dog off leash area is in construction stage and will be completed over the coming months. Plumbing and some excavation has been completed and fencing is to be done.

**4. Close time: 7.55pm**