

Meeting Date: Tuesday 8 December 2020
Location: Online Audio Visual Meeting
Time: 7.00pm

Council Meetings will be recorded on audio tape for minute-taking purposes as authorised by the Local Government Act 1993. Council Meetings will also be webcast.

NOTICE OF BUSINESS

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LATE ITEMS

13 REFERENDUM REGARDING POPULAR ELECTION OF MAYOR

Report prepared by: Senior Coordinator - Governance
File No.: GRP/09/5/15 - BP20/1254

REPORT SUMMARY

On 12 December 2019, Council resolved to conduct a constitutional referendum, as part of the then proposed local government election in 2020, seeking a response as to whether the City of Ryde electors want a popularly elected Mayor.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, council elections did not occur in September 2020 and have since been rescheduled for September 2021.

This report is intended to allow Council to reaffirm its desire to proceed with the referendum in 2021, as part of the local government election now scheduled for September 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council, as part of the proposed 2021 local government election, reaffirm its desire to conduct a constitutional referendum, seeking a response to the question as to whether the City of Ryde electors support a popularly elected Mayor.
- (b) That all costs associated with the referendum be funded from Council's Election Reserve.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

Alison Milne
Senior Coordinator - Governance

Report Approved By:

Rafik Meleka
Acting Manager - Corporate Governance

Steven Kludass
Director - Corporate Services

ITEM 13 (continued)**Discussion**

Council is required to advise the NSW Electoral Commission as soon as possible if a Council intends to undertake a referendum as part of the 2021 local government election.

The resolution passed by Council on 12 December 2019 makes specific reference to holding the Referendum at the 2020 local government elections, as opposed to the now proposed 2021 local government elections.

For clarity, Council is asked to reaffirm its desire to proceed with the referendum in 2021, as part of the local government election now scheduled for September 2021.

The Council resolution passed on 12 December 2019 states the following:-

- (a) *That at the 2020 Local Government Elections, Council conduct a constitutional referendum seeking a response to the question as to whether the City of Ryde electors want a popularly elected Mayor, and*
- (b) *That funding be made available for the referendum if required from the Election Reserve, and*
- (c) *That if additional funding is required that it be reported back via the quarterly review process.*

If the Council wishes to proceed with the Referendum in 2021 as part of the rescheduled Council elections, it is considered prudent for Council to confirm its intent and update the wording of the resolution to refer to 2021. The resolution, as it currently stands, could give rise to a legal challenge in terms of the validity or outcome of the Referendum. This could impose unnecessary legal costs on the Council.

Number of Councillors to be elected in 2024

Councillors should note that if the resolution proceeds and the Referendum is passed, changing the method of electing the Mayor will result in an increase or decrease in the number of Councillors to be elected as part of the electoral term commencing in September 2024.

Under section 280(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, the same number of Councillors are to be elected for each ward. A popularly elected Mayor is not included in this count.

ITEM 13 (continued)

Ryde currently has 12 Councillors in 3 wards, with the Mayor included within this number. The Local Government Act requires that if the Mayor is popularly elected, Council would need to have a Mayor plus an equal number of Councillors in each ward (for example, 13 Councillors in total, 12 Councillors across the 3 wards plus the popularly elected Mayor).

Financial considerations

The cost of the NSW Electoral Commission running the Referendum is estimated to be \$55,000 (excluding GST). This cost has already been accommodated within the budget allocated for the 2021 Local Government Election, with funding provided from the Election Reserve.

There is also sufficient funding allocated in the Election Reserve to accommodate costs associated with preparing supporting materials and undertaking community engagement prior to the Referendum. Councils are responsible for the preparation and publicity of the required explanatory material, accompanying the Referendum. Councils must ensure that the material is widely available and accessible, including those from a non-english speaking background.

**14 NEW NOMINATIONS FOR THE SPORT AND RECREATION AND
WHEELED SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Report prepared by: Manager - Parks**File No.:** GRP/09/5/15 - BP20/1261

REPORT SUMMARY

Recently two (2) nominations for a position on the Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee have been received. This report seeks Council's endorsement of the two (2) nominations, as members of the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee currently has 14 members with the terms of reference not placing a limit on the number of committee members. Both nominations are from community groups that are currently not represented on the Committee.

As such this report recommends the acceptance of these nominations.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorses nominees, Donna Armstrong and Andrew Hill, as new members of the Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee until the expiry of the current term in September 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

Simon James
Manager - Parks

Report Approved By:

Wayne Rylands
Director - City Works

ITEM 14 (continued)**Discussion**

The Terms of Reference for the Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee outlines the following:

Committee Description:

The primary roles of the Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee is to foster the appreciation, development and maintenance of sporting and recreational facilities, clubs and opportunities in City of Ryde, and to act as a central point of communication between Council and the sporting and recreational groups in the LGA.

Committee Responsibilities

The Committee is responsible for:

- *Representing the whole Ryde community who have an interest in recreation facilities managed by Council. This includes sporting clubs, associations, wheeled sports and passive recreation users in consultation with the City of Ryde Council.*

Community Membership of the Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee comprises:

- *one representative from sporting clubs, recreation organisations and regular hirers that use facilities and/or are located within the City of Ryde.*
- *residents that have an interest in working with Council on the development of recreation facilities for wheeled sports (skate boarding, BMX riding, scooters).*

Selection Criteria

Nominations are assessed by Council against the following criteria. This is equivalent to the process undertaken as part of an EOI in 2017:

- *Representation of a sporting club, recreation organisations and regular hirers that use facilities and/or are located within the City of Ryde.*
- *Understanding of the issues facing the sport and recreation community of the City of Ryde, including facilities management.*
- *Demonstrated interest in promoting the needs of sport and recreation community of the City of Ryde, including traditional and non-traditional sports.*
- *Demonstrated interest in actively promoting sport and recreation activities to the residents of Ryde.*

ITEM 14 (continued)

Recently, two (2) new nominations to the Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee have been received.

As part of the application process the two (2) nominees have outlined their respective interests and skills as they relate to the roles and responsibilities of the Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee.

A short summary of nominees' responses follows:

Nominee 1: Donna Armstrong

- Vice President at Ryde Athletics;
- Part of the Ryde Athletics Committee for 3 years holding various roles

Nominee 2: Andrew Hill

- Multi-sports coach in the local community
- Master coach – Tennis,
- Director of Education – AATC Tennis
- Run Bennelong Cup – Table Tennis in Ryde
- Would like to activate the community through sport

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.