



SPECIAL ELECTORS MEETING

**Minutes of Special Electors Meeting Called in Response to a Petition to Discuss
Proposed Flagpole Development on Sir James Mitchell Park
Meeting held in the Council Reception Room
at the Civic Centre, Sandgate Street, South Perth on
Wednesday 10 March 2010 commencing at 7.00PM**

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed Councillors, officers and ratepayers in the public gallery. He then paid respect to the Noongar peoples, the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, and acknowledged their deep feeling of attachment to country.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present:

Mayor J Best (Chair)

Councillors:

V Lawrance	Civic Ward
I Hasleby	Civic Ward
P Best	Como Beach Ward
L P Ozsdolay	Manning Ward
C Cala	McDougall Ward
R Wells, JP	McDougall Ward
R Grayden	Mill Point Ward
B Skinner	Mill Point Ward
S Doherty	Moresby Ward
K Trent, RFD	Moresby Ward

Officers:

Mr S Bell	Acting Chief Executive Officer
Mr P McQue	Manager Governance and Administration
Mr M Taylor	Manager City Environment
Ms P Arevalo	Marketing Assistant
Ms T Wilkes-Jones	City Environment Co-ordinator
Mrs K Russell	Minute Secretary

Apologies

Cr G Cridland	Como Beach Ward
Cr Wells, JP	McDougall ward – ill health
Cr T Burrows	Manning Ward
Mr C Frewing	Chief Executive Officer – annual leave

STATEMENT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor outlined the format for the Special Electors Meeting, called in response to a Petition from ratepayers to discuss the flagpole project for Sir James Mitchell Park. He advised that it was his intention to apply the City's Standing Orders Local Law to the running of the meeting, and raised the following points:

- Only electors can speak or vote at the meeting;
- Councillors are not obliged to attend Electors' Meetings but have chosen to do so to listen to the comments made by the residents of South Perth. Councillors will not respond to any questions;
- Electors have the right to speak however any Councillor wishing to speak does so as an elector;
- Council is not bound by any decision made at the meeting. Comments in relation to the project will taken into consideration when a report is presented at the March 2010 Council meeting;
- Each speaker will be permitted 5 minutes and should restrict their comments to the subject of the meeting;
- Speakers should not repeat comments / points already raised by another speaker.
- Meeting protocol is to be adhered to.

3. PETITION

The Mayor read aloud the text of the petition, as follows:

Petition received 23 February 2010 from Patricia Gorrill, 25/8 Darley Street, South Perth together with 102 signatures.

Text of the petition reads:

We, the undersigned, being electors of the City of South Perth request that a Special Meeting of Electors be held to discuss the proposed new flagpole development on Sir James Mitchell Park. We request the public be informed of the proposal and be given an opportunity to have input at a Special Electors' Meeting to be held prior to proceeding with this concept or plan or commencement of any construction.

4. REPORTS / PRESENTATION

The Mayor advised the meeting that the aim of the proposed project is to create a ceremonial area that can be used all year for various events beyond the current Australia Day ceremony. Some of the factors that have been considered are:

- 50th year of the City of South Perth -- looking for a significant project to recognise the history and heritage of the area. This is an inspirational location for its natural beauty and history and something needs to be done to upgrade the existing monument and flag pole.
- Consultation has taken place through the SJMP Master-plan
- the project is the subject of a report to the March Council Meeting and anyone wishing to make a deputation can do so at the Agenda Briefing on 16 March
- The cost has been fully budgeted for but the cost includes a grant of \$78k from the federal government's Infrastructure Australia program.
- The Mayor then introduced Mark Taylor the Manager, City Environment and requested he commence his presentation. Mr Taylor gave a powerpoint presentation on the Sir James Mitchell Park Ceremonial Project and covered the following topics:
 - Background of project
 - Concept Plan Presentation
 - Flag Protocol
 - Examples of similar flag pole sites

At the conclusion of the presentation questions were raised by members of the public gallery which were responded to by Mr Taylor.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Mayor opened the public comment period at 7.40pm. The following is a 'summary' of comments raised:

Patricia Gorrill, Darley Street, South Perth a member of the Sir James Mitchell Park Advisory Committee – I congratulate Council on the Beaches Project 'fabulous' – do not agree with this concept for the flag pole project. Why can we not retain one flag – have spoken to other advisory group / community members and the majority agree with having one flag – four flags as proposed devalues the Australian flag. Agree landscaped area around the existing flag pole site is in urgent need of upgrade.

David Smith, Collier Park Village, Morrison Street, Como – believe the Australian flag needs to be flown in isolation – acknowledge the arguments in flying the Western Australian flag - the Aboriginal flag is not recognised and has no place there - not fond of reconciliation – why not put up the Eureka flag or the Muslim flag – the Australian flag is iconic and should stand alone.

Chris Gorrill, Darley Street, South Perth – in relation to the proposed cost of the project - over \$300,000 discussed – if the job is to upgrade a 'tacky' site, then in my opinion \$300,000 is over the top. If we are looking at site as being a 'significant state site' then involve the State Government.

John McBain, Canning Highway, South Perth – member of Sir James Mitchell Park advisory group. I am proud of the Australian flag – if it were to change will accept change - part of history of this country is European settlers – past history of our country includes some events which we cannot be proud of - when we did not even count Aboriginal people on their own land – a decision by the High Court of Australia has returned some of the land to Aboriginal people which is an important part of reconciliation - a flag pole to fly the Aboriginal flag on Noongar land is a gesture of reconciliation.

Ron Smith, Darly Street, South Perth

Indigenous people and all others in Australia all vote under one flag - believe we are all Australian under the Australian flag.

Patricia Gliddon, Eric Street, Como – no question we respect the Aboriginal community and what they are trying to achieve but would like to see the Australian flag on its own in an honourable setting.

Sally Cook, York Street, South Perth – pleased to be a ratepayer – sorry some racist comments have been raised – do not believe anyone would have any concerns in the Aboriginal flag flying outside the Council office - believe the Australian flag has the respect of all of us – it represents us all and should stand on its own.

Silvio Worth, Coode Street, South Perth – attendance shows apathy in the number who have attended tonight.

Sally Cook – suggest the number in attendance is not apathy but ignorance due to the lack of advertising / consultation in relation to the proposed project.

Manager City Environment – stated that the advertisements calling for 'expressions of interest' in relation to the project resulted in three submissions being received.

Patricia Gliddon – we are here because we picked up a flyer recently – consultation referred to has not worked.

Roy Morey, Darley Street, South Perth – what do you do with four flags at the Australia Day Ceremony? – suggest we have one flag only at the site for the Australia Day Ceremony.

Shelah Perrot, Collier Park Village, Morrision Street, Como – heard a lot of comment that people do not hear about things / projects etc. if you check the City's website, noticeboards and the City Update in the local paper the information is available. Council meetings are also important - perhaps this is a good time to remind everyone to take more of an interest.

Lyn O'Hara, Eric Street, Como – are we here tonight because we were not informed on the proposal or are we here because we only want one flag? If the interpretation of the site is for it to be a community site then we need to have four flags – have a huge flag on the other side of the Narrows Bridge - do we want to be in competition with that?

Kathy Flecher, King Edward Street, South Perth – would it be possible to have four flags with flag poles at the entrance and exit of the park so that other flags could be flown there with just one Australian flag at the centre point where we celebrate Australia Day?

There being no further comments the Mayor thanked everyone for their input.

6. CLOSURE

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

These Minutes were confirmed at a meeting on 23 March 2010

Signed _____
Chairperson at the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed.