

SYDNEY HARBOUR FEDERATION TRUST

44th MEETING

Georges Heights – Private Meeting

28 July 2006

MINUTES

True & Correct Record of the 44th Meeting of the
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

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Chair

Minutes of the 44th meeting of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust held at Georges Heights at 10:00am on 28th July 2006.

Present

Mr Kevin McCann	Chair
Mr Robert Conroy	Member
Clr Susan Hoopmann	Member
Mr Peter Lowry	Member
Dr John Moriarty	Member
Brig. Kevin O'Brien (ret)	Member
The Hon. Barry O'Keefe (until 12:40)	Member
Ms Di Talty	Member

In attendance

Mr Geoff Bailey	Executive Director
Mr Nick Hollo	Deputy Executive Director
Mr Craig Watson	Director Cockatoo Is. (for Agenda Item 5)
Ms Libby Bennett	Director Projects and Planning (for Agenda Item 5)
Mr Daniel Sealey	Planner (for Agenda Item 6)
Ms Robyn Ephgrave	Secretariat
Ms Kate Stuart	Secretariat

The meeting opened at 10:05 am.

1. Introduction

a). Apologies

Nil.

b). The Trust resolved to meet in private because of confidential financial matters on the agenda.

Moved by K. McCann, seconded by P. Lowry.

c). Declarations of Interest

S. Hoopmann – Agenda Item 7

K. McCann and B. O'Keefe – Agenda Item 4

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting - Agenda Item 2

The Chair proposed some minor amendments to the minutes of the 43rd meeting held on 24 May 2006. He requested that any further minor amendments be forwarded to the Executive Director before the minutes were signed.

3. Matters Arising - Agenda Item 3

Item 40.8 Dr Moriarty reported on the current exhibition of Indigenous people in Defence Forces at Headland Park. A number of Aboriginal people had attended and the event was well received.

- Item 41.7 The Executive Director will draft a conflict of interest declaration to be signed by all Community Advisory Members prior to their appointment.
- Item 43.1 A draft lease for the Mosman Drill Hall has been prepared and will be forwarded to Mosman Council for its consideration. B. O'Keefe requested a copy of the draft.
- Item 43.2 Bradley Bushland Reserve. Discussed under Agenda Item 4
- Item 43.4 In principle agreement had been reached with the NSW Cabinet Office on the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to transfer the North Head site to the Trust. The Commonwealth's agreement to the final terms of the MOU is pending. The key points of the agreement are that:
- the Trust would gain freehold title of North Head;
- the site would be transferred back to the State in 2032; and
- the Trust must consult with the State on any proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan.
- The Chair requested that a copy of the Trust's legal advice on the MOU be provided to him, that a brief on the agreement be prepared and circulated to the Board and that further legal advice be sought on whether the agreement would extinguish Defence's permissive occupancy of North Head,
- B. O'Keefe requested confirmation that the sites of the Australian Police Institute and the NSW Sewerage Treatment Works are not included in the transfer.
- It was agreed that once final agreement is reached a signing ceremony will be organised to commemorate the transfer.
- Item 43.6 Further refinements to the Finance Report had been requested by the Chair and these will be incorporated in future reports.
- Item 43.7 The Scout Hall memorial rock and plaque currently located adjacent to Middle Road near Bradley Bushland Reserve will be moved to a more appropriate location.

4. Bradley Bushland Reserve - Agenda Item 4

Mr Hollo explained the implications of negotiating a transfer of the Bradley Bushland Reserve to the Trust compared with the option of the Trust leasing the Reserve from Mosman Council. It was agreed that engaging in a potentially lengthy transfer process may not be the most suitable way forward. There was a general discussion on the need to secure the future of the land as a reserve with a commitment for its ongoing care and management.

The Trust RESOLVED to:

1. investigate whether Mosman Council would consider leasing the Bradley Bushland Reserve to the Trust, and if so
2. to canvas the views of the Friends of Bradley Bushland Reserve and Mosman Council on the scope of work required to maintain the Reserve including: signage; access improvements; removal of the street fence and bush regeneration; and
3. discuss with Mosman Council whether it would be willing to contribute funding for improvements and on-going maintenance of the Reserve.

Moved by B. O'Keefe, seconded by K. O'Brien.

5. Draft Budget 2006-07- Agenda Item 5

The issue of running at a deficit was discussed. Mr Bailey tabled a paper detailing precedents for running a deficit budget and the approval process involved. He explained that he had made enquiries of the Department of Finance and Administration who confirmed that it was not unusual for agencies to run at a loss.

Ms Bennett and Mr Watson presented an overview of complete, current and planned projects.

It was agreed that the draft Budget for 2006-07 be reviewed by the Finance Committee and re-presented to the Board for approval.

The Trust RESOLVED to refer the draft Budget to the Finance Committee for review.

Moved by K. McCann, seconded by P. Lowry.

6. North Head Management Plan - Agenda Item 6

Mr Hollo presented the North Head Management Plan and went through the issues raised in submissions as a result of the public exhibition of the Plan.

The majority of submissions received were supportive of the Management Plan and the sanctuary outcomes proposed for the former School of Artillery. A number of submissions indicated support for the proposed integrated management framework proposed in the Plan.

The main issues of concern related to questions over land tenure and the Trust's ability to implement the Plan under its Act, the timing of the finalisation of the Conservation Management Plan and the cumulative impact of land uses at North Head on traffic generation.

Mr Hollo advised that minor amendments had been made to the Plan as a result of the comments received in submissions. The Board noted the amendments made to the Plan.

Mr Hollo advised that since the draft Plan had been exhibited, the Minister for Environment and Heritage has listed the whole of North Head on the National Heritage list. The Board noted that the Plan had been amended to make

reference to the gazettal of National Heritage Values and to the Management Principles that are relevant to the former School of Artillery.

Mr Conroy suggested some amendments, which were noted.

The Trust RESOLVED to:

Approve the North Head Management Plan, subject to Mr Conroy and Mr Hollo signing off on amendments.

Moved by K. McCann, seconded by Mr Lowry.

7. Draft MOU with Hunters Hill Council - Agenda Item 7

The Board considered the draft Woolwich Dock and Parklands MOU.

Mr O'Keefe advised he had some comments regarding the form of the MOU.

The Trust RESOLVED to approve the MOU, subject to Mr Bailey discussing it with Mr O'Keefe.

Moved by P Lowry, seconded by K McCann.

8. Audit and Risk Management Committee Minutes - Agenda Item 8

The Board noted the Audit and Risk Management Committee work program and the Committee's minutes of 13 June 2006.

9. Report on Exercise of Delegations - Agenda Item 9

The report was noted.

10. Executive Director's Report - Agenda Item 10

The report was noted.

The Chair circulated a letter he had received from the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Board noted that a response was in preparation.

Mr Bailey agreed to circulate a programme of events for the rest of the year.

The meeting closed at 1:45 pm.