

Meeting Notes

Meeting for CAC - Cockatoo Island Representatives

October 1, 2003

Time: 6.00 - 7.00pm

Venue: Woolwich Dock

Present:

- John Smith
- Jeff Thompson
- Garry Stewart
- Mary Shelley-Clarke
- Tony Hardy
- Bill Wallace
- John Jeremy
- Jenny Scotford
- John Smith
- Max Keogh
- Mal Hiley
- Sally Hamilton
- Alex Magarey
- Geoff Bailey
- Melinda Hayes
- Bob Clarke
- Rosie Sutcliffe

Apologies:

- Damian Cobely-Finch
- Maire Sheehan
- David Furlong
- Carmel Delduca
- Peter Head
- Gary Ferres
- Joe Glascott

Introduction

- Sally Hamilton commenced the meeting and introduced Melinda Hayes who will be taking over Sally's position whilst she is on maternity leave
- Melinda noted that the purpose of the meeting was to update the CAC on Trust activities. Melinda then introduced Alex Magarey who gave a presentation on the planning process for Cockatoo Island

Presentation slides are attached.

**Comprehensive Plan (Presented by Alex Magarey)
Cockatoo Island Submissions**

- 9 submissions received in respect to Cockatoo
- Main issues include cleaning up contamination; need to find appropriate land bases and support for reinstating Cockatoo as a working marine industry.

Background Studies Transport Management Plan

Comment

Is work underway for Phase 1 and will the consultant look at land bases and is Woolwich going to be used for occasional use?

Trust response

The consultant's brief has gone out and this phase should take about 10 weeks. In the Comprehensive Plan the outcome for Woolwich Horse Paddock is for the development of a parkland. Woolwich is to only be used on an occasional basis in a manner that does not adversely affect the Horse Paddock as a park.

Comment

A similar study was carried out in 1984 and the Balmain Power Station option is no longer available.

Conservation Management Plan (Presented by Bob Clarke)

- We need to try and get the information across about what the buildings were used for and how we can interpret this. We need the information from the Conservation Management Plan before we can carry out any works.
- We are looking at a peer review process where CAC members will be invited to provide the Trust with information and input.
- There has been a hiatus with the Conservation Plan, it was ready to go in 2002 but there were some funding issues.
- Since then we have been doing other work like:
 - John Jeremy's thematic timeline
 - Literature search dealing with the 19th C and early 20th C. This highlighted different photos, books, articles and delved into the Royal Commissions on Cockatoo
- There are two teams of consultants preparing Transport Management Plans (TMP)
 - One that deals with convict remains
 - One that deals with dockyard and use of Cockatoo

Comment

What's the timeframe?

Trust Response

The TMP are about to commence and the study is staged so that it will feed into the management plan. We are looking at the southern apron first but this doesn't mean that if the management plan is finished that the conservation management plan is finished as well. It's envisaged that the relevant parts of the conservation plan will be completed by then.

Comment

With all the planning is there any document recording what the Trust is doing as this is historically important?

Trust Response

With every significant development there has been briefing papers, which document the story so far. Also the annual report provides a very good overview, as do the CAC minutes.

Comment

Can you talk more about the oral history project?

Trust Response

The oral history is very valuable for interpretative purposes. Every time we take a group to Cockatoo there's a new person that comes along who has a connection to the island and we take their details.

Comment

Who in the Trust handles this?

Trust Response

Alex Magarey then discussed the oral history project and how the Trust has identified many people willing to help and tell their story. The Trust contacts are Fiona Wilson-Moore (Resource Coordinator) and Patrick Fletcher (Director of Communications). George McGoogan has been interviewed, as have others. Green Corp undertook an oral history project of Chowder Bay as a trial and Rosemary Block at the State Library has helped the Trust and is happy to continue to help.

Repairs to Parramatta Wharf

Comment

There have been lots of problems with catamarans and hydrofoils wake and it's quite dangerous.

Trust Response

The Parramatta Wharf is being investigated by engineers who will recommend improvement works that will address this issue.

Education

- Four teacher guides have been employed on a casual basis and the Trust is working with teachers to include tours of Cockatoo in the school curriculum.

Publication

- The Trust is planning on producing a summary of the history of the Island. This is a 30 page pictorial history and Mary Shelley-Clarke and John Jeremy have been involved with this.

General questions

Comment

Have you had any expressions of interest in respect to working marine activities?

Trust Response

The Trust has not asked for any expressions but we have received unsolicited expressions. We may call for expressions of interest before the management plans are completed. This way we can be better informed about the various potential users for the finalisation of the draft management plans.

Comment

I assume expressions of interest will be a driver of the management plan and that the management plan will be ongoing and updated as needed?

Trust Response

Hopefully the management plan is reasonably flexible so it won't need updating. You can see from management plans already completed that there is a level of flexibility. We have also recently gone out for expressions of interest for an event on Cockatoo and a group who wants to run a major cultural event on Cockatoo has approached the Trust. It will mean a pilot at Easter and an interesting reason to visit Cockatoo.

Comment

The high voltage upgrade is terrific but what you may need to do with power, sewerage etc will depend on potential uses. You may need DC to run machinery?

Trust Response

We have thought about this and have gained engineers advice that says we should get this but it doesn't have to be done now.

Comment

I am curious about the 2 other islands under the Trust?

Trust Response

There is only one other island, Snapper and it's not on this financial years program. Although we are hoping to do some maintenance such as repairs to the jetty.

Meeting closed at 7.05pm.