

Woolwich Consultative Committee

Adopted Minutes of the 4th Meeting, 6:00 pm 14th June 2001

a. Attendance

Present:

Andrew Curtin, Philip Jenkyns, Peter McMahon, Liz Newton, Alysoun Ryves, C'lr Jenny Scottford, Geoff Bailey, Nick Hollo, Bob Clark, Colin Menzies

Apologies:

Gil Wahlquist, Jim Barrett, Phil Renouf, Barry Smith, Mayor Sue Hoopman, Timothy James

Draft Agenda:

The Horse Paddock was added as an agenda item.

b. Minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

Resolved: The draft minutes of the 3rd meeting are accepted as a true and correct record.

c. Recent Activity

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Act

Geoff Bailey reported that the interim Trust was ready for proclamation of the Act, which would come into effect on 20th Sept if not before.

Exhibition

Feedback was sought on the Exhibition. The committee said:

Beautifully done – the space was tight but people were led through; not overwhelming;
Excellent; nicely put together

The relationship of the harbour and boating was important – the harbour was magnificent seen from boats, but there were few places to land.

Woolwich and Cockatoo Island lay at the junction of two rivers, the end of Sydney Harbour, and that should be emphasised.

Geoff Bailey reported the Exhibition was attracting ~300 visitors daily with 150-200 surveys completed weekly. Total attendance was heading towards 20,000.

There was a brief discussion of the sailing club. Nick Hollo reported his talk with them, but relocation was a question of funds. The current site enabled expansion, and ramps would be a problem on the eastern shore. It was reported that Mr Fitzharding had recently purchased the marina, apparently to continue as a marina.

There was also a brief discussion about the development of the Woolwich village centre. A new food store was coming, and food and drink demand would increase with the Dock opened to the public.

Suggestions were made about promoting the Exhibition, with committee members offering to distribute flyers to public spots and occasions and with Council's newsletter.

d. Future activities

Workshop

Colin Menzies said that a workshop to discuss significance and objectives of each site was intended by the Trust. Woolwich was proposed as the first workshop, before private school holidays, on **23rd June** combined with an Open Day. Issues include: purpose; meeting process; proposed leaflet; sausage sizzle and other activities. The draft plan was:

- 11:00 Site Opened with plans on display in mess.
- 1:00 Introduction to Plans by the planning team; Q&A
- 2:00 Afternoon tea
- 2:30 Workshops on values and significance
- 3:30 report back; plenary
- 4:00 close

Publicity suggested for the workshop included leaflets, the Mayor's column, a banner on the overpass, posters in the Hunters Hill pub, contacting Geraldine O'Brien (who grew up in Angelo Street).

The number expected was discussed. Some felt that only when the site was threatened would people turn out. Others thought more would come but mainly for a look. A sausage sizzle was proposed, with Barry Smith to be contacted over which group to ask. The importance of indigenous aspects was stressed. Nick Hollo said the Trust wanted to hold an indigenous forum but it may be mainly with Aboriginal people.

Nick Hollo said the Trust would have more material than at the Exhibition, such as ideas on access across the dock (where a flexible solution was sought). Some major issues that could be considered were how to make the area pleasant to visitors without forestalling later use options.

Opening the site

It was noted that public access required issues of safety, fencing and insurance being addressed. Geoff Bailey said the site would probably only be open in the day with a security guard at night. Nick Hollo asked if the committee felt it worthwhile to spend money improving fencing and safety so the site could be opened during the day. The committee supported this.

It was suggested that the Trust seek agreement with Council over the care and maintenance of parts of the site (eg the Horse Paddock), similar to the arrangement Council has over Kelly's Bush. There were advantages in having locals (eg rangers) keeping an eye on the site and in Council mowing the land. There was discussion over whether Council would want to pay or even participate.

Geoff Bailey said it was complicated considering handing responsibilities over to Councils at this stage. He asked whether the main objective was to open up the site or to give Council a role. The committee saw the former as the priority. Nick Hollo suggested that the fence between the Horse Paddock and the sailing club / Clarke's Point could be removed, though it may be useful for when site works start. The Trust did not want open vehicle access to the Horse Paddock – it was agreed the gates should be kept shut.

Geoff Bailey was asked how long until revegetation work started. He replied that it took about six months to collect and propagate local natives. Major landscaping would not occur until the management plans were adopted, but stabilization works were being carried out in the meantime.

e. Other matters

Sydney Heritage Fleet

Phil Jenkyns said that Hunters Hill was the oldest garden suburb and known for its history. Having boats from that period, even being restored, was an appropriate addition to the heritage of the Dock. He thought at the present time that it would be hard to find a better use for part of the Dock than the Heritage Fleet.

Nick Hollo said this was not precluded, but it was too early to tell if the heritage Fleet would be relocated from Blackwattle Bay. The Fleet's location in the Dock was compatible with the heritage, but there were few areas left around the Harbour suitable for maritime industry. The Heritage Fleet could contribute to making Cockatoo Island more viable.

It was agreed that major operators should not have use of Woolwich or Cockatoo Island until the management plans were completed, with the right mix of activities between the two related sites.

Combined meeting

The draft minutes of the Combined Consultative Committees meeting, which had been circulated, were accepted as an accurate record.

Interim leasing policy

Geoff Bailey outlined that the interim Trust was under pressure to make parts of its sites available in the interim before the Management Plans were completed. The Board of Trustees wanted a clear policy to be able to apply to requests. A draft policy was being prepared and would be circulated to all Consultative Committee members shortly for comment.

The committee supported the idea of ephemeral uses that showed the site to the community.

Hunters Hill Fair

The Trust wanted to cooperate with the Hunters Hill fair called Moocooboola and would make the site available if it were suitable. The Committee supported this.

Defenders of Sydney Harbour

Phil Jenkyns reported on a recent meeting of the Defenders of Sydney Harbour Foreshores, where the issue of aquatic reserves and marine parks was discussed. Greater coordination of underwater areas was wanted. The Defenders were preparing a paper on the matter.

Geoff Bailey said the priority of the Trust at present concerning the aquatic environment was investigating run-off from the Trust's lands. Chowder Bay is very pristine and could be in a marine reserve, but he had been advised that its condition should not be publicised less this led to despoliation.

Next meeting

The next event was the workshop on 23rd June. The next meeting would be set after this. The meeting closed at 7:45