## **Ordinary Meeting of Council 19 August 2020**

The following statements were submitted prior to the meeting. Submissions made live during the meeting include some variations and can be listened via our live stream webpage: <a href="http://webcast.portphillip.vic.gov.au/archive.php">http://webcast.portphillip.vic.gov.au/archive.php</a>

# Tiffany Zenn - Item 7.1 Petition – Request to retain the temporary play equipment erected in Murchison Street, St Kilda East

Thank you. Good evening Councillors. I am speaking tonight on behalf of the residents of Murchison Street and the signatories of the petition. My name is Tiffany Zinn, and I have been a resident of the City of Port Phillip (CoPP) for the last 5 ½ years. I am speaking in relation to item number 7.1 Petition – Request to retain the temporary play equipment erected in Murchison Street, St Kilda East

I would like to thank all councilors for accepting the petition.

Tonight, I would like to personally highlight to the council the importance of the petition that I have submitted. This petition was fairly easy to garner support for as so many of our neighbours, and complete strangers for that matter, commented on what a beautiful initiative the play equipment was. So many parents indicated they would detour on their walks in order to have a play on the nature strip. It has brought much joy to the families in the street as well as those who live in the area and walk by to use the swings.

My motivation for this plea is purely from a community-building perspective, a value that I believe is shared with the CoPP.

As a mother, it has been a saving grace during COVID restrictions as it has encouraged my children to get out the house for some fresh air and sunlight, and allowed them to enjoy physical play and movement, which is so important for their health and development. Children generally find pleasure in physical activity and movement as it is a big part of both their individual and social play. Apart from being fun, different types of movement are considered essential to children's physical, sensory, cognitive and emotional development.

As a neighbor, it brings me so much joy to see other children and families enjoying the equipment and feel so proud to share it with locals who hold similar values to my family. On that note, this equipment was actually gifted to us by one of the Murchison Street residents when we moved into the street. They were excited to pass down the equipment that their children had outgrown.

I would like to highlight that while the petition emphasizes the need for and use of the play equipment during COVID restrictions, due to the limitations of children's movements, we are equally concerned about the communal use of these items during this time and the inherent risk of spreading infection. Therefore, we are happy to propose to unclip them when not in use by our family during Stage 4 restrictions. However, when restrictions ease and ultimately, in a post-COVID world, we would very much like the equipment to remain up for communal use.

Once the petition was closed due to the submission to council, we received even more communal outcry about the equipment being removed and further support for it remaining. Community members, both with and without children, shared their genuine love for its community building spirit.

According to the CoPP's website regarding nature strips, "they have the potential to be so much more and a number of residents have taken up the opportunity to better their street", however it doesn't stipulate whether swings cannot be erected in this space.

I would like to end by reminding councillors of the CoPP's "vision" – which is to leave our community and our people in a better place. I couldn't agree with this vision more and I would like to believe that this play equipment speaks to the CoPP's vision.

I will defer to council to work with residents to implement the most appropriate solution in the interest of community safety and enjoyment.

#### Steve Walker - Public Question Time

The Boating Industry Association of Victoria (BIAV) is the peak body for the marine industry in Victoria. As well as servicing and supporting direct members of the association, BIAV is the voice for the state's 200,000 registered boat owners and 420,000 marine licence holders.

BIAV has some grave concerns about this redevelopment and are as follows -

- There is planned to be a **halving of the wet berths** from the current number. Whilst revised Aus Standards, and the resulting space requirements have been outlined as the reason for this, BIAV remains unsure as to whether enough has been done to expand the wet-berth space and provide more opportunity.
- All outdoor hardstand space appears to have been removed. This is a
  major step backward in terms of a boating specific facility. This seems to
  have been the result of the desire to have an expansive open space and
  walk path on the beach side of the entire site. St Kilda and the remaining
  CoPP coastline has many thousands of square metres of such space. This
  space could and should be preserved for boating facilities, storage and
  water access as the number one priority. Not a walk path. We understand
  that this will eliminate some current users such as the Melbourne Trailable
  Yacht Club after decades of occupation.
- Reference has been made to the car/trailer park being adjusted to cater for multi-use and basketball was outlined as a good example. This really does not auger well for boating and for this site being preserved as a premier boating facility and destination. Whether this be proposed at this stage only for boating 'down-time' is still unacceptable as once an activity such as basketball sets in, chances are it will increase its demands and usage to the detriment of boating.
- Whilst the **bridge concept** is not yet finalised and only provisions for CoPP to include it later have been advised, this is also of concern. Similar to the loss of outdoor hardstand space, in favour of an elaborate walk path, this could be severely to the detriment of boating. Mast up yachts and motor boats with tall fly-bridges may become precluded from the site.

In summary, it seems that this premier boating facility is being diminished as a boating facility. All for amenity and walk paths.

The CoPP foreshore space has tens of thousands of square metres of walking and coastal amenity space and this does not have to be added to, to the detriment of a boating specific premier boating facility.

## Rhonda Clark – Item 14.9 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21: Adoption

Council's latest budget papers show revenue to increase, particularly due to parking fees and fine revenue which is budgeted to increase slightly in 2020-21 over the forecast 2019-20 figures. Given the COVID challenges, what will the Council do if revenue does not meet budget targets? What are the options Council and the Councillors have to reduce the already large budget deficit?

The following statements were submitted prior to the meeting and a summary of the statements were read out during the meeting by the Coordinator Governance.

#### Adrian Jackson - Public Question Time

- 1. Is Council pleased with the auction result for 8 York St, St Kilda West (a surplus and vacant former kindergarten), sold on 18 July 20 above the reserve price of \$3,500,000 with the sale price being \$3,675,000 with 4 bidders?
- 2. What sponsorship does Council provide to Smoking Ceremonies?
- 3. What support does local government provide to religions and religious groups?
- 4. Why are ratepayers' funds being wasted on a green bin trial in Elwood when we already have a free hard and green waste collection on demand 4 times a year and house blocks can also have a compost bin, like I have? The PPCC media release said Elwood was selected for the trial because they were many larger house blocks to store the now three bins in. Does this mean the smaller house blocks and flats will not have the greens bin because of space problems? Does this mean the houses with no rear access will have 3 bins on the front veranda and the table and chairs usually there will have to be moved in some cases? Also having a third bin will not stop contamination and may make it worse. Please explain

## Jayne Webster - Public Question Time

As a ratepayer, already amongst the most expensive in Victoria, I pay \$234.00 annually for a combined permit. This allows me to park at my house, have 1 visitor and drive my paddleboard to the beach for recreation. I am disgusted that this council continues to bleed residents and restrict activities that we moved here for. Originally, the permits cost a nominal amount, now they are just gouging in the most disgraceful manner. it has also been introduced by stealth - I only found out by accident, needing to have a sticker reprinted. I am requesting you urgently reconsider & reverse this decision.

## Olga Rudyk - Public Question Time

I refer to the floodlights at Lagoon Reserve that were activated in April 2019. Correspondence stated these floodlights were for a "trial period" and were temporary. This ongoing matter has not been addressed with residents that have been impacted by these floodlights operating every night of the week for several hours. There was never any consultation. The changes made are not achieving a positive result or outcome. Was the installation of these floodlights compliant with Australian Standards (AS 4282-1997/control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting)? The direct glare and intensity of the

floodlights is having an impact on the adjoining residents and visitors. Bright lights shining into apartments/residents is a <u>nuisance.ls</u> there a Compliance Report? I would also like to know if the lighting experts undertaking the modifications provided a report as to how they have calculated the changes will help?

The intended purpose of the initial installation of the floodlights was for facilitating sports activities. So, why are these floodlights now being used for passive reserve use when the sports lighting would have been designed to meet the guidelines for sport active use? This is far exceeding the requirements for passive use. It is a waste of energy and causes light pollution.

The obvious solution is to install lights that are suitable for normal park use, similar to street lighting. The positioning of the lights is paramount, and adjustments need to be made to the hours of operation and duration.

David Nankervis has suggested removing the weekend schedule/reducing the number of nights that the lights are activated. That would be a good start and I support such a move.

#### **Trevor White - Public Question Time**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft 2020-21 budget. COVID- 19 has affected us all. It has created new needs and expectations of the community which, in turn, has required a transformation of the provision and delivery of services by Council. Across the community, the last 10 weeks have seen more transformation in thinking and practices than has occurred in the last 10 years. Council has begun to change the way it provides services which will continue as the new way to work and operate into the future. New ways of working will occur under the new Local Government Act, which could include the use of Citizens Assemblies and Juries to gain direct input from the community. The community is an amazing resource and consultancy, employ and buy locally. This COVID period will be seen as a change ratchet, not a slippery dip back to the past. The 2020-21 budget needs to reflect these changes and not just assume that past services and practices will return. Our unchain submission states that: "it's good to see the commencement of the CEO's restructuring of the waistline of the staff structure, roles and cost. We strongly recommend that Council implements a targeted rate relief policy to assist those who are on social support, Job keeper, Job seeker and business Owners and Landlords who have lost income & we urge the Audit Committee to undertake a "Root and Branch" efficiency, effectiveness and capacity independent review of all aspects of the governance and operations of Council, in particular of the changing community needs and priorities and hence the method of delivery of the required services of all procurement, consultancy and contact practices, of the design and compliance management of the financial and non-financial aspects of leases and licenses to review of all revenue streams, borrowing limits, all overhead costs and establish a waste watch process to review all commercial operations and maintenance of infrastructure programs to review the success rate of applications for state and federal government grant programs and other sources of funding to review the implementation of the climate change mitigation and adaption programs, as presented by PECAN etc. We all have changed over the last few months, what we need, how we work, what job can I get now and in the future, how will my business change and will it survive, and what we expect Council to do and provide. Council is part of these changes; it needs to rethink and realign its services and refresh operations. Our detailed policy on the budget and proposed targeted

rate relief policy and The Triangle have been submitted in our submissions which you would have read. My specific questions, will Council develop a targeted rate relief policy and fund The Triangle Business case and will Council ask the Audit committee to undertake an efficiency, effectiveness and capacity review and be more available to the Community. Thank you

## Adrian Jackson – Item 7.1 Petition – Request to retain the temporary play equipment erected in Murchison Street, St Kilda East

For decades some residents have placed children's play equipment on the nature strip outside their house and I think that this is great. After all the home owner maintains the nature strip and children playing should not be discouraged. After the children grow up the equipment is often removed. This temporary play equipment is in sight of the house for safety reason too. Council should support residents who show imitative to support children's development. Some homes don't have backyard or only small ones. Finally, nature strips are used by some to wash cars rather than letting the water be wasted and tradesmen use then when doing building work. Others plant small shrubs and flowers on nature strips with no problems. Council allows vegetable planter boxes to be placed on nature strips too. Nature strips are common land for everyone to use.

### Adrian Jackson - Item 14.9 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21: Adoption

In recent years and this year submissions for the draft budget are infected by what I call "submission stacking", like political branch stacking, were member of organisation submit many individual submissions rather that the executive of the organisation making a submission saying it represents say 100 members and the main concerns are as follows. These individual, often carbon copy individual submission, are labour intensive for the council staff and councillors and an immature way of doing business. Other readers of all the submissions are affected by this time-wasting duplication too. Next year council should suggest to potential submitters, from club or organisations, that they should meet and come up with their members concerns and resolve this waste of time. Stop the time and paper waste. Organisation concerned with the environment should take greater care too.

Request that individual submitter's names be included in the budget submissions, and that next year submitters are provided with the reference code that appears on the left margin of the list of submissions which will help me and others look up the submission to see that it is there and correct.