

Cr R Pemberton vacated the chamber at 8.51 pm and returned at 8.52 prior to voting of this item.

Cr D Hume vacated the chamber at 8.51 pm and returned at 8.52 prior to voting of this item.

**SGS1505-7 WILSON PARK, SOUTH BEACH BASKETBALL COURT
CONSULTATION REPORT, MAY 2014**

DataWorks Reference: 148/016
Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Meeting Date: 20 May 2015
Previous Item: SGS0512-14 - 21 December 2005;
 SGS1404-1 - 23 April 2015
Responsible Officer: Lionel Nicholson, Acting Director Infrastructure and
 Project Delivery
Actioning Officer: Joanne Smith, Parks Manager
Decision Making Authority: Council
Agenda Attachments: South Beach Basketball Court Consultation Report
 Wilson Park Concept Plan, April 2015
 Wilson Park overflow car park management plan, April
 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April 2014 Council deferred installation of half basketball court in Wilson Park in order to consider further landscape development of the park and to investigate options for basketball facilities within the vicinity of South Beach.

Officers prepared a Community Engagement Plan and the wider consultation process was undertaken between Christmas 2014 and February 2015. The consultation objectives were to gain direction from the stake holders for South Beach on a suitable location for a basketball game facility, identify possible site constraints and other considerations regarding the proposal.

In keeping with the resolutions of the April Council meeting, Officers also developed a final Wilson Park landscape development plan for 2015-2016 budget funding consideration that was informed by an operational plan for peak overflow car parking onto Wilson Park.

BACKGROUND

Subsequent to the removal of a basketball court from South Beach in 2011, there has been a commitment from the City to replace a basketball facility in the local area. After some deliberation, Wilson Park was identified in the 2013-2014 capital works program as a suitable location for a half court. However, as a result of public consultation for the Wilson Park landscaping project, community feedback informed modifications to the landscape plan and the need for consideration for an alternative location for a full or half sized basketball court. At the ordinary meeting of 23 April 2014, it was resolved that Council:

1. *Defers consideration of the installation of a basketball court in Wilson Park to further investigate alternative options for basketball facilities within the vicinity of South Beach in liaison with the community.*
2. *Authorises the following works be undertaken;*
 - *Turf restoration works (Spring 2014) - \$20 000*
 - *Perimeter Bollards - \$30 000*
 - *Landscaping works as per Attachment 1 - \$60 000 (excluding the proposed trees along the railway line)*
3. *Prepare plans for additional landscape improvements to Wilson Park for consideration by Council as part of the 2014/15 budget including consideration of:*
 - a) *new parkland planting of endemic tree species within the existing grassed areas limited to the very northern and southern ends of the park to increase the usable areas of shaded lawn suitable for passive recreation;*
 - b) *additional ground cover planting beds to the periphery of the park to reduce the overall extent of lawn at the margins of the park and to increase the separation and safety in relation to surrounding roads and the railway, while maintaining the traditional large open lawn area for the majority of the park suitable for use for informal active recreation activities;*
 - c) *achieving an integrated landscape approach consistent with the adjoining areas of the South Beach subdivision; and,*
 - d) *includes suitable vehicular access and egress points to Wilson Park so as to assist in managing any wear and tear on the grassed areas resulting from vehicular activity.*
4. *A separate report be provided to the Strategic and General Services Committee addressing the need to install a full basketball court in the vicinity of South Beach and / or in the area of the vicinity of the Esplanade Youth Plaza.*
5. *The City to develop an operational plan to manage the use of Wilson Park for overflow parking and to ensure the central grassed area is maintained at a standard suitable for informal active recreation.*
6. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to modify the proposed landscaping plan to provide additional shaded grassed areas under the existing trees in at least the months of December through to March inclusive.*

1. South Beach Basketball Facility Community Consultation

Attachment 1. South Beach Basketball Court Consultation Report provides an overview of the consultation carried out in January and February 2015, the approach, analysis of the participant's submissions and the summary of the outcomes.

The key findings of this consultation were:

- Just over half (52%) of the survey respondents support a basketball court being located at South Beach;
- Nearly one third of people (34%) indicated that they were opposed outright to the idea;
- A number of people (12%) suggested that locations other than South Beach would be more suitable;
- There was no clear community preference for either of the two site options proposed; 29% of people preferred none of the options, the remaining majority of responses being almost equal in preference for option 1 (22%), option 2 (19%), other location (20%) and a range of other locations suggested.

- Comment was received pointing to further possibly suitable locations.

2. Current landscaping works

In keeping with Council's resolutions, landscaping works were undertaken utilising allocated capital works funds for upgrading Wilson Park in the current financial year:

- Spring turf renovation works were completed in the second half of 2014, required as a result of concentrated overflow car parking on the west side the park.
- Bollards to the perimeter were installed to prevent uncontrolled access and parking over the turfed surface and close to mature tree roots, in order to retain the park for recreational uses.
- Landscaping with trees to the northern park end and a corner garden bed at South Terrace/Duoro Road (**Attachment 2. Wilson Park Concept Plan, April 2015**). Works to be completed by June 2015.

3. Additional landscaping to Wilson Park

Officers prepared a final concept plan for landscaping to address resident concerns for the amenity and use of Wilson Park (**Attachment 2. Wilson Park Concept Plan, April 2015**).

- a) Endemic tree planting is shown for the northern and southern ends of the park, with the middle section retained for ball sports and a smaller open space retained at the northern end for any future informal activities.
- b) Low shrub plantings are shown on the perimeters to control access, reduce turf cover, improve biodiversity and to soften formal edges.
- c) A palette of plantings and materials at the southern end ties with the South Beach landscape development treatments and joins the dual use pathway to the northern network of paths and cycle ways. The pathway also forms an edge between grass and low native gardens against the railway infrastructure.
- d) The landscape plan addresses the need for safe controlled entry and exit points for over flow parking egress and these are shown along South Terrace. The maintenance access point off Ocean Road is retained for occasional use when conflict with path users, limited turf wear and single entry and access points only are tolerable.

4. A full sized basketball facility for South Beach Basketball/Esplanade Youth Plaza

Officers have re-listed the proposal for a half sized and a full sized (possibly multi-purpose) basketball courts as draft New Initiative projects, for Council's consideration for inclusion in the forthcoming 2015-2016 capital works program.

Community consultation feedback on the proposals for a half or full basketball court in the vicinity of South Beach and the Esplanade Youth Plaza is considered further in this report.

5. Wilson Park overflow car park management

Officers developed an operational plan to manage the use of Wilson Park for overflow parking, to maintain the park amenity and to ensure that the central grassed area is maintained for informal active recreation. This plan was developed with the objective to conserve future uses for Wilson Park and informed the landscape concept plan.

6. Providing tree shade to grassed areas from December to March

The landscape concept addresses retention of grass under the existing mature trees in consideration of human comfort for informal use during summer months.

COMMENT

South Beach Basketball Facility Community Consultation

The consideration of a basketball court in the vicinity of South Beach has been on Council's working books since 2005. It was removed from the car park in 2011 to facilitate increased parking demand. Subsequent community consultation in 2013 defeated a proposal to reinstate a facility on Wilson Park. The most recent and extensive local community consultation in 2015 proposing support for a half or full basketball court and 2 options for locations on the South Beach grassed foreshore, provided marginal (2%) support for a full sized court at South Beach, but no preference for a suitable location.

A comprehensive submission from a basketball group *Hoop Hopes* detailed demand for and site considerations and up to 7 alternative locations for a full sized court, prioritising an area adjacent to the South Beach cafe.

A full sized court for organised games, including for all abilities and a range of other court sports was also supported by those who participated in the consultation and were in favour of a South Beach location.

Those who opposed the installation of the facility largely objected to the loss of recreational parkland, beach foreshore and amenity.

Anecdotal comment from those surveyed also pointed to the replacement of a full sized basketball court with adjustable and multi-sport hoops and backboards at the northern end of the South Beach car park.

It is clear from all of the community consultation undertaken that a basketball facility is desired and achievable at South Beach. Officers have considered the space and orientation available for accommodating up to a single full sized facility and three main options present themselves for further detailed consideration:

1. An area south of the South Beach change rooms,
2. The northern end of the South Beach car park,
3. Wilson Park

The provision of a sports practice facility, such as for basketball is in keeping with the *City of Fremantle Strategic Recreation Needs Assessment (2011)*, which identifies South Beach Reserve as a major play space. South Beach already possesses many of the features that meet this function.

The following elements are recognized as desirable for a major play space:

<i>Visitor and caregiver amenities</i>	<i>Car parking to cater for normal demand Toilets Shelter/shade for caregivers and over play equipment Picnic tables and seats BBQ Seating in shade overlooking play equipment Drinking water Security lighting</i>
<i>Formal play areas</i>	<i>Formal play areas Play equipment for toddlers Play equipment for junior primary school age children Play equipment for senior primary school age children Play equipment for teenage young people</i>
<i>Informal play areas</i>	<i>Informal play areas Kick about area (at least 1500 m2) Sports practice facilities for at least one sport Cycling areas Natural landscape features such as creeks and mounds to be retained and enhanced</i>
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>Access for people with disabilities Landscaping</i>

Esplanade Youth Plaza Options

Some participants of the survey voiced concerns that a well-used court may exacerbate limited parking opportunities at South Beach and suggested that the Esplanade Reserve, already a well activated public space including the Esplanade Youth Plaza (EYP), would be a better location for the court in order to cater for larger volumes of visitors, parking and traffic.

Original concept plans for the EYP included a half basketball facility to the southern (railway) side of the skate park. The half court proposal is achievable in the current layout of The Esplanade and fits with the current space activation learning and “learning” programs run by the City.

A full sized multi-purpose court at the EYP has a larger footprint and appeals to a different user who could also be looking to use the court for completion games. Accommodating a full court will be subject to completion of the draft Esplanade Master Plan, corresponding community consultation and finalisation at mid-2015.

The inclusion of a full court would also be in consideration of plans for expansion of The Esplanade east over the car park, to Norfolk Street after Norfolk Street has been extended over the railway line. These works will not be realised in the near future and therefore accommodating a full court in the vicinity of the EYP is not proposed at this time.

Wilson Park Landscaping

In response to 2013 community consultation regarding landscaping and basketball facility proposals for Wilson Park, Officers reviewed the landscape development in consideration of:

- An alternative location for the basketball court,
- Requests for retaining open grassed areas to the centre of the park,
- Requests for endemic tree and low shrub plantings to the perimeters,
- Request for tree shade over grass to be retained for recreational use,
- Continuation of the landscape palette from the southern side South Beach development,
- Consideration for better managing of overflow car parking on the reserve.

Officers prepared a landscape concept and cost estimates for the new initiative for inclusion in 2015-2016 capital works program, in consideration of an operational plan for managing overflow parking on the park.:

Attachment 2. Wilson Park Concept Plan, April 2015

Attachment 3. Wilson Park Overflow Car Parking Management Plan, April 2015

Wilson Park Landscaping Works 2015/2016		
	Item	Estimate
Tree supply and planting	30 trees	\$ 10,500.00
Low native shrubs and planting	1000 plants on 918m ²	\$ 3,000.00
Establishment watering	500m ²	\$ 10,000.00
	subtotal	\$ 23,500.00
Earthworks and tip fees	91m ³ on 918m ²	\$ 7,500.00
	91m ³ on 918m ²	\$ 4,000.00
	subtotal	\$ 11,500.00
Garden bed kerbing	205Lm	\$ 25,000.00
Dual use asphalt cycle path subject to PBN funding	92Lm; 240m ²	\$ 19,000.00
Dual use footpath, concrete, 2.5m	268Lm; 670m ²	\$ 77,000.00
Concrete cross overs x 2	2 x 9m ²	\$ 3,000.00
Miscellaneous (line marking, signage)		\$ 6,000.00
Irrigation modifications		\$ 8,000.00
	Total	\$ 165,000.00

Currently Wilson Park is utilised for overflow car parking on weekends throughout the summer period from October through to May each year and to accommodate events. The City's Parking Services lock and unlock the chain gate at Ocean Road to allow vehicles onto the park, and community groups such the Mens Shed may take a nominal parking fee at the gate for directing vehicles during large events.

The implementation of landscaping proposals will assist with better managing parking across the grass surface and recreational uses of the park by:

- Limiting over use through events parking.
- Protecting trees and their root zones from damage.
- Spreading wear across the turf surface.
- Limiting car parking in winter months.
- Separating recreation from parking areas.
- Retaining clear views across the park from residences opposite to assist with passive surveillance.
- Defining routes of access for vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists.

RISK AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Financial

Officers have listed for Council consideration in the draft 2015-2016 New Initiatives, three projects:

PC0000448	Esplanade Youth plaza half basketball court	\$55,000	(Municipal)
PC0000428	South Beach full basketball court	\$165,000	(Cash in Lieu)
PC0000436	Wilson Park landscaping – stage 2	\$165,000	(Municipal)

Subject to further community consultation and determination of the design scope for the courts, the project amounts may differ from that proposed. Any recommendation for re-allocating approved budget amounts will be reported to Council for final resolution.

Legal

Nil

Operational

Operational and maintenance resourcing for managing the assets constructed in the 2015-2016 year will be subject to operational budget considerations for the 2016-2017 year and the standard process of budget deliberations.

Organisational

Nil

CONCLUSION

STRATEGIC AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Provide a great place to live, work and play through growth and renewal.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

November 2005 consultation

This consultation indicated that the then existing basketball court in the car park was a valued facility and before being removed from the car park, the community preference was to relocate and reinstate it in the vicinity of South Beach.

May 2013 consultation

The South Beach car park basketball court that was removed in 2011 was proposed for reinstatement as a half court in Wilson Park. This option was reviewed after Council received 2 petitions from the community against the installation of the half court in Wilson Park.

January, February 2015 consultation

A majority of respondents (64%) are supportive of having a basketball court located in South Beach. However no clear direction on a suitable location was gained. Respondents did provide the City with comment on the strengths and weaknesses of a number of proposed locations in the vicinity of South Beach.

EYP Birthday Festival 12 April 2015

At the celebration of the Esplanade Youth Plaza first year since completion, Officers undertook a simple random survey of people attending, to ask them if they supported the concept of a multi-purpose basketball court at the EYP. Over a period of two hours 111 signatories provided their support with no respondents not supporting the proposal. All people approached were asked if they lived in the Fremantle area before responding to the survey. The majority were aware of the South Beach court consultation, but few had engaged in that consultation. Eleven (11) were young people engaged in the PCYC basketball programs. Although the survey was not a valid method of determining a desired location for a basketball court in the vicinity of South Beach, it did point to a community support for it and an appetite for more and complimentary facilities to the EYP. More than half of the respondents volunteered that the full court should be reinstated at South Beach.

Further public consultation

It is recommended that subject to Council approval of the basketball projects for 2015-2016, that a workshop be facilitated by the City to engage relevant stakeholders, including basketball players to determine the most suitable location for a court in the vicinity of South Beach. The work shop will also respond to managing negative impacts of the chosen location and provide some direction on the form of the court and ancillary facilities.

The half court proposal for the EYP would also be subject to a design workshop to assist with addressing specific issues of concern and determining a way forward to installing the most appropriate facilities.

VOTING AND OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority Required

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: Cr A Sullivan

It is recommended that Council:

1. Consider for adoption in the draft 2015-2016 budget the following projects:
 - Esplanade Youth plaza Half Basketball Court \$55,000
 - South Beach full Basketball court \$165,000
 - Wilson Park Landscaping – stage 2 \$165,000

2. Subject to adoption of the Esplanade Youth Plaza and South Beach and Wilson Park court projects in the 2015-2016 capital works program, engage stakeholders in a workshop process to address concerns and determine the optimum location and type of facilities required.

Cr D Coggin MOVED an amendment to the Officer's Recommendation remove the words “Esplanade Youth Plaza and” from recommendation 2.

CARRIED: 6/0

For	Against
Cr Josh Wilson Cr Simon Naber Cr David Hume Cr Andrew Sullivan Cr Dave Coggin Cr Doug Thompson	

REASON/S FOR CHANGE TO OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

The half basketball court at the Esplanade Youth Plaza has already been finalised.

Cr A Sullivan MOVED an amendment to the Officer's Recommendation remove the words “and Wilson Park” from recommendation 2:

CARRIED: 6/0

For	Against
Cr Josh Wilson Cr Simon Naber Cr David Hume Cr Andrew Sullivan Cr Dave Coggin Cr Doug Thompson	

REASON/S FOR CHANGE TO OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

The Wilson Park basketball court is no longer an option that the City is considering.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL DECISION

MOVED: Cr A Sullivan

It is recommended that Council:

1. Consider for adoption in the draft 2015-2016 budget the following projects:
 - Esplanade Youth plaza Half Basketball Court \$55,000
 - South Beach full Basketball court \$165,000
 - Wilson Park Landscaping – stage 2 \$165,000

2. *Subject to adoption of the South Beach court project in the 2015-2016 capital works program, engage stakeholders in a workshop process to address concerns and determine the optimum location and type of facilities required.*

SECONDED: Cr I Waltham

CARRIED: 8/0

For	Against
Cr Doug Thompson Cr Andrew Sullivan Cr Jon Strachan Cr Rachel Pemberton Cr Josh Wilson Cr David Hume Cr Dave Coggin Cr Ingrid Waltham	