



City of Belmont
ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING
MINUTES
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12 December 2018

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City of Belmont

ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING

MINUTES

12 December 2018

INFORMATION ON HOW THE ANNUAL ELECTOR'S MEETING IS CONDUCTED

The purpose of the Annual Electors Meeting (AEM) is to receive the City's Annual Report and any other general business pertaining to Council. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and supporting Regulations, the Mayor is to preside at a General or Special Meeting of Electors and shall determine the procedure to be followed, as set out below:

1. The *Standing Orders Local Law 2017* will apply subject to the discretion of the Presiding Member.
2. All present are required to sign the attendance register at the entry to the Chambers, including name and address.
3. Speakers must be Electors or Ratepayers of the City of Belmont.
4. During General Business, questions or statements may only relate to matters that affect the City of Belmont and will be accepted at the discretion of the Presiding Member.
5. Motions from Electors, where presented in writing, will be read aloud by the Presiding Member to ensure that everyone is clear about what they are voting on. Motions from the floor will only be accepted at the discretion of the Presiding Member. An Annual Electors' Meeting [Notice of Motion Form](#) to submit your Motion is available on the City's website and copies will also be available at the meeting.
6. The Presiding Member will call for a mover and a seconder for a motion.
7. No motion or amendment is open to debate until it has been seconded. Only one amendment on any one motion shall be received at a time and such amendment shall be dealt with before any further amendment can be received; however any number of amendments may be proposed.
8. Upon a motion being proposed, the Presiding Member will call for speakers to address the Chair.
9. When addressing the meeting a person is to:
 - a) Rise and move to the podium unless unable to do so by reason of sickness or disability
 - b) State his or her name and address for recording in the minutes
 - c) Address the meeting through the Presiding Member.
10. The mover of a motion (but not the mover of an amendment) has the right of reply, and this closes the debate.

11. An Elector may rise and move without discussion "That the question be now put", which, on being duly seconded and carried by a majority, will result in submission of the motion at once to the meeting, after the mover has replied.
12. The Presiding Member will then ask for a vote on the motion on the floor.
13. Each Elector has one vote. An Elector does not have to vote.
14. Voting is determined by a show of hands.
15. A simple majority carries the vote.
16. Minutes of this meeting will be available for inspection by members of the public. Any motions arising from the meeting requiring action will be presented to the next available Ordinary Meeting of Council for consideration.

The decisions of the AEM are not binding on the Council, but as required by the *Local Government Act 1995*, the reasons for any Council decision on a decision of this meeting are to be recorded in the minutes of the Council Meeting.

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

PRESENT

Cr P Marks, Mayor (Presiding Member)	East Ward
Cr B Ryan	East Ward
Cr J Powell	South Ward
Cr S Wolff	South Ward
Cr L Cayoun	West Ward
Cr G Sekulla, JP	West Ward

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Christie	Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Garrett	Director Corporate and Governance
Mrs J Hammah	Director Community and Statutory Services
Mr S Morrison	A/Director Technical Services
Mr J Olynyk, JP	Manager Governance
Mrs M Lymon	Principal Governance and Compliance Advisor
Ms D Morton	Media and Communications Officer
Mrs J Barnes	Senior Governance Officer
Ms S D'Agnone	Governance Officer

MEMBERS OF THE GALLERY

Ms G Godfrey
Ms D Panzich
Mr A Reilly
Ms B Scharfenstein
Mr R Foster
Mr C Floyd
Mr R Birch
Ms L Hollands
Ms J Gee
Mr B Childs
Ms M Saldanha

There was one press representative in attendance.

1. OFFICIAL OPENING

7.08pm The Presiding Member welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open.

The Presiding Member advised that public notice of the meeting has been made in the Southern Gazette on Tuesday 27 November 2018 and Tuesday 11 December 2018.

A public notice was placed on the Notice Board of the Ruth Faulkner Library and the City of Belmont Administration Building Notice Board, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*. Notification was also provided through the City's Facebook page.

The notices also stated that copies of the 2017-2018 Annual Report were available from the City's website and the Ruth Faulkner Public Library.

The Presiding Member read the Acknowledgement of Country.

Before I begin I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting today, the Noongar Whadjuk people, and pay respect to Elders past, present and future leaders.

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr R Rossi, JP, Deputy Mayor (Apology)
Cr M Bass (Apology)
Cr J Davis (Absent)

West Ward
East Ward
South Ward

3. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor provided an overview of the Mayor's Report included in the 2017-2018 Annual Report.

4. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Chief Executive Officer provided a presentation outlining the Chief Executive Officer's Report included in the 2017-2018 Annual Report ([refer Tabled Attachment 1](#)).

5. RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

The Mayor invited questions on the Annual Report 2017-2018.

Ms Hollands asked the following questions:

1. How many Community Perception Surveys went out and what percentage of that number was returned?

Response

The Director Corporate and Governance advised there were in excess of 4,000 surveys sent out directly to specific contacts of the City. In addition there were provisions made for every member of the community to participate in the survey through Belmont Connect and substantial publicity. Invitations to participate were extended to the entire community. In excess of 690 responses were received and this figure is substantially greater than in previous years.

2. Where can we get a copy of the survey?

Response

The Director Corporate and Governance advised that the survey results have been available on the City's website since September. Results for surveys dating back to 2014 are available on the [City of Belmont website](#).

Ms Gee asked the following questions:

1. Does the Council check the questions that are on the survey?

Response

The Director Corporate and Governance advised that yes the questions are checked by the City.

2. I saw the last survey and there were questions relating to the Joint Development Assessment Panel (JDAP). Many residents do not know what a JDAP is. You are not going to get the answers that you want.

Response

The Director Corporate and Governance advised that the survey includes a variety of questions with the intention that they will be understood by the greatest majority of residents. There is an option in the responses to indicate if a question has not been understood.

Item 5 Continued

Mr Floyd asked the following questions:

1. The survey seemed like a back slapping exercise. When so many questions are asked, where are the negative comments? Who comes to these conclusions?

Response

The Director Corporate and Governance encouraged all members of the public to read the complete survey document in order to better understand the findings.

The survey contained a vast array of questions, with results categorised into suburbs, community groups, age groups, and a variety of demographics.

Results in some categories were not as high as in the overall score and areas of concern have been identified, for example, safety and graffiti. Responses to the survey allow the City to take action where the community considers it a priority.

The Director Corporate and Governance reiterated his recommendation that the complete survey document be read so that a full understanding of the results can be gained.

2. I didn't see anything mentioned about the youth of the City. What is the City doing to give youth somewhere to go where they are not seen as gang people? Is the Council actively trying to do something for the Youth?

Response

The Director Community and Statutory Services advised that the CEO's report did refer to the number of visits made to The Base, which is a youth facility provided by the City and run by the YMCA for youth in Belmont. A Youth Strategy has recently been adopted by the City and will move forward over the next few years. The City remains committed to engaging with youth in a number of ways and acknowledge that they are a valued part of our community.

Ms Hollands asked the following questions:

3. What is the 2017 achievement assessment, how is it rated and how is it put together?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer advised there are a number of key areas addressed in the survey and the City of Belmont has been identified as an industry leader in six of these key areas. Over 40 local governments carried out similar surveys with benchmark questions and the City of Belmont achieved the highest overall score.

Apart from over 4,000 surveys being distributed, there was ample opportunity for all members of the community to participate in the survey. Almost 700 responses were received which makes the survey statistically valid.

Item 5 Continued

Ms Gee asked the following questions:

3. Does the survey have any contact numbers that people who don't understand the questions can ring?

Response

The Director Corporate and Governance advised there was a contact number on the survey for responders who needed assistance to complete the survey.

4. Did many people ring the assistance number?

Response

The Director Corporate and Governance advised that the consultants who were engaged to manage the survey addressed all enquiries and therefore he could not answer this question.

Ms Hollands asked the following questions:

4. 4,000 invitations to undertake the survey is less than 10% of Belmont's population. Why weren't more surveyed?

Response

The Director Corporate and Governance reiterated that the entire community was given an opportunity to participate in the survey and the nearly 700 responses received made the survey statistically valid and is considered an accurate representation of community views.

5. Was there a phone number?

Response

The Director Corporate and Governance advised that this question had already been asked and he has advised that yes there was a phone number for survey participants to call for assistance.

6. The CEO mentioned that the community building was another achievement. How much was the cost? Has that changed? I asked this question last night and have not received an answer.

Response

The Chief Executive Officer advised that Ms Hollands' question from the Ordinary Council Meeting the previous night has been taken on notice and will be responded to.

7. Has the City approached the state government to get more police into the City?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the City, in conjunction with the local member, continue to work closely with the WA Police, who have made significant changes at the state government level. The CEO stated that from memory the number of police officers in the City has increased by three or four in the last year as a result of the changes to the Policing model implemented by the State Government.

Item 5 Continued

8. Why is the City not putting rules into their own policies that require developers to plant more trees when developments go up?

Response

The Director Community and Statutory Services advised that each development is unique and a 'one size fits all' policy is not workable. It is a requirement that larger developments provide landscaping plans and where large trees are removed they are required to be replaced. Moving forward it is proposed that tree preservation in medium density developments will be looked at in more detail.

9. Is the City planning to make rules in their policies that require developers to plant more trees?

Response

The Director Community and Statutory Services advised that the Housing Strategy will address vegetation across the board, including in new developments.

10. What is the time frame?

Response

The Director Community and Statutory Services advised that she could not comment on the Canopy Plan, however Scheme reviews take several years to develop and involve a large amount of community consultation to ensure the desires of the community can be considered.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the City's Urban Forest Strategy has recently been endorsed by Council and the Canopy Plan is in its final stages of development. The City will continue to remain committed to retaining trees wherever and whenever possible.

11. New developments have no room on the blocks? Is the City looking at how we can change that?

Response

The Presiding Member advised that the City has been aware of this difficult circumstance for many years and it has been discussed in many different forms over that time.

The Director Community and Statutory Services advised that the City continues to address this issue however improvements cannot happen overnight. The WA Design Guidelines from the Western Australian Planning Commission will assist to give the City more teeth regarding issues around environmental and root zone trees.

RECOMMENDATION

SEKULLA MOVED, POWELL SECONDED

That the [City of Belmont Annual Report 2017-2018](#) be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS JANET GEE MOVED, MS LISA HOLLANDS SECONDED,

That 'Recording of the Ordinary Council Meeting in their entirety and making them available on the City's website for all residents to listen to' be listed as an item on a meeting agenda in the first half of 2019 (by June 2019).

CARRIED

6.2 NOTICE OF MOTION

Ms Hollands put forward the following motion.

That the City of Belmont make available via their website a copy of the approved recordings of Public Question Time to all residents of Belmont free of charge.

Ms Godfrey suggested an amendment to the original motion which was agreed to by Ms Hollands and Ms Scharfenstein.

MS LISA HOLLANDS MOVED, MS BELLA SCHARFENSTEIN SECONDED,

That the City of Belmont make available via their website a copy of the approved recordings of Public Question Time to all residents of Belmont free of charge for a trial period of six months.

CARRIED

6.3 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS LISA HOLLANDS MOVED, MR RICHARD FOSTER SECONDED,

That the City of Belmont conduct a survey of the residents of Belmont on their use of the local roads to access Perth Airport. It is to include route of travel, starting or ending location and frequency of use.

CARRIED

6.4 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS LISA HOLLANDS MOVED, MS JANET GEE SECONDED,

That the City of Belmont adopt a more conciliatory approach when dealing with residents and use litigation as a last resort.

CARRIED

8.45pm The Governance Officer departed the meeting.

8.47pm The Governance Officer returned to the meeting.

Item 6 Continued

6.5 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS LISA HOLLANDS MOVED, MS MARINA SALDANHA SECONDED,

That the City of Belmont is transparent and provides an adequate response to the ratepayers of Belmont as to why there is a significant discrepancy on the amount of costs awarded by the courts in the Saldanha case and that of the actual costs and advised by the CEO as it is ratepayer's money.

CARRIED

6.6 NOTICE OF MOTION

MS LISA HOLLANDS MOVED, MS BELLA SCHARFENSTEIN SECONDED,

As a result of the adoption of the more formal rules for Public Question Time now it is being recorded and which is subsequently disadvantaging the residents, that the City of Belmont amends rules of Public Question Time as to allow residents adequate time to ask questions and get a response. If Councillors don't support this tonight and when it is raised in 2019, they should consider if they are there to represent the residents.

CARRIED

9.12pm The Director Community and Statutory Services departed the meeting.

9.15pm The Director Community and Statutory Services returned to the meeting.

6.7 Ms B Scharfenstein, 140 Coolgardie Avenue, Redcliffe

1. What is the City of Belmont's opinion of Conservative commentator Paul Murray's recent articles in the West Australian contending that the new WALGA policies will serve to censor Councillors and undermine the democratic process?

Response

The Chief Executive Officer advised that he was not aware of the content of Mr Murray's articles and therefore did not have an opinion.

Ms Scharfenstein requested that the remainder of her questions be taken on notice.

2. Following its revision and analysis of the Revised DA6 Vision Plan, what specific changes has WAPC requested be incorporated in the Structure Plan that is delaying its completion- excluding the closure of Brearley Avenue?
3. Why has COB not undertaken any significant foreshore restoration to areas of severe bank degradation during 2018 and when will it reinstate a comprehensive bank restoration program?
4. Has the CEO written to the responsible authorities about the expanding sandbank near the Tonkin Bridge consequent to silt washing out of the Southern Main Drain into the Swan River and what response/s have been received?

Item 6 Continued

6.8 Mr R Foster, 140 Coolgardie Avenue, Redcliffe

Mr Foster requested that his questions be taken on notice.

1. In five or six years of attending City of Belmont OCMs, last night's OCM was probably the worst. Over the last five years you, Mr Mayor, have allowed us a certain amount of leeway with all of our questions and you have been extremely fair by allowing our questions. What has prompted the rules changes that turned last night's meeting into an absolute dog's breakfast?
2. What is the total floor area of the new community centre?
3. What will be the total floor area of the library, the digital hub, the recording studio, the museum, the crèche, the senior citizens club, the not for profit offices and the café?
4. Will the digital hub-recording studio be available for public use, such as music recording by local bands?
5. Can community organisations like BRRAG utilise the not for profit offices?
6. Cultural Centre in the DA6 in line with the Airport/Train Station/River in a Wagyl shape encompassed heritage/arts as a tourist attraction?

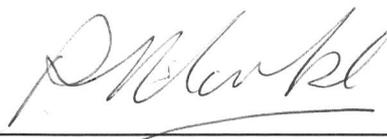
7. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.21pm.

MINUTES CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that these minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting held 12 December 2018 were confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 26 February 2019:

Signed by the Person Presiding: _____



PRINT name of the Person Presiding:

PHILIP MARKS
