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MINUTES OF THE HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday 11 December 2023

Released to the public on 14 December 2023

Table of Contents

Item Number	Page Number
1. PRESENT	1
2. APOLOGIES.....	1
3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	2
4. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING.....	2
5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS	3
5.1 PROPERTY MATTERS - LEASING OF KINDERGARTENS & CHILDCARE CENTRES.....	3
6. CLOSE OF MEETING.....	5

**DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL
HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
PRESTON CITY HALL, MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.36PM

The Mayor advised that the meeting was being streamed live and that the recording would be made available on Council's website.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, opened the meeting with the following statement:

I would like to start by acknowledging the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, the Traditional Owners of this land and pay my respects to Elders past and present, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture.

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr. Susanne Newton (Mayor) (Chairperson)
Cr. Tim Laurence (Deputy Mayor) (arrived at 6.44pm)
Cr. Emily Dimitriadis
Cr. Gaetano Greco
Cr. Tom Hannan
Cr. Susan Rennie
Cr. Trent McCarthy
Cr. Julie Williams

Council Officers

Peter Smith - Chief Executive Officer
Rachel Ollivier – General Manager, Operations and Capital
Kylie Bennetts – General Manager, Community
Bobbie Bright – Head of Governance and Risk
Chris Ryan – Manager Property and Asset Strategy
Jo Smale – Manager families, Youth and Children

2. APOLOGIES

Cr. Lina Messina was an apology.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Greco disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 5.1 Property Matters - Leasing of Kindergartens & Childcare Centres, due to his partner being employed at Clifton Street Children's Centre, as a casual staff member.

6.38pm – Cr. Greco left the meeting.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Decision

MINUTE NO. 23-121

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That the Minutes of the Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2023 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairperson, Mayor Newton, made the following statement:

Council has an occupational health and safety responsibility to ensure anyone attending tonight's meeting, feels safe both physically and emotionally.

5. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

5.1 PROPERTY MATTERS - LEASING OF KINDERGARTENS & CHILDCARE CENTRES

Author: Coordinator Property Services

Reviewed By: General Manager Operations and Capital

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend the Hearing of Submissions Committee receive written and verbal submissions made on the proposed leases with each of the 18 Early Years Services Associations (Service Providers).

At its meeting on 23 October 2023, Council resolved to undertake a community engagement program in accordance with *Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020* ("the Act") of its intention to enter into a lease for a period of 2 years plus an option for a further term of 3 years with each of the 18 (not-for-profit) Early Years Services Associations for the provision of Kindergarten and Childcare services at the various Council-owned premises. The terms and conditions of the proposed Leases include a full rental subsidy to each of these providers at the value of the annual market rent (as shown in **Appendix A** column headed NAV) with a \$104 annual fee plus GST. Terms and conditions relating to outgoings, utilities and maintenance would remain the same as the current lease arrangements expiring on 31 December 2023.

A public notice was given of Council's intention to these leases on Council's website on 30 October 2023 (30 day period). Further to this, flyers, posters and brochures were distributed to each of the 18 Early Years Service centres and 41 additional community-based facilities. The public notice period was originally scheduled to finish on Tuesday 28 November 2023 (5pm), however, this was extended by Council (at its meeting held 27 November 2023) to Thursday 7 December 2023.

Council has received 39 submissions from people who wish to speak at the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting, and a further 92 submissions from people who have nominated a speaker to present on their behalf. Overall, a total of 262 submissions have been received with 12 of the 262 submitters taking up the option to provide additional attachments to their submissions. Of the submissions received by Council, after checking for duplicates or incomplete submissions, 180 were assessed as valid, 1 being a separate email and 69 were deemed invalid. The invalid submissions were assessed as invalid due to either being incomplete or being a duplicate.

It is noted that the role of the Hearing of Submissions Committee is only to 'hear' and receive submissions. The Committee does not make decisions and therefore there are no options for consideration, or analysis of submissions included in this report.

Following the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting, a further report in relation to the proposed leases will be provided to Council on 18 December 2023 for its consideration and at which time Council will make a decision. This allows councillors time to consider important matters like this after having heard fully from submitters.

6.44pm - Cr. Laurence arrived at the meeting.

The following people were nominated to speak on behalf of multiple submitters and addressed the Committee in support of their submissions:

1. Emily Heir
2. Alex Cottrell
3. Kylie Seadon
4. Ben Schrever
5. Katherine Goodridge
6. Owen McCrink
7. Kirstin Boyd
8. Dr. Emily Novatsis

The following people addressed the Committee in support of their individual submissions:

1. Jisu Kim
2. Rebecca Hale
3. Sharon Coates
4. Luisa Serafini

Committee Decision

MINUTE NO. 23-122

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. S Rennie

That Council:

- (1) Receives the written and verbal submissions.
- (2) Thanks all submitters and presenters for addressing the Committee in support of their written responses.
- (3) Receives a report at the 18 December 2023 Council Meeting as part of Council's deliberations in considering the proposed leases with each of the 18 Early Years Services Associations (Service Providers) to ensure the ongoing delivery of early childhood services from the Council-owned facilities from 1 January 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.