

WHITE GUM VALLEY PRECINCT

Notes for Meeting held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 7 Feb, 2017
@ the White Gum Valley Primary School

Co-Convenor (Chair): Steph Jennings
Co-Convenor (Minutes/notes): Su Groome

1. Planning Updates:

Freo Alternative: Small Housing Project

Council Planning Officers gave an update on the Freo Alternative. The Consultation process is now complete – it involved Dialogue Café, focus groups, open day and group consultation.

Eight themes that came out of the consultation were:

- Community centred development
- Valuing existing trees
- Differing views on more or less parking
- Walkability important
- Retain open space
- Character and design – high design outcomes
- Sustainability: design and operation
- Affordability – rent, buy, operate and tenure models

Feedback from the Valley Precinct: Discretionary rezoning; greater flexibility; smaller houses on smaller lots; achieve mixed outcomes/diversity; relax traffic and access to get better outcomes; front setback relaxation.

There remains a question as to whether solutions can be found that will achieve the desired outcomes.

Council has recommended a Policy / Scheme Amendment be developed to test/explore the options.

Interested people can review agenda items from 25th Jan to find the detail that was provided to Council for consideration.

South Street Scheme Amendment

The Minister has approved the amendment for the South Street shopping precinct.

It is a much reduced scope to the proposal that was initially advertised to the community. It is limited to the commercial properties on South Street with heights of 3-4 stories, 2 storey set-back to boundary, 1 storey wall with no windows on boundary. Development has to be mixed use with commercial on ground floor and residential above.

Council Officers will now develop a local planning policy for the locality – this covers design and character.

This outcome is a testament to the community effort in making submissions and the work of our local representatives.

2. Off Leash Dog Area in Boo Park?

Boo Park has always been an A-Class reserve, which means a dog “on-lead area”. But signage had deteriorated and it was not policed. Following a couple of incidents with dogs threatening/attacking children or harming people, Council identified that signage needed to be upgraded and the on-lead requirement enforced. The community interpreted this as a change of rules rather than enforcing the existing rules. Council acknowledges this was poor engagement.

There has now been an online petition with hundreds of signatories submitted to Council requesting an off-leash area, with Piney Lakes given as an example. The dog off leash area at Stevens Reserve is overflowing at times. This issue will be put out for public consultation in the coming month.

An option has been proposed to create an off leash area away from play areas and the wetlands, for example the grassed area to the north east of the olive grove. Other areas would remain on-lead.

There was considerable debate with arguments both for and against.

- Several people argued in favour, noting that there is significant demand for these areas.
- It was asked whether an environmental assessment would be undertaken of the impact of dogs in the park. It was advised this will form part of the council’s assessment and report to council.
- Others argued in favour of preserving a safe habitat for wildlife is high and an environment that is safe for all users, particularly children. They noted that Boo is unique, whereas dog off leash areas are not.
- There was some support for finding a compromise solution as well as there is effective signage and fencing. Investigate alternatives to fencing, eg hedges. Also look into time restriction for off-leash.
- Query on owner prosecution if an incident occurs – need to tackle the owner’s behaviours. Advised that Rangers tend to work with parties when there is an incident, and otherwise issue cautions rather than fine.

It was confirmed that pedestrian access with dogs after hours to Royal Fremantle are permitted, with respect for the greens etc.

Community to look out for advertising of the issue.

3. Community Safety

Council has a Community Safety team who have responsibility for ranger duties, animals, city centre safety, ASB, illegal camping etc.

Recently they have focused much of their time and energy on the CBD. In very recent weeks City of Perth has implemented zero tolerance to homelessness, which has resulted in an increase in Fremantle.

Some residents raised suspicious out of hours activity on Montreal St around the Boo Park toilets and car parking areas.

There were also questions about what to do if syringes are found. The advice is to report immediately to the Community Safety team on 1300 360 666. They will come and remove them.

4. Rundown of Community Activities

- **Boo Park:** As a regular practice, Council will be refreshing the Boo Park working group and its rules of appointment. Group comprises 2 x Councillors, 2 x parks and gardens staff and several community reps. Community reps will be sought soon, once approved by Council.

Money is available for works to the amphitheatre but have been postponed due to staffing changes at Council.

- **Orchard:**

- Drip reticulation workshop – 25th Feb 9am; Register at wgvorchard@gmail.com
- Film night @ Sullivan Hall – 24th March;
- Olive oil picking and making (Valley and South Street trees) – 1st and 8th April;
- Mural workshop on shed / make timber oil – May;
- Creating compost bays – May;
- Lantern making workshops in June;
- Winter Solstice Lantern Walk – 20th June;

Always looking for new members – see www.wgvorchard.org

Events are free for members and \$5 for others

Follow on wgvorchard.org.au or Facebook

- **Valley Action Group:**

All energy is currently directed to Roe 8 action in Beeliar wetlands, so no local action currently.

We are still waiting on Main Road rep to attend a community meeting to provide advice re the tunnel alignment.

- **Streetscapes**

Sub committee has had an initial meeting to explore opportunities. This is still very much a work in progress.

Exploring do we make better use of our verges? The desired outcomes are traffic calming safer streets, more trees and landscape (green corridors), creating strong community identity.

Find some options for quick wins, meet with Annie at City of Fremantle to find what is possible.

In the longer term investigate developer contribution schemes that could assist to make this happen.

- **Use of Round Up Herbicide in Boo Park**

There are reports of widespread use, and after weeds have gone to seed. Needs to be reviewed, identify better practice and consider less toxic options.

Meeting finished at 9:30