

Council

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Thursday 12 December 2019 at 9.30am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Mayor P Southgate
Deputy Chairperson Deputy Mayor G Taylor

Members Cr M Bunting

Cr M Forsyth
Cr R Hamilton
Cr D Macpherson
Cr K Naidoo-Rauf
Cr R Pascoe
Cr S Thomson
Cr M van Oosten
Cr E Wilson

In Attendance: Richard Briggs - Chief Executive

Lance Vervoort – General Manager Community Jen Baird – General Manager City Growth

Eeva-Liisa Wright – General Manager Infrastructure Operations Sean Hickey - General Manager Strategy and Communication

Blair Bowcott – Executive Director Special Projects Andrew Parsons – Strategic Development Manager Rebecca Whitehead – Business and Planning Manager Joanna van Walraven – Policy and Strategy Advisor Natasha Ryan – Key Projects Programme Manager

Jackie Colliar - Strategic Manager

Governance Staff: Becca Brooke – Governance Manager

Amy Viggers, Claire Guthrie and Rebecca Watson – Committee Advisors

Prior to the opening of the meeting Mayor Paula acknowledged tragedy of the Whakaari (white) Island eruption and noted that our thoughts were with those families affected by the event.

She then acknowledged staff that were part of Hamilton City Council's Play Strategy that won the national award for Outstanding Research, Planning and Policy at the New Zealand Recreation Awards on Thursday 28 November 2019.

Hamilton City Council Kaumatua Tame Pokaia opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. Apologies

Resolved: (Deputy Mayor Taylor/Cr Wilson)

That the apologies for absence from Cr Gallagher and Cr O'Leary are accepted.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

Resolved: (Cr Bunting/Cr Thomson)

That the agenda is confirmed noting the following:

- a) late item 10 (3 Waters Sub-Regional Study and Cambridge Wastewater Discharge Consent Submission) be accepted. This item was circulated late as it was requested at the Elected Member Briefing of 4 December 2019;
- b) late attachment 3 of item C4 (Rototuna Village Pool Tender) be accepted. This attachment was circulated late as it was requested at the Elected Member Briefing of 4 December 2019; and
- that item C3 (TOTI application to Permanent Public Art Development Process) will be taken in the open section of the meeting, the report will be attached as appendix one of these minutes.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cr Hamilton noted that he had a family connection in relation to items 8 (TOTI application to Permanent Public Art Development Process) and C3 (TOTI application to Permanent Public Art Development Process) but was not conflicted. He would take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.

4. Public Forum

Rawiri Bidois, Piripi Matika and Sonny Karena (representing Te Haa o te Whenua o Kirikiriroa) spoke to item 7 (Rototuna Village Sports Park Name) explaining the meaning and history behind the name Korikori Park. They responded to questions from Elected Members concerning the inclusion of historical plaques throughout the park, including pronunciation guidelines.

5. Confirmation of the Council Open Minutes - 28 November 2019

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor Taylor)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 November as a true and correct record.

6. Confirmation of the Open Elected Member Briefing Notes - 4 December 2019

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor Taylor)

That the Council confirm the Open Notes of the Elected Member Briefing held on 4 December 2019 as a true and correct record.

7. Rototuna Village Sports Park Name

The General Manager Community and Key Projects Programme Manager introduced the report noting that the official opening of Korikori Park would be in February 2020. They responded to questions from Elected Members concerning the land area of the park.

Resolved: (Cr Thomson/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)

That the Council:

a) receives the report; and

b) approves Korikori Park as the name for the sports park located in the area described as Section 1 SO488972.

8. TOTI application to Permanent Public Art Development Process

Margaret Evans, TOTI representative, introduced Matt Gauldie, artist of the proposed statue, family members of Hilda Ross and members of TOTI.

The Business and Planning Manager introduced the report and outlined all the decisions made to date by the Council. Along with staff, Ms Evans responded to questions from Elected Members concerning the original art proposal and the previous resolutions of Council.

Resolved: (Deputy Mayor Taylor/Cr van Oosten)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report;
- b) revokes, in full, the resolutions of Council made at the 5 September 2013 Operations and Activity Performance Committee and 26 June 2017 Community and Services Committee in relation to TOTI's original proposal for the Public Art work near the corner of Worley Place and Ward Street which were as follows:

"OPERATIONS & ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE- 5 September 2013

That:

- a) endorse TOTI to proceed towards the detailed design (stage 3) for all three Dame Hilda Ross concepts;
- b) that Council endorses the Public Art Panel's recommendation to support a Dame Hilda Ross artwork on the corner of Ward Street and Worley Place; and
- c) that up to \$2000.00 from the Public Art Support Fund is allocated towards the Garden redesign on the corner of Ward Street and Worley Place.

COMMUNITY & SERVICES - 27/06/2017

That the Community and Services Committee:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) approves TOTI's Dame Hilda Ross artwork concept at Stage 2 of the Public Art Development Process."
- c) notes that it will consider further proposals from TOTI for a statue of Dame Hilda Ross in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Public Art Development Process; and
- d) notes the matter regarding the renaming of the road will be brought back to the Infrastructure Operations Committee.

During item 2 (Confirmation of Agenda) item C2 (TOTI application to Permanent Public Art Development Process) was moved to the open section of the meeting. The report will be attached as **appendix one** of these minutes.

C3. TOTI application to Permanent Public Art Development Process

The Policy and Strategy Advisor introduced the report and outlined Public Art Development Process. Margaret Evans then provided an outline of the history of the project. They responded to questions from Elected Members concerning the public arts process, the consultation that had occurred with tangata whenua, and the proposed location of the art work.

Staff Action: Staff undertook to consult further with Waikato Tainui concerning the art proposal.

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Cr Wilson)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) approves Option 1: Council accepts the TOTI application for Stage 1 and 2 of the Public Art Development Process for the Dame Hilda Ross statue.

The meeting adjourned 10.58am to 11.26am.

During the above adjournment Mayor Southgate left the meeting. Deputy Mayor Taylor resumed Chair.

10. 3 Waters Sub-Regional Study and Cambridge Wastewater Discharge Consent Submission

The Executive Director Special Projects and the Strategic Development Manager spoke to the report outlining the Phase 2 of Waikato Sub-Regional 3 Waters project and Cambridge Wastewater Discharge Consent Applications. They noted that paragraph 29 point iv of the staff report should read "Collaboration with our Iwi partners in relation to any submission it may make to the Cambridge treatment plant consent".

They responded to questions from Elected Members concerning funding of the project, the submission and project timeline, the possible risks to Hamilton City Council, and the scope of the 3 water study.

Elected Members requested that the submission include comment that Hamilton City Council fully supported a collaborative approach and model.

Resolved: (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council:

- a) approves Hamilton City Council contributing one third of the funding (approximately \$250,000) required to complete Phase 2 of Waikato Sub-Regional 3 Waters project; and
- delegates authority to the Chief Executive to lodge a submission of "Conditional Support" on the Cambridge Wastewater Discharge Consent Applications on behalf of Hamilton City Council based on the Principles of Approach set out in this report.

Mayor Southgate re-joined the meeting (11.40am) during the discussion of the above item.

9. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Bunting)

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	` '
C1. Confirmation of the Public Excluded Council Minutes - 28 November 2019 C2. Confirmation of the) Good reason to withhold) information exists under) Section 7 Local Government) Official Information and) Meetings Act 1987)	Section 48(1)(a)
Public Excluded Elected Member Briefing Notes - 4 December 2019		
C4. Rototuna Village - Pool Tender		
C5. Contract 13392 - Hosting and Managed Infrastructure and Application Services - Final Renewal Term		
C6. Verbal Update - CE Committee Matters		

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Item C1.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C2.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C4.	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C5.	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C6.	to protect the privacy of natural persons	Section 7 (2) (a)

The meeting went into a public excluded session at 12.06pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 3.00pm.

Council Report

Committee: Council **Date:** 12 December 2019

Author: Joanna van Walraven **Authoriser:** Lance Vervoort

Position: Policy and Strategy Advisor **Position:** General Manager Community

Report Name: TOTI application to Permanant Public Art Development Process

Report Status	This report is taken as a publicly excluded item to protect the privacy of natural persons; AND to enable
neport Status	Council to carry out negotiations.

Purpose

- 1. To inform the Council on TOTI's application at Stage 1 and 2 of the Permanent Public Art Development Process.
- 2. To seek the Council's approval of the application for a permanent public art work by TOTI at Stage 1 and 2 of the Permanent Public Art Development Process.

Staff Recommendation

- 3. That the Council:
 - a) receives the report;
 - b) approves **Option 1**: Council accepts the TOTI application for Stage 1 and 2 of the Public Art Development Process for the Dame Hilda Ross statue; and
 - c) notes that the decision and information in relation to this matter be released at the appropriate time, to be determined by the Chief Executive.

Executive Summary

- 4. The Theatre of the Impossible Charitable Trust (TOTI) have applied to Council's Permanent Public Art Development Plan for Stage 1 and Stage 2 approval for a statue that memorialises Dame Hilda Ross.
- 5. The new application replaces their previous application for a public art work (approved at Stage 1 and 2) for the corner of Ward Street and Worley Place.
- 6. Staff recommend Option 1, to approve the application in principle and continue working with Waikato Tainui in regard to public art in civic spaces, as detailed in paragraph 28.
- 7. Staff consider the matters have a low significance and that the recommendations comply with the Council's legal requirements.

Background

8. TOTI is a charitable trust that have a history of gifting public art works (including *The Line of Fire* and *War Horse*) to Hamilton city.

Appendix 1

Item C3

- 9. Since 2013 TOTI have been working on a project to commemorate Dame Hilda Ross in the form of a figurative work of public art.
- At the September 2013 meeting the Operations and Performance Committee gave Stage 1
 approval for an artwork commemorating Dame Hilda Ross on the corner of Worley Place and
 Ward Street.
- 11. At the June 2017 meeting the Community and Services Committee gave Stage 2 approval for a concept design for the site.
- 12. In June 2019 TOTI reported that they were experiencing problems with the site and logistics, and presented to Council a new proposal called "Two Marvellous Women" which depicted Iriaka Ratana and Dame Hilda Ross in two figurative bronze sculptures.
- 13. Staff were advised by Elected Members to investigate sites in or around Garden Place, and to seek the views of Waikato Tainui regarding the proposal. Waikato Tainui opposed the application due to concerns about the cultural safety of the proposal and context of the Captain Hamilton controversy.
- 14. Since this time TOTI have altered their proposal by removing the Iriaka Ratana figure from the concept and retaining only a single bronze figure of Dame Hilda Ross.
- 15. Given the change of location and design, staff recommended that a new application be made to the Permanent Public Art Development Process.
- 16. A timeline showing a summary of events is attached (Attachment 1).

Discussion

- 17. Permanent public art works that are vested to Hamilton City Council must go through the three stage Permanent Public Art Development Process (see page 2 Attachment 1).
- 18. The third stage of the process is signed off by the General Manager, Community, at which point the art work is vested to the Council. Once an art work is vested it is registered into the public art collection and maintained by Museum staff using the Public Art Maintenance Budget.
- 19. The art work proposed by TOTI is a figurative bronze statue of Dame Hilda Ross by artist Matt Gauldie (*War Horse*, *The Line of Fire*). The statue would be approximately 1900cms high and be installed in, or around, Garden Place.
- 20. The exact placement of the sculpture would be determined by Council staff in consultation with TOTI and key stakeholders. Council would retain the right to relocate the statue, if necessary, in consultation with TOTI.
- 21. An updated artist's concept is (Attachment 2) and TOTI's project brief (Attachment 3) are attached.
- 22. Once Stage 1 and 2 of the Permanent Public Art Process is granted TOTI can begin the process of commissioning the artist.
- 23. The proposal supports Hamilton City Council's Permanent Public Art Development Process by providing the city with public art works that tell the stories of Hamilton people.

Engagement

24. Under the Public Art Development Process Council staff are required to engage with Te Haa o Te Whenua o Kirikiriroa (THaWK). THaWK do not have any cultural concerns in relation to a statue memorialising Dame Hilda Ross.

- 25. Waikato Tainui were engaged with as part of the Iriaka Ratana/Hilda Ross proposal. Waikato Tainui opposed that proposal and recommended that the Council continue conversations with Waikato Tainui about:
 - the removal of the Captain Hamilton sculpture
 - implementing visual representations of partnership that consider Waikato-Tainui traditions and context
 - beginning conversations about including visual representation subject experts that are endorsed by the iwi.
- 26. Staff will continue to with Waikato Tainui on the issue of Public Art in civic spaces.

Options

27. There are 3 options for the Council to consider:

Option 1- Accept Application

28. The Council accepts the application for Stage 1 and 2 of the Public Art Development Process. This option would see the instatement of the artwork progress at this time while council continues to engage with Waikato Tainui on matters pertaining to public art in civic spaces.

Option 2- Decline Application

29. The Council declines the application until issues around public art in the CBD are resolved between the Council and Waikato Tainui. This option would require the resubmission of an application by TOTI at a later stage.

Option 3- Application on Hold

- 30. The Council puts the application for Stage 1 and 2 on hold and continues to engage with Waikato Tainui on matters pertaining to public art in civic spaces. This option would mean that the instatement of the artwork would not progress until matters pertaining to public art are resolved with Waikato-Tainui. When resolved, TOTI's application could be progressed.
- 31. Staff recommend Option 1- Accept Application, to approve the application in principle and continue working with Waikato Tainui in regard to public art in civic spaces, as detailed in paragraph 28.

Financial Considerations

- 32. If the proposal is accepted, the of the art work would be maintained using the Public Art Maintenance fund at an estimated cost of \$400 per year. This covers the cost of annual inspections and the cleaning and waxing of the art work once every 5 years.
- 33. If the proposal is declined there will be no costs to the Council.

Legal and Policy Considerations

34. Staff confirm that the proposal complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements.

Wellbeing Considerations

35. The purpose of Local Government changed on the 14 May 2019 to include promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings').

36. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.

Social

37. Public art is accessible to everyone in the community and contributes to a sense of place and belonging.

Economic

38. Public Art contributes to the interest and vitality of urban spaces. Public art helps economic activity by creating a vibrant and beautiful spaces to attract people into the CBD.

Environmental

39. There is no direct impact on the environmental wellbeing of Hamilton from this proposal.

Cultural

- 40. Dame Hilda Ross was a significant figure in the history of Hamilton and telling her story and celebrating her life contributes to a sense of identity and pride for Hamilton people.
- 41. Matt Gauldie is a well-respected artist who creates high-quality, aesthetically attractive works that contribute positively to the arts.
- 42. THAwK did not report any cultural concerns about the single statue of Dame Hilda Ross.

Significance & Engagement Policy

- 43. Staff have considered the key considerations under the Significance and Engagement Policy and have assessed that the recommendation(s) in this report has/have a low level of significance.
- 44. Given the low level of significance determined, the engagement level is low. No engagement is required.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 Timeline of Dame Hilda Ross Proposal
- Attachment 2 Matt Gauldie Sketch of Dame Hilda Ross
- Attachment 3 TOTI: Dame Hilda Ross Project

TOTI SCULPTURE PROPOSAL

BACKGROUND

2013 SEPTEMBER

Operations and Activity Performance Committee gave Stage 1 approval to TOTI for a Dame Hilda Ross sculpture on the corner of Ward Street and Worley Place

2017

JUNE

Community and Services Committee gave Stage 2 approval for Tim Elliot's concept design When Health Joins Hands with Happiness



Council approved the area on the corner of Ward Street and Worley Place, where the artwork was to be located, be named Dame Hilda Ross Plaza, and that the section of Ward Street between Victoria Street and Worley Place be renamed Hilda Ross Place



2018 MARCH

Council decision not to fund upgrade of Worley Place

2019 **APRIL**

Second Elected Member's Briefing

- TOTI report that they find the site problematic complex underground infrastructure, restrictive landscaping and costs of relocating electrics box
- Problems finding suitable materials
- Propose instead a two figure art work "Two Marvelous Women"



2019 **NOVEMBER**

TOTI state their intention to proceed without the Iriaka Ratana componant of the sculpture. The proposed site for the work is in Garden Place, on the grass close to the library entrance.



- Staff will draft a report for the 12 December meeting- Draft due 28

HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL

TOTI SCULPTURE PROPOSAL

NEXT STEPS

1

FURTHER CONSULTATION

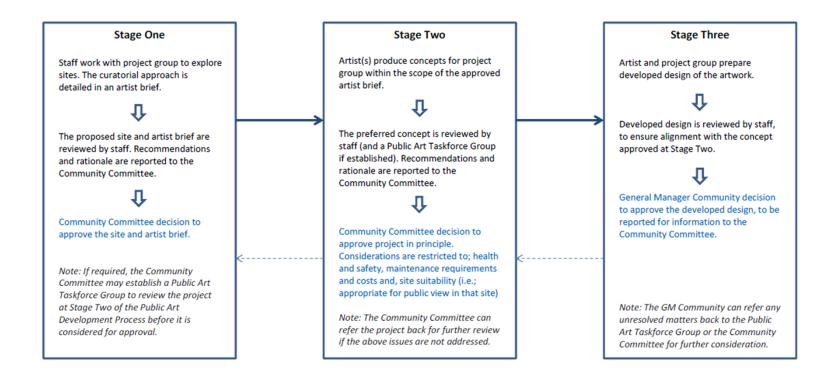
- Under Council Policy staff are required to consult with THaWK about any proposals for permanent public art when a report goes to a committee or Council
- Staff will consult with Waikato Tainui on new proposal
- Staff will consult key stakeholders in Garden Place for feedback on location

2

COUNCIL MEETING 12 DECEMEBER 2019

- TOTI will present a combined Stage 1 and 2 application at a Council meeting (12 December)
- Staff will present a report that includes technical information and findings from consultation

PUBLIC ART DEVELOPMENT PROCESS- PERMANENT ARTWORKS



HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL November 2019 2

Appendix 1





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20 November 2019

To Mayor Paula Southgate Hamilton City Council

(Copies to Cr Mark Bunting, Deputy CEO Lance Vervoort, Public art advisor Joanna Van Walraven)

Dame Hilda Ross commemoration

As discussed: We seek to gift the people of Hamilton a bronze sculpture of Dame Hilda Ross (1883-1959) by artist Matt Gauldie for erection in Garden Place (on a site agreed with Council staff). The project conforms with relevant council policies, there is family and wide-spread community support, and ongoing council engagement is offered during the commissioning and installation process.

In essence, this is a variation of TOTI's original Stage 1 and 2 project approved by the council in 2017-2018 to commemorate this nationally important and popular community leader, social activist and political pioneer within the CBD in the Hamilton place and space that framed her extraordinary public contribution and career.

It will mark the centenary this year of the 1919 Women's Parliamentary Right Act which enabled New Zealand women to sit in the House of Representatives for the first time, as well as the 125th anniversary of the 1893 enactment for women's suffrage. Urgency is requested. The commissioning of the work is dependent on funders' agreement and the artist's timetable.



For Hamilton and Waikato, Dame Hilda was the trailblazer, the first woman elected to a range of public offices – Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Waikato Hospital Board, Member of Parliament, and Cabinet Minister.

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Hands-on Hilda at camp, and Matt Gauldie's original concept (Hilda speaking at nurses' conference. Statue to be 1:25 life-size, Hilda holding the 1919 Women's Parliamentary Rights Act...

Extracts from TOTI's original proposal:

Dame Hilda Ross (1883-1959) was a pioneering political figure, a strong and outstanding woman with a life-time of life-changing community and public service – in the arts, health and social services, and community affairs, at the local, national, and global levels. Her political entrance coincided with WW2 (1939-45), and Hamilton city status (1945). Thousands publicly mourned her death in 1959.

Dame Hilda brings a list of pioneering 'firsts' from a half century of distinguished service to her city, region and country, and a blend of cultural and social sector activism, collaboration, and achievement.

By all accounts, Hilda Ross was ebullient, confident, and articulate, a great character and hands-on activist who spoke her mind. She is greatly suited to the busy economic, social, and political heart of the CBD. Retailing provided her economic foundation over half a century (through Barton & Ross in premises in Victoria Street's south end heritage precinct), but it is the central area, Civic Square and Garden Place where she can best be remembered, and close to Caro Street, named for that other civic leader to whom she was Deputy Mayor, and Worley Place for the early town engineer. Her name could link with two other great historical figures – Queen Victoria and Queen Alexandra.

The vicinity reminds of Dame Hilda's public service, her City Council links, her war-time political leadership & the WW2 Patriotic Hut in Garden Place, as well as her economic foundations in retailing.

This commemoration also remediates the loss of the arts centre which carried her name in the former City Library and Art Gallery, housed in the William Paul Hall - named for her children's camps cofounder and replaced with the Downtown Plaza in 1993. She never stopped working for Hamilton and the general public.



Hilda Ross (centre) with Mayor Caro, and PM Sid Holland (left). Others are Mrs Holland(far left), Caro's niece next to Hilda, a young Jenny Ross Andrew behind Hilda (her granddaughter), with Winter Show Association president HC Wallace next to William Paul on the right.



This 1950 New Zealand Herald Minhinnick cartoon portrays Dame Hilda with Mayor Harold Caro united in claiming a better deal from Government for the 'Cinderella City'.

Background:

TOTI's He Tangata Project was initially raised with the City Council in <u>2011</u> as a portfolio of four historic chapters to commemorate Hamilton's 150th anniversary in 2014 by developing public art to 'tell the stories'.

- arrival of the Tainui waka in the 14th century (Whakaotirangi)
- Waikato War and Waikato-Tainui land confiscations 1863-65 (Architects of the war/Tamihana)
- WW1 and Gallipoli 1914-1918 (Sapper Horace Moore-Jones and War Horse)
- WW2 and Hamilton's city status 1939-1945 (Dame Hilda Ross)

Dame Hilda Ross Project

<u>2014</u> – Hilda Ross project research continuing. Advisors include arts veteran Hamish Keith, and mana whenua academics Dr Ngapare Hopa and Assoc Professor Tom Roa.

HCC discussions re CBD sites. No consensus on artists concepts from 1st nationwide competition. Consultation included Hamilton Central Business Association, tangata whenua, associates, public, and family. Support letters from

- Te Haa o Te Whenua o Kirikiriroa
- Colin Ross (Dame Hilda's oldest grandson)
- Daphne Catley (sister of Dame Hilda's daughter-in-law) pp Suzanne Catley
- John Willis (Port Waikato Children's Camp Trust chair)
- Rt Hon Jim Bolger (former Prime Minister)
- Hon. Katherine O'Regan (former Minister)
- Hon David Bennett (Hamilton East MP)
- Tim Macindoe (Hamilton West MP)
- Neil Curgenven (NZ History Federation)
- Dr Marc Shaw (grandson of Cr Dorothy Blomfield)
- Len Knapp and Jan Luttrell (President & Vice President Hamilton RSA)
- Hamilton Central Business Association (Vanessa Williams)
- Starbucks (Manager Willem Kranenburg
- Tower building etc (Steve McLennan)

Tower ballaring eta (eteve mozerniari

2016 - HCC staff recommend Starbucks site for artwork (cr Ward Street and Worley Place)

2017 – HCC approves 'Hilda at the piano' Tim Elliott's artwork concept (estimated cost \$250,000), the 'people's choice' from new submissions. A close second was Matt Gauldie's 'heroic statue' Dame Hilda (estimated cost \$200,000), and preferred by two of her three grandchildren.

TOTI approaches Waikato District Health Board for interest in new CBD HQ naming plus Gauldie artwork. Place naming declined, but hospital site prospect in quiet staff courtyard.

2018 – Site, artwork, and cost challenges. No HCC funding for site landscaping. Ongoing review. \$150,000+ raised.

In October, TOTI approaches Parliamentary Services Commission (Speaker -Trevor Mallard) with the 'Three Marvellous Women' artwork concept for Parliament grounds to mark women's political rights anniversaries 2018 and 2019 (Mabel Howard, Hilda Ross, Iriaka Ratana – 1st two women Cabinet Ministers + 1st Maori woman, collaborated on wellbeing issues). Support from Hamilton MPs and Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel.

Hamilton Mayor Andrew King asks TOTI to reconsider Gauldie's concept after request from grandson Campbell Ross. Commitment to Elliott concept, but continue to canvas options.

2019 – January, Parliamentary Services Commission declines TOTI offer, statues prohibited In landscape plan. Trevor Mallard suggests approach to Wellington City Council.

In February, review project with council staff, Starbucks' site plus Elliott piano problematic Staff and major funders agree amended project, 'Two Marvellous Women' based on Gauldie concept (Hilda Ross and Iriaka Ratana) in Garden Place, supported by local MPs and HCC's Lance Vervoort. Recruit additional local tangata whenua advisors – Pirihira Kaio (1st HCC Maori woman councillor), Cathy Holland (consultant), Doreen Wilson and Faye Blossom (Maori Women's Welfare League).

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In April, confidential presentation to HCC of concept of 'Two Marvellous Women'. Recommended HCC consultation with Waikto-Tainui in response to Captain Hamilton statue.

TOTI continues community consultation. support from local MPs, Ross descendants, Maori Women's Welfare League, YWCA, NCW members etc. Opposition to HCC from Mahana Toka (Waikato-Tainui) and Adrian Rurawhe (Ratana grandson)

November, TOTI and advisors unanimous, postpone Iriaka Ratana for future review, refocus on Dame Hilda Ross, Gauldie concept, for Garden Place, seek early date to present to HCC.

New support letters from Colin Ross (grandson) plus YWCA. (attached) Tight time-frame – for artist and funding

Extract from Original Application to HCC:

INTRODUCING DAME HILDA ROSS

Dame Hilda Ross left her mark locally and nationally on most aspects of our society and culture, with her socially and culturally responsive leadership over more than half a century:

- In music, song and theatre as a passionate teacher, pianist and conductor with Waikato Diocesan, Hamilton Operatic Society and Choral Society;
- as an innovative hands-on social activist;
- in Anglican Church affairs;
- in retailing through her family business Barton & Ross
- and in local and central government 1941-1959
- as an influential Cabinet Minister.
- leading cross-party initiatives, with widely recognised collaborative skills,
- tackling the hard issues with gusto.

She was a wife, mother and grandmother, with personal experience of family sadness and challenges

In 1926, she co-founded heath camps for children from impoverished backgrounds; every summer for 25 years she was Camp Mother for more than 200 children at Port Waikato Children's Camp and organising nightly concerts. Co-founder William Paul, another significant Hamilton figure, was a lifelong friend.

During the Second World War, she kept the home fires burning, launching and leading the WWII Women's Voluntary Auxiliary Corps and The Patriotic Hut in Garden Place with a group of hard working devoted women volunteers, supporting returning soldiers.

Hilda Ross pioneered women's participation in public office in Hamilton and in Cabinet. In 1941 she was elected to the Waikato Hospital Board. She was part of the winning group elected to Hamilton Borough Council in 1944, the first woman councillor and then the first woman deputy mayor. A year later, Hamilton gained city status with a population of 20,000, and she was elected to Parliament in a by-election. In 1949 she became Minister for the Welfare of Women and Children for the first National government, claiming additional responsibilities including child welfare, pre-schools, juvenile courts and women's borstals, and the health camps. In 1957 she became Minister of Social Security.

Many of her issues and concerns resonate today:

- family stability and children's need for 'a good home life'
- violence against women and children (although she did support 'a good spank if required')
- the importance of the mother's role
- healthy living and a balanced diet especially children's lunches amidst concerns at extensive malnutrition
- welfare dependency

She was given Hamilton's Freedom of the City award in 1948. In 1951 she was selected by an American Mothers' Committee as the NZ 'Mother of the Year'. In 1956 she became the 3^{rd} New Zealand woman to be awarded the DBE and the title Dame. Today she is recalled as one of NZ's most influential 20^{th} Century history-makers.

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