



Hearings and Engagement Committee

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Hearings and Engagement Committee held via audio visual link on Tuesday 25 August 2020 at 9.30am.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Cr M Gallagher
<i>Heamana</i>	
Deputy Chairperson	Cr E Wilson
<i>Heamana Tuarua</i>	
Members	Deputy Mayor G Taylor
	Cr M Bunting
	Cr K Naidoo-Rauf
	Cr R Pascoe
	Cr S Thomson
	Cr M van Oosten
	Cr A O'Leary
	Maangai T P Thompson-Evans

In Attendance	Lance Vervoort – General Manager Community
	Jen Baird – General Manager City Growth
	Julie Sanderson – Business Manager
	Sandra Murray – Consultant
	Kelvin Powell – City Safe Unit Manager
	Rebecca Whitehead - Business and Planning Manager

Governance Staff	Amy Viggers – Governance Team Leader
	Carmen Fortin; Narelle Waite; Tyler Gaukrodger – Governance Advisors

- 1. Apologies – *Tono aroha***
Resolved: (Cr Gallagher/Cr Wilson)
That the apologies for absence from Cr Forsyth and for lateness from Cr Naidoo-Rauf and Maangai Te Ua are accepted.
- 2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***
Resolved: (Cr Gallagher/Cr Wilson)
That the agenda is confirmed.
- 3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga***
No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Safety in Public Places Bylaw consultation report

The Consultant took the report as read.

The following members of public spoke to their submission on the Safety in Public Places Bylaw:

Sue Griffin

Ms Griffin spoke in opposition to the proposed Safety in Public Places Bylaw, as she felt the skateboards disturb residents and damage public property. She responded to questions from members concerning the timing of this activity, potential damage to city assets and rules to address her concerns.

The City Safe Unit Manager spoke of public property damage and confirmed such activity had not reached concern to a level of police intervention/enforcement. He answered questions from members concerning the damage caused by skateboarding, how to differentiate between skating for transport vs recreation, and dissuading skating in specific areas.

Andrew Rees

Mr Rees spoke in opposition to the proposed Safety in Public Places Bylaw. He outlined the previous rule restrictions and the benefits of skateboarding as a mode of transport. He responded to questions from members concerning noise complaints from residents, and potential for designated local skate zones for recreational use.

Staff responded to questions from members concerning practical options to avoid property damage and potential time restraints on Garden Place skating.

Resolved: (Cr Gallagher/Cr Wilson)

That the Hearings and Engagement Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) hears and considers the submissions for the Safety in Public Places Bylaw review; and
- c) notes that a Deliberations Report for the Safety in Public Places Bylaw review will be considered at the 29 September Community Committee meeting.

Maangai Thompson-Evans joined the meeting (9:48am) during the discussion of the above item. She was present when the matter was voted on.

The meeting adjourned from 10:16am to 10:21am during the discussion of the above item.

5. Hamilton Gardens Management Plan – Submissions

The Business and Planning Manager outlined the report noting that this hearing was concerning the revised Hamilton Gardens Management Plan which retained the Rhododendron lawn.

The following members of the public spoke to their submissions on the Hamilton Gardens.

Jenny Newman

Ms Newman spoke in opposition of the Gardens Management Plan as she felt the new plan is prioritizing attractions over nature. She suggests the plan should prioritise more large open parks.

Response 826662635

The submitter spoke in opposition of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan. He noted his background as an arborist. He expressed concern that the new carpark will destroy critically endangered species, and native trees would also be removed. He recommended extending the

current carpark, providing a shuttle and a footbridge over the river to more parking and suggested hiring an independent arborist who would value the current value of the effected trees. He responded to questions from members concerning trees quality of life effected by the current carpark plan.

Response 950395109

The submitter spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management and suggested that the closure of the current carpark may impede disabled access to the gardens. They also suggested the older sections of the gardens should also be considered as historical sites.

Carrie Song

Ms Song spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan. She provided background as a Hamilton Garden volunteer for the last year, and suggested the current parking was inadequate, and would lead to visitors leaving without seeing the gardens. The felt the new plan would increase visitor numbers.

The meeting adjourned from 10:55am to 11:15am during the discussion of the above item.

Cr Naidoo-Rauf joined the meeting (11:15am) during the above adjournment.

Duncan and Teri France

Mr and Mrs France spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan. They expressed concern about the difficulty in navigating the gardens and suggested the use of a map app. They responded to questions from members concerning signage that could provide the same level of service as an app.

The meeting was adjourned from 11:25am to 11:30am during the discussion of the above item.

Resolved: (Cr Gallagher/Cr Wilson)

That the Hearings and Engagement Committee receives the report.

Pippa Mahood

Ms Mahood spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan that retained the Rhododendron Lawn. She suggested the treetop walk sides be clear to assist viewing access and raised concerns regarding accessibility restrictions of the Treetop Walk and new parking distances. She responded to questions from members concerning the Treetop Walks construction and design.

Cr Bunting re-joined the meeting (11:32am) during the above submission.

Lee Ann Muntz and Craig Muntz (Tainui Waka Tourism Inc)

Mrs and Mr Muntz spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan. They spoke of the background of the Tainui Waka Tourism organisation and spoke in support of the pedestrian bridge to Peacocke. They felt that iwi were not collaborated enough with current development plan, and the bridge would be support iwi connections. They responded to questions from Members concerning how the pedestrian bridge complimented cultural values, pedestrian bridge access could ease carparking strain and how the current development restricted access to the river.

Brian Main

Mr Main spoke in opposition of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan, noting his access concerns of access in relation to disabled visitors. He also spoke to Rhododendron Lawn potential stage options.

Grant Edwards

Mr Edwards spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan, noting concerns with the current plan restricting access to river beaches. He responded to questions to Members concerning biking and walking paths alongside the river.

John Dobson (Hamilton Gardens Development Trust)

Mr Dobson spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan, the background of the Hamilton Gardens Development Trust and noted the plan providing clear goals in fundraising for the gardens. He responded to questions from Members concerning the economic downturn effecting donation funding, public expectations of garden upgrades, historic effect of plan finalisation on public donation spending and the pedestrian bridges effect.

Jason Dawson (Hamilton & Waikato Tourism)

Mr Dawson spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan, noting that they assume consideration has been given to improved entrance signage, disability accessibility and toilet facilities. He responded to questions from Members concerning bridge access adding value, potential admission fees, potential for garden night attractions and the correlation between an increase of garden attractions increasing additional general Hamilton tourism.

Peter Verstappen

Mr Verstappen spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan and suggested the current parking location be altered to allow specialist and accessibility parking closer to the information centre and notes the plan should not limit access to the river. He clarified his concerns over bi-cultural tourism diversifying the intention of the Gardens as green space.

Marleina Ruka (Friends of Hamilton Gardens Inc)

Ms Ruka spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan and raised concerns regarding the new carpark location and the intention of having cyclists and pedestrians share path space. She suggested clear sides to the treetop walkway would improve the visitor experience. She noted that once the management plan was approved it would allow the Friends of Hamilton Gardens to continue their fundraising goals.

Maangai Thompson-Evans left the meeting (12:57pm) during the above submission.

Cr Pascoe left the meeting (12:59pm) during the above submission.

Marilyn Yeoman (Garden History Research Foundation)

Ms Yeoman spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan, noting that they preferred the previous management plan. She spoke to the quality of the gardens, and health and safety concerns of cyclists and pedestrians, children near the carpark and the distance to the information centre. She responded to questions from Members concerning and increase of promotion of the gardens.

The meeting adjourned from 1:03pm to 1:45pm.

Cr Naidoo-Rauf left the meeting during the above adjournment.

Cr Pascoe and Maangai Thompson-Evans re-joined the meeting during the above adjournment.

Jeremy Mayall (Creative Waikato)

Mr Mayall spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan. He responded to questions from members concerning increased scope of Gardens festivals and collaboration with Tainui Waka Tourism.

Cr Naidoo-Rauf re-joined the meeting (1.50pm) during the above submission.

Ben Cleland and Ingrid Huygens

Mr Cleland and Ms Huygens spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management and noted their concerns regarding the Victorian glasshouses. They suggested the carpark be moved west to allow the glasshouses to remain, for the sides of the treetop walk to be clear and the location of the pedestrian river bridge be moved to remove the need for multiple gardens entrances. They responded to questions from Members concerning their proposed car parking in Peacocke.

Paul Knox

Mr Knox spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan and expressed concerns about demolishing the Victorian glasshouses and the increased carpark capacity not being adequate in conjunction with the goal of increased gardens visitor retention time.

Virginia Graham

Ms Graham spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management and the original intent of the gardens. She suggested that the plan needed to be proactive to expand the scope of the garden.

Peter Thomas

Mr Thomas spoke in opposition of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan and suggested that the parks on both sides of the river could be connected via a pedestrian and cycle bridge.

Cr Pascoe retired from the meeting (2:15pm) during discussion of the above submission.

Martin Toop

Mr Toop spoke in opposition of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan suggesting no spending should be done on development of the Gardens for the next five years above maintenance. He felt that rates should be spent on other projects or other parks across the city and in suburbs. He responded to questions from Members concerning whether community fundraising would be an acceptable option.

Response 552242654

The submitter spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan and queried whether upgrades would increase rates to Hamiltonians. They expressed concern over the prioritisation of increased carparking over promotion of alternative transport and suggested more day and nightlife events to increase tourism. They responded to questions from Members concerning accessibility solutions for cyclists and pedestrians.

Brian White

Mr White spoke in opposition of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan, as the new plan cut off access to the river beach for swimming, and suggested that it would negatively impact the community.

Response 129803670

The submitter spoke in support of the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan, noting that they thought there was potential for additional monetisation and user paid attractions to fund future projects.

Cr Bunting retired from the meeting (2:39pm) during the above submission.

The meeting adjourned from 2:40pm to 2:46pm.

The members requested the following be included in the deliberations report:

- incorporating cultural sites near the gardens;
- ensuring elderly and disabled access to parking and all parts of the gardens;
- whether staff have considered effected rare and native trees;
- a potential for a pedestrian bridge across to peacocke;
- ability for multi-level carparking;
- all-weather and toilet access near carparks;
- health and safety of pathways and cycleways;
- the Glenview council land available;
- lighting to enable future nightlife events;
- river path access;
- technology potential within the gardens;
- signage; and
- public transport access.

Staff Action: *Staff undertook to report back to the Community Committee on a timeline of when the deliberations report would be provided to the committee.*

Resolved: (Cr Gallagher/Cr Wilson)

That the Regulatory and Hearing Committee hears and considers public submissions with regard to the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan that was held from 11 July 2020 to 9 August 2020.

That the Regulatory and Hearing Committee notes that a Deliberations Report that includes feedback from the initial consultation (8 April 2019 to 9 June 2019) and feedback from the 11 July 2020 to 9 August 2020 consultation will be brought to the Community Committee on 29 September 2020.

The meeting was declared closed at 3:17pm