

ITEM 5. NAMING PROPOSAL - RESERVE ON FRANKLYN STREET, GLEBE

FILE NO: X004851

SUMMARY

The City has received a request from the local community to name a pocket park located at 20-40 Franklyn Street, Glebe as the "Robyn Kemmis Reserve" to commemorate the life and achievements of the late Councillor Robyn Kemmis. The proposal is supported by the Glebe Society and Robyn's partner, Lynne Hutton-Williams.

Members of the local community consider naming of the pocket park to be a fitting and appropriate tribute to the life and achievements of Councillor Kemmis in the local community.

Councillor Kemmis was a Glebe resident for over 35 years and an active member of her local community. She served as a City of Sydney Councillor for eight years, from March 2004 to September 2008 and again from September 2012 to the time of her death in December 2015. During this time, she held the position of Deputy Lord Mayor, playing an important role in delivery and implementation of the Sustainable Sydney 2030 Strategy.

Councillor Kemmis was a long standing advocate for social justice, equal opportunity, women's rights, social housing and the local youth. She was highly influential in improving the welfare of local public housing tenants and effectively engaged the local community in decisions that affected their lives. She was involved on the Board of the Glebe Public School and was instrumental in the creation of the community centre located adjacent to the Franklyn Street Playground.

The pocket park is located at the heart of Glebe, the suburb in which Councillor Kemmis made her home and played an important role in its community life for many years.

This report recommends that, subject to community consultation, Council provide in-principle approval to naming the pocket park located at 20-40 Franklyn Street, Glebe "Robyn Kemmis Reserve", in memory of the late Councillor Kemmis.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council provide in-principle approval to name the public reserve located at 20-40 Franklyn Street, Glebe as "Robyn Kemmis Reserve";
- (B) Council approve the public exhibition of the naming proposal for community comment for a period of 28 days; and
- (C) a further report be submitted to Council at the end of the exhibition period.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Aerial image showing the location of the park.

Attachment B: Images of the park.

BACKGROUND

1. The pocket park located at 20-40 Franklyn Street, Glebe comprises grass lawns, shrub and tree plantings, a barbecue and a children's playground. The park does not have a formal name and is locally known by its street address – Franklyn Street Playground.
2. The land is a Crown Reserve, set aside on behalf of the community for public recreation. The City was appointed as Reserve Trust Manager in 2004.
3. In 2005, the City upgraded the park, installing new play equipment, soft-fall and furniture. The park area was extended in 2007 and an adjacent property formerly used as a butcher's shop was acquired and transformed into a community centre (opened in 2014). Access to the community centre is through the park boundary fence.
4. The City has received a request from the local community to name the park "Robyn Kemmis Reserve" to commemorate the life and achievements of the late Councillor Robyn Kemmis. The proposal has been submitted by the Glebe Society and is supported by Robyn's partner (Lynne Hutton-Williams) and the principal of the Glebe Public School (Vicki Pogulis).
5. Members of the local community consider naming the park to be a fitting and appropriate tribute to the life and achievements of Councillor Kemmis in the local community. The park is located at the heart of Glebe, the suburb in which Councillor Kemmis made her home and played an important role in its community life for many years.

Councillor Robyn Kemmis

6. Councillor Robyn Kemmis, BA (Hons) (UNE), MA (Essex), HonDUniv (UTS), was an experienced and accomplished administrator who held the position of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) at the University of Technology, Sydney and senior management positions within the NSW public service. She studied and worked at the University of New England and the University of Essex as a researcher and tutor, and worked in publishing and tourism in London. In 2002, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by UTS in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the University's mission. In 2003, she was awarded a Centenary Medal for service to Australian society in business leadership.
7. Councillor Kemmis was a Glebe resident for over 35 years and an active member of the local community. She served as a City of Sydney Councillor for eight years, from March 2004 to September 2008 and again from September 2012 to the time of her death in December 2015. During this time, she held the position of Deputy Lord Mayor, playing an important role in delivery and implementation of the Sustainable Sydney 2030 Strategy.
8. Councillor Kemmis was a long standing advocate for social justice, equal opportunity, women's rights, social housing and the local youth. She was highly influential in improving the welfare of local public housing tenants and effectively engaged the local community in decisions that affected their lives. She was also involved on the board of the Glebe Public School and was instrumental in the creation of the community centre located adjacent to the Franklyn Street Playground.

Naming Procedure

9. The process for naming public spaces generally proceeds as follows:
 - (a) in-principle approval by Council of the proposed name;
 - (b) public notification of the naming proposal with a minimum 28 day response time;
 - (c) Council approval following community consultation;
 - (d) assessment by the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales through its formal application process; and
 - (e) approval by the Geographical Names Board and subsequent publication in the NSW Government Gazette.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

10. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following SS2030 strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 2 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies: naming of the park will commemorate and raise awareness of the significant achievements of Councillor Robyn Kemmis in local community life.
 - (b) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling: formally naming the park will assist in pedestrian wayfinding and will facilitate local recognition and encourage its use and visitation.

Organisational Impact

11. The naming of the park will have no significant organisational impact. Park signage, already installed at the site, will be modified to reflect the new name and this work would be funded through the operational budget for park maintenance.

Social / Cultural / Community

12. The naming proposal originates from a request from the local community and has the support of local community groups and organisations, including the Glebe Society and Glebe Public School.
13. The wider community will have opportunity to comment on the naming proposal during the exhibition period.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

14. Modification of the existing park signage is a minor cost which would be funded through the parks operational maintenance budget.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

15. The Geographical Names Act 1966. The recommended name, following community consultation and adoption by Council, will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board NSW for consideration and assessment in accordance with their process for the naming of public places.
16. The recommended name meets the Geographical Names Board guidelines.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

17. There are no critical dates.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

18. The community will be notified of the naming proposal through the local press, a letter box drop to properties within a 250 metre radius of the park, through public notices on site and on the City's website.
19. The Geographical Names Board will also notify the public through the local press as part of their routine procedure for the naming of public places. If objections are raised, the proposal is returned to Council for further comment or amendment, if considered necessary.

GEORGE ANGELIS

Acting Director City Operations

Joel Johnson, Manager City Greening and Leisure
Mark Driver, Parks and Recreation Planner.