

€Minutes from McKenzie Pool Re-development Working Group
Monday 15 December 2008
Petone Library Meeting room, Petone

Present: Cr Joy Baird (Chair), Cr Barbara Branch, Kelly Barrat (PCB), Mason Branch (PCB), Gerald Davidson (PCB), Graeme Lyon, Nick Millar, Roger Bagshaw, Stephen Keatley (HCC), Marcus Sherwood (HCC), Joan McGrath (Petone Schools Rep), Aaron Marsh (HCC), Allen Yip (HCC), David Allan (Global Leisure)

Apologies: Cr Rodger Styles, Tony Stallinger (CEO, HCC), Michael Lulich (PCB), Marty Grenfell (HCC)

Minutes:

Welcome and introductions

The minutes from the 22 September 2008 were presented and accepted.

Dave Allan from Global Leisure went through his Preliminary Discussion Paper on Site Options as circulated.

Dave opened the floor for questions and comments about the report.

A general discussion was held about the leisure/spa type facility in the report and the pro and cons were discussed. Some comments from the discussion:

- Napier is already a tourist destination; is Lower Hutt?
- Does the Wellington Region need a facility of this type?
- We shouldn't completely focus on tourists rather consider visitors from the Wellington Region as the key catchment. International and national tourists should be considered as icing on the cake.
- A facility like this should have a good café and gym attached to assist with the operational costs.
- Different charges for ratepayers and visitors should be considered. AC Baths in Taupo have a system like this.
- Can this type of facility have community pool type facilities as well? It was pointed out the suggested pool in the report didn't have all the requirements of the community pool and the services provided depended on what type of site was chosen.
- Concern over only 4 lanes in lap pool in leisure spa scenario mentioned in the report.
- Will the council go for a higher capital cost facility like this? The Chair responded that we have been given the mandate from council to look at all options and take it back to them. We should be looking outside the square for a facility and funding options.

It was felt from a couple of members that this option missing a Learn to swim pool would be an issue for schools. There is a current national campaign concerning the lack of competency in child swimming and it would be important to have this element in the new facility. Marcus raised that a new Learn to Swim pool is proposed for Huia Pool which will accommodate more learn to swim programmes.

It was also raised about having an indoor pool. At this stage the community have requested an outdoor pool. Marcus stated that when the designing the new pool provision should be made to allow roofing at a future date.

A long discussion was held about:

- An indoor pool
- Merits of a learn to swim pool, school location.
- Size of the lap pool, with depth discussed.

- Spa/soak pools. Relaxation and wellbeing.
- Rebuilding the current pool over a couple of years. Eg Plant one year, the pool structure the next.

Gerald raised a concern about building a pool in the current economic climate and whether Council would increase the current funding of \$1.3. Also that as the property market has slumped would we get a good price if the current site was sold. The chair pointed out that the group needs to look outside the square for funding etc.

The chair also noted that there are still rumours that the current pool is going to be closed. Council have made a decision to re-build McKenzie Pool in some form which is the purpose of this group and that all members of the working group should ensure that this message is communicated clearly to the community.

The chair then asked to move to the selection of site. The sites looked at are listed below:

- Korokoro Gateway (West end of the Esplanade)
- Hikoikoi Park (East end of the Esplanade)
- Settlers Museum area
- Petone Recreation Ground – Caretakers old House or Corner of Udy and Britannia Street
- Extend on current site

Caretakers house site – Petone Recreation Ground

A discussion was held, with the following comments:

- Site is small
- Parking could be an issue
- Not very visible (no street frontage)
- Is close to Weltec
- On boundary with Petone Recreation Ground.
- Is close to schools
- Could sell the site to someone to offset the cost of the new pool

The Chair asked for a vote on this site. Working group voted the site not to be suitable for a pool. No further investigation.

Weltec Carpark Site – Corner Udy and Britannia Street

A discussion was held, with the following comments:

- Good size for a community pool and parking
- Could be utilised as multi purpose with other users of the recreation ground eg: meeting rooms or shared changing facilities
- Close to the schools and Jackson Street
- On the Petone Recreation so part of major the recreation hub
- Is some questions around how the council would get hold of the site as it is owned by the Crown (Ministry of Education). Has been talk about a land swap for council land closer to Weltec.

The Chair asked for a vote on this site. Voted to keep it in and do further investigation

Hikoikoi Reserve on practice field on seaward of table tennis centre

A discussion was held, with the following comments:

- Good size site
- Has a nice feel for a spa type facility as part of recreation reserve
- Good parking
- Gas main is close by.
- Potential link with future marae development?

- Low visibility site for a leisure spa.
- Far from schools and community
- Would displace some junior sports and summer soccer.

The Chair asked for a vote on this site. Voted to keep it in and do further investigation.

Settlers Museum Site

Cr Barbara Branch was very concerned about this site, major concern was parking, altering a historic building, traffic and visual line for the houses. Reminded the group of the previous attempts to build on this or other foreshore sites and the public reaction at that time.

A discussion was held, with the following comments:

- Exposed site from sand and wind
- Traffic
- High visibility site
- Site would be long and narrow.
- Good site for a Gym and café
- Great vista's

The Chair asked for a vote on this site. Voted to keep it in and do further investigation.

Korokoro Gateway (West end of the Esplanade)

A discussion was held, with the following comments:

- Noisy site
- Loses the sun quickly
- Not the best site for an outdoor pool
- High visibility site
- Far from schools and community

The Chair asked for a vote on this site. Voted not to be suitable for a pool. No further investigation.

Existing Pool site

A discussion was held, some comments that came out were:

- Could be extended into neighbouring house site owned by Council and possibly into North Park
- Good site for a community pool and favoured by previous consultation

The Chair asked for a vote on this site. Voted to keep it in and do further investigation

The four sites for further investigation are:

- Hikoikoi Park (East end of the Esplanade)
- Settlers Museum area
- Petone Recreation Ground – Corner of Udy and Britannie Street
- Extend on current site

Chair asked what type of facilities would you like on the above sites

Community Pool

- 25m Lane pool with 6 or 7 lanes. About the same size as present.
- Learn to Swim Pool approx. 15m x 7m
- Toddlers pool
- Spa pool about the size of Huia or smaller
- Some fun features for the children such as water park
- Grass area with BBQ and shading

Soak/Spa Facility

- Same facilities as above
- Large Soak pools
- Gym
- Café
- To have a nice view of the harbour and surrounding areas

A discussion on what extra work is required to narrow the options down the following was agreed as the actions from here.

ACTION POINTS

- **Press statement on progress to be issued – Joy/Marcus**
- **Interim report to LTCCP committee in January regarding progress to date and likely outcomes – Joy/Marcus**
- **Layout plan for each site with swimming pool footprint shown for next meeting– Dave Allan**
- **Financial projections provided for 2 types of facilities (leisure and community) – Dave/Marcus/Allen.**

It was agreed that at the next meeting we would aim to narrow options down on two sites based on the information provided.

Meeting Closed at 7.35pm

Next Meeting date: Second week of February 2009, TBA