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City of Melville: Five motions passed at Special Meeting of Electors about big issues

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CITY of Melville residents passed five motions at a Special Meeting of Electors at All Saints College last night, relating to some of the biggest issues in the area.

More than 200 people attended the meeting, with the motions set to be considered by the council at an upcoming meeting.

A motion for the council to initiate a full review of the Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan for the purpose of including maximum height limits, guaranteed retention of all existing trees and community consultation panels on all multi-storey development applications and planning approvals was passed.

Motions asking the council to review its Managing Unreasonable Conduct and Meeting Procedures Local Law were also given the green light.

A motion asking the City to notify Urbnsurf that it was not able to meet the pre-conditions for the ground lease for the proposed wave park at Alfred Cove was passed along with another motion asking the City to review the Tompkins Park redevelopment plans.

Five residents made presentations at the meeting, including City of Melville Residents and Ratepayers Association committee member Mark McLerie, Don Galbraith from the Palmyra Rugby Club, former Federal MP George Gear and Swan Foreshore Protection Association chairman Clive Ross, who put forward the petition for the meeting.

Mr Ross expressed concern about the ability of Urbnsurf to raise money for the Perth project.

“Urbnsurf have not raised the full amount of money and so there is no reasonable basis to request an extension of time,” he told the *Melville Times*.

Wave Park Group and Urbnsurf founder and chairman Andrew Ross said they had a “very significant share register” and their shareholders had agreed to support the first three of their projects in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth via 100 per cent equity.

“In terms of the conditions precedent in the lease, we absolutely believe they can be met,” he said.

City of Melville acting chief executive Marten Tieleman said the City and Urbnsurf were mindful the vacancy date was nearing as a consequence of delays caused by various unforeseen events.

“Both parties would need to agree for an extension on the vacancy date and it would need to be dealt with within the prescripts of the lease agreement, including Council approval where required,” he said.

It was revealed at the meeting that the Melville Bowling Club (MBC) intend to stay at their current premises, which has been slated as the spot for the proposed wave park.

MBC president Tim Smith said the decision was made at a committee meeting yesterday.

“The decision came because we felt that the City hasn’t been upfront and has promised the world,” he said.

“It has nothing to do with the wave park, it’s because we don’t feel we will be better off if we move away.

“We are going to tell the City they need to get out of the lease (with Urbnsurf) and that we want a long-term lease at our current facility.”

Mr Tieleman said the City understood that a change was not a simple process and appreciated why some members wished to remain at the current site.

“The desired outcome for all however, is a modern, more community focused shared facility with a sustainable operating model to ensure the sport of bowls as well as all the other sporting clubs are able to continue well into the future,” he said.

This transition unfortunately is a very difficult one.”

“To support all the groups that form part of the Tompkins Park project through this transition and change, the City will continue to work closely with them in regards to the new facility design and operation.”