

CUMBERLAND CITY COUNCIL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, 26 November 2020 at 6.00pm in the Committee Rooms, Council Administration Building, Merrylands.

1. Open of Meeting

Michael Brown opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed all attendees to the first meeting of the second term of the Events Advisory Committee of Cumberland City Council.

2. Record of Attendance, Introductions and Apologies*Events Advisory Committee Community Members*

| Name | In Attendance (Yes/No) |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aparna Vats | Yes |
| Assad Cina | No |
| Carly Lewis | No (Apology provided) |
| Mohammed Al-Zoubi | Yes |
| Renga Rajan | Yes |
| Sanjeev Goyal | Yes |
| Yin Lan Ge | Yes |

Councillors

| Name | In Attendance (Yes/No) |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Councillor Joseph Rahme | Yes |
| Councillor Ned Attie (<i>Chairperson</i>) | Yes |

Council Staff

| Name | In Attendance (Yes/No) |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Karen Sattler, Events Coordinator | Yes |
| Michael Brown, Acting Senior Coordinator Events and Culture (<i>Minutes</i>) | Yes |
| Nicole Byrn, Manager Community and Culture | Yes |

3. Committee Induction

Michael Brown presented the Committee Induction Presentation to attendees. Committee Members with further questions were invited to contact Carol Karaki and Council's Governance team.

ITEMS CONSIDERED AND DISCUSSED BY COMMITTEE:**4. Election of Chairperson**

Clr Ned Attie nominated himself as Chairperson. Committee elected Clr Ned Attie as Chairperson unopposed.

Clr Ned Attie outlined some operational issues with previous Events Committees and opportunities for this Committee's term.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There were no previous Minutes to adopt as this was the first meeting of the term of this Committee.

6. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

7. Updates

Christmas in the Gardens 2020

Michael Brown provided an update on the Christmas in the Gardens program.

- The free family friendly event will be held at Auburn Botanic Gardens on Saturday, 12 December from 6pm to 9pm.
- The objectives of delivering the event align with the former Cumberland Events Strategy 2017 – 2019.
- Program features 'Carols by Heartbeat' whose credits include Carols in the Domain, livestream of Christmas Carols, *Trolls* film, meet the Characters experience with Trolls characters, Christmas lights, take home colouring activity packs, and food.
- Event capacity is limited to 500 people due to COVID Safe event delivery requirements of one person per four square metres.

Feedback from Committee:

- Committee would like to ensure the event is not perceived as unsuccessful due to a lower attendance number. More attendees would be good. Council officers are requested to check COVIDSafe planning requirements and allow greater number of attendees if feasible.

Cultural Events Program, Future Events Program and Events Strategy

Michael Brown outlined that Council's Events Strategy and Events Program were under review and will be developed in line with financial and strategic priorities. The former Cumberland Council Events Strategy 2017 – 2019 has now expired, and now presents the opportunity for community, stakeholders and the Events Committee to inform the development of a new Events Strategy. An Events Program can be determined following the completion of an Events Strategy to ensure that Council's Events Program is strategic and sustainable.

Actions or Recommendations Arising:

- 7.1 Confirm COVIDSafe event delivery requirements to allow maximum possible capacity at Christmas in the Gardens.
- 7.2 Michael Brown to send the Cumberland Events Strategy 2017 – 2019 Event Evaluation Framework to the Committee.
- 7.3 Michael Brown to send the Sponsorship Policy and example Prospectus to the Committee.

Feedback from Committee:

- Acknowledged budget issues due to COVID-19.
- Events Strategy should be financially sustainable moving forward.
- Opportunity for Events Committee to rebuild Events Strategy.
- Clr Ned Attie stated that some events cost a lot and reached only a few people relatively; outlined the opportunity to meet multiple priorities from a single event, and to build the capacity of businesses and community groups to deliver events.
- Hopeful that Sydney Cherry Blossom Festival can be held in 2021.
- Yin Lan Ge asks whether a dance group can have a place to perform at events. Clr Ned Attie advises that Council can provide capacity building support to community groups such as a dance group to run their own events.
- Sanjeev Goyal recommends expanding the presence of Diwali across several days and increasing online presence. Clr Ned Attie indicates that budget allocations apply.

8. General Business

There were no general business items raised or discussed by the Committee.

9. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed 7:02pm.

Next meeting: date to be advised.