



SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL HEARING COMMITTEE MINUTES

for

Community Groups Use of and Access to Council Parks and Reserves Policy

8 November 2017

- Present:** Mayor Viv Napier (Chair), Councillors Pam Colenso, Margaret Craig, Dayle Harwood, and Brenda West (FCB Chair), Leigh Hay (GCB Chair, from 9:17am).
- In Attendance:** Helen McNaught (Amenities Manager) and Suzanne Clark (Committee Secretary).
- Conduct of Business:** The meeting was held in the South Wairarapa District Council Chambers at 19 Kitchener Street, Martinborough and was conducted in public between 9:00am and 12:05pm.

1. Apologies

THE HEARINGS COMMITTEE RESOLVED (HC2017/07) to receive apologies from Lisa Cornelissen and lateness apologies from Leigh Hay.

(Moved West/Seconded Cr Colenso)

Carried

2. Conflicts of Interest

Cr Harwood declared a conflict of interest with the submission from Card Reserve Artificial Surface Trust.

Cr Colenso declared a conflict of interest with matters relating to Considine Park as she was a member of the Considine Park Committee.

3. Submissions hearings

The Committee heard submissions from Emily Greenberg and Martine Bijker (Featherston First Friday's). Heather Martin had submitted attendance apologies.

Emily Greenberg

Ms Greenberg had reviewed the proposed changes to the Policy and was reasonably happy with the changes thus far. Ms Greenberg requested that Section 6 was removed as the terms and conditions were inconsistent with existing bylaws and management plans and not useful to applicants. Ms Greenberg suggested that restrictions were included in individual management plans. Ms Greenberg thought the Policy should have been developed in consultation with event organisers, that as written it was prohibitive and stifled creativity. The existence of an events approval permit was queried.

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Martine Bijker, Featherston First Fridays

Ms Bijker recognised the need for a policy, but felt the proposed Policy was restrictive, constrained creativity and was written using harsh language in a punitive rather than supportive ‘how do we’ manner. Ms Bijker thought the Policy should have been developed in consultation with event organisers and that the revised policy still did not cater for non-sporting groups that ran multiple events. Ms Bijker tabled an events policy from New Plymouth District Council which was easy to follow.

3. Deliberations

Members discussed the rigidity of the alcohol legislation, the dog control bylaw including the definition of ‘under control’, the need for the Policy to be consistent with Council’s Smoke-free Environment Policy, management plans, all bylaws, and that the Featherston Town Square was defined as an ‘open space’ with no plans to gazette to obtain ‘reserve’ status.

Council’s Amenities Manager recommended that the terms and conditions were removed from the Policy and used as internal guidelines that could be responsive to learnings. Ms McNaught explained that some ongoing events change every time they are held, and officers need to understand what is being planned.

Members agreed to amend identified clauses so they were less confrontational but still able to achieve a desired outcome.

Dogs off-leash at Lake Domain was the preferred solution, the Committee noted that the Animal Control Bylaw stated that dogs must be ‘under control’ at the Domain which was different from ‘on-leash’.

THE HEARINGS COMMITTEE RESOLVED (HC2017/08):

1. To receive the information.
(*Moved West/Seconded Hay*) Carried
2. To accept the draft Community Groups Use of and Access to Council Parks and Reserves Policy with amendments as discussed.
3. That section 6 is removed from the Community Groups Use of and Access to Council Parks and Reserves Policy and that it becomes a separate document that forms part of operational guidelines.
(*Moved Cr Craig/Seconded West*) Carried
4. To recommend to Council that the Community Groups use of and Access to Council Parks and Reserves Policy is adopted.
(*Moved Hay/Seconded Cr Harwood*) Carried
5. Action 656: Consider an itemised events fees table for community, sporting, not for profit and commercial entities in the Long Term Plan; J Mitchell
6. Action 657: Undertake a consistency check with Planning and Environment to ensure the Policy is consistent with Council’s bylaws, management plans and policies; H McNaught
7. Action 658: Incorporate a definitions section in the Policy utilising definitions in New Plymouth District Council’s events Policy; H McNaught
8. Action 659: Forward the amended Parks and Reserves Policy to all submitters; Committee Secretary
9. Action 660: Add timeline guidelines to the event application form; H McNaught

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10. Action 661: Prepare an events guideline and streamline the event form so both are complementary; H McNaught
11. Action 662: Upload site maps for Council's parks and reserves to Council's website so event organisers are able to download the appropriate map for their application; H McNaught
12. Action 663: Create a standard event acceptance form or email permit that can be provided to applicants; H McNaught

Confirmed as a true and correct record

..... **(Mayor)**

..... **(Date)**

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