**Special Meeting BHPA at Brown Hill Hall**

**On Monday Sep 13th at 7:30 pm (Covid Restricted to < 10 people)**

**Meeting opened 7:30pm**

Chairperson: Brendan

Attendance: Brendan S, Hazen C, Jason T, Peter F, Bernie B, Brian G, John O’B, Andrea P, Ben H.

Apologies: Sarah G, Sherene M, Phil K, Andrew J .

Brendan opened with a thank you to attendees and to those who are apologies as the limited numbers are

a challenge.

Main Item of discussion: Acceptance of final report from survey

Work through key findings and look at BHPA’s way forward

Firstly: Brendan offered a big thank you to Hazen for the effort involved in producing the report and special thanks to Ben for statistical analysis assistance and anyone else that gave Hazen a hand.

Brendan moved that the Final Report as presented be forwarded to Councillors and Council

Second by Brian. All in favour. Hazen will email the report to Councillors and Michael Hynes, Senior Advisor Strategy & Planning, City of Ballarat, tomorrow.

Key findings from feedback survey

1. Over 75% of respondents were in favour of the concept of a redevelopment of the reserve.
2. Over 81% of respondents were in favour of the pool closing if there was a possibility of having a pool in the future. This favourable response indicating that if the pool was to close then any use of the site post-pool, should be so designed to allow for reinstatement of a new pool in the future. Comments supported a preference for the Brown Hill community to have a pool, however this did not mean the current pool in its current state. Comments indicated a high preference for the pool to be replaced by a splash park.
3. Over 71% of respondents were supportive if Council decided to close the pool, the community would be compensated for its loss.
4. Over 50% did not wish to retain the existing pool, no matter what; 14% wanted the pool retained, while the remainder were unsure. Indicating their needs to be more discussion around this issue.
5. Comments indicate that the Brown Hill Pool’s history and heritage significance to Brown Hill and Ballarat needs to be acknowledged and celebrated.
6. Over 71% were supportive of maintaining the overall style of the reserve as outlined, regarding any redevelopment of the reserve.
7. In regard to individual features highlighted, as possibilities, the clearest preferences were for the addition of a toilet block and picnic tables with shading, features which were also the least contentious. Drinking taps, shading for the play area, solar lighting for the reserve, and replacing the pool with a splash park were also important to the majority of responders. The rest of the proposed features had mixed responses.
8. In regard to a skate park, there were a number of comments indicating that the reserve may not be the best place for a skate park and highlighting that one may be of greater value if built north of the freeway where currently there are no facilities for children. Comments also indicated that the addition of a pump track would also be welcomed.
9. Over 90% of respondents were in favour that there be completion of any works, for redevelopment of the reserve, in line with a 2023 120-year celebration anniversary for the reserve.

Progress Association’s proposed modifications of initial concept

1. Brown Hill hall toilets to be modified to allow a lockable external entrance.

Discussion: Run it by Council as an easy to do answer. Jason -structure may not be suitable as a public outside facility. Hazen will inform Hall Committee of proposal

1. A skate park/pump track site be explored north of freeway.

Discussion: A site has been identified on CHW land and there has been initial discussion & emails between Hazen, CHW and Mick Hynes at Council – it has not been completely dismissed.

1. Basketball hoop / ½ court (just 1) be sited in splash park complex –

Discussion: agreed that the flat area near proposed Splash Park would probably be enough

1. An off-lead dog enclosure to be made available along the Wallaby Track – not in reserve.

Discussion: Appropriate areas are available both sides of the Wallaby Track both Nth and Sth of the reserve.

1. When it is time to close the pool: redevelopment of the reserve to be done in stages with the first stage being the pool site and toilets. A works schedule to be started and completed which minimize any down time between close of pool and opening of the alternative.

Media article: Bernie was interviewed by a Courier reporter for the 21 August. We noted that the reporter also contacted Natalie Robertson who is quoted as saying: “*we know that we’re capable of keeping the pool going for a couple of years and the intention is to do that, to keep the pool in shape so that we can use it for the next couple of years*..” Sounds good to us.

This is the starting point for discussions with Council.

Progress Association’s way forward

Progress Association to:

1. set-up a Reserve Redevelopment Working Group to oversee community input and involvement in all stages of redevelopment project works.

*Brendan and Bernie volunteered to become the focus Working Group for the Reserve. They will be the contacts for Council.*

1. provide the means for interested residents to register their interest in various aspects/projects of redevelopment, so that they can be co-opted to the Working Group for the most appropriate time for specific projects.

*Much discussion and decided to not go along this path at the moment. Perhaps look at it in 6 months when hopefully Covid restrictions have been lifted. Interest shown through survey results can be of assistance in perhaps targeting interested parties.*

1. work closely with Council through a partnership to ensure an efficient and smooth transition of the redevelopment of the reserve to completion

*A given: makes communication lines are open wide with all parties*

1. ensure whenever and wherever appropriate, Progress members and residents can be involved in a hands-on manner in the delivery of project works.

*Aim is to give residents some ownership. Ben suggested, we should also aim to support local business with the appropriate qualifications and machinery for any works. Council will need to put out tenders for any paid works. Residents could be invited to participate with smaller landscaping or clean up type projects.*

1. provide ongoing support to encourage appropriate sponsorship for various aspects of redevelopment and support any Council funding applications towards major works of the redevelopment.

*Keep an eye out for grants and assistance packages as well as seeking assistance from other business.*

1. work with Council in the exploration of a site for a potential skate park / pump track for Brown Hill northside.

*Hazen volunteered to be the main contact for this project.*

1. encourage Council to formally conduct an oral history project to document the Brown Hill Pool’s history and heritage significance to Brown Hill and Ballarat.

*It is important to acknowledge formerly the hard work done by previous generations in the building of the pool and reserve and have this documented and perhaps displayed on the site*

Hazen to invite Michael Hynes to meet with: Brendan, Bernie and Hazen, later this week, if possible.

Details of the outcome of the survey will be in the next Community Newsletter to be delivered early October. The Survey report and feedback comments will also be available on the Community Hub for residents to access.

Meeting closed. 8:45pm