

Ordinary Meeting of Council 15 July 2020

The following statements were submitted prior to the meeting. Submissions made live during the meeting include some variations and can be listened via our live stream webpage:

<http://webcast.portphillip.vic.gov.au/archive.php>

Terence Glenane - Item 7.1 Petition request to Access the St Kilda Peanut Farm Pavilion and Oval Lighting by the Dog Owners Group of St Kilda

I am the President of the St Kilda Dog Owners Group of St Kilda. We represent a social group of dog owners who started in the Peanut Farm Reserve in St Kilda. Approximately 360 Group members regularly use the park daily, with many more joining us frequently. This group is a forum for our Dog related news and social interaction. I would like to speak in support and add comment to petition application. Main points will be:

The Peanut Farm oval is a dog off leash offers area, and a large enough area for dog owners to social distance while at the same time enabling a focal point for dog owners to group in numbers for security and safety, especially for young female members.

Dog owners have to exercise their dogs daily and many dog owners have to exercise their dogs after work hours during the dark. With the new LED oval lights activated this would add greatly to personal security at night and would enable dog owners to congregate on the oval at night for security and safety.

As requested lights would not be required no later than 7.30 pm; so disturbance to neighbouring premises to the oval would be of no practical concern. Of course, during summer time lights would not be required at all.

Because of the recent lock downs there has been a significant increase in puppy and other dogs purchased. Many dog owners joining our Dog Owners Group of St Kilda are first time dog owners and need support and guidance in dog training and behaviour. Also, dog ownership responsibilities to the community are transferred through other members of the group. With Peanut Farm oval lighting, not available many dog owners are denied a safe place to meet after working hours, sun set.

Council through its resources should encourage community groups to flourish for the benefit of wellbeing, Community spirit and making the City of port Phillip an even more desirable place to live and work. I believe the request to have the Peanut Farm lighting made available is modest, with Council having to do little compared to the Community benefits to be gained.

Georgina Tsolidis - Item 9.2 Multicultural Advisory Committee update and "All One Together" Anti-Racism Campaign

I'm here today as the Chair of the newly formed Multicultural Advisory Committee. The Deputy Chair Mireille Kayeye is also here and will speak shortly.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Council for establishing this important committee and providing us with this opportunity to provide an update on our work tonight.

In particular, I wish to acknowledge Councillor Ogy Simik who has been instrumental in getting us started and providing insight and commitment.

MAC was endorsed by Council last October and held its first meeting last December. We are establishing a work programme under difficult circumstances. I would like to acknowledge the work of Ewa Zysk who has provided tremendous support in positive and creative ways.

Her experience means she is across the issues which makes our work easier and more effective.

The Committee has members with a range of experience and expertise which will allow it to make a meaningful contribution to Council deliberations. I wish to thank all members for contributing their time and making the standpoint of important sections of our community more visible.

Cultural, linguistic and religious diversity is part of the fabric of our city and has been, historically. Those seeking a better life have come here for generations and the city has welcomed new ways of doing things that have created the dynamic place we are proud to call home. My own family has links to the area that go back to the 1960s when the area was less gentrified. While Greek remains one of the most spoken languages, there are now 114 languages spoken in Port Phillip with one in three people born overseas. This makes the work of our committee increasingly pertinent.

MAC has established an Action Plan. This is a dynamic document framed by the Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities. Our work is in line with Council policy and is also responsive to community priorities as these come to us through the extensive and diverse networks tapped by our members.

I would highlight some of our current priorities to;

- develop a multicultural communications plan
- ascertain the needs of multicultural groups catering for seniors
- develop and implement language access guidelines
- provide new arrivals with information about our community and information related to employment specifically.

Despite our short existence which has coincided with difficult ways of operating we have met monthly and have already achieved a lot.

To date we have participated in a number of consultations related to;

- Port Phillip Multicultural Seniors Groups
- The Draft Customer Charter
- Library Services for adults

We have formed working groups on;

- Cultural Diversity Week
- Refugee Week
- The draft council budget

Related to our priorities and responsibilities the following actions have been taken;

- In line with best practice, we have requested signage which announces that everyone is welcome in our city.
- We have developed short videos profiling positive settlement stories by four committee members to promote cultural diversity.
- Our members have participated in Library run sessions for Refugee Week

Perhaps most dramatically MAC, through its networks, has been able to provide Council with information and advocate action related to some of our most vulnerable communities during

the current crisis. This has allowed for more targeted and successful responses. These include;

Translations of key COVID-19 factsheets into Russian, Polish and Hebrew.

Linking organisations that support international students and asylum seekers through the "Share the Food" Project.

Assisting the starting of a local food delivery service that targets international students and individuals residing on a temporary visa (Food for Life – Hare Krishna Albert Park Temple).

The successful submission of several funding applications to support the digital literacy of multicultural seniors and families residing in Park Towers and Emerald Hill.

Assisting community members to report discrimination and vilification through on-line reporting mechanisms.

MAC has a key role to play through this type of 'grass-roots' activity that allows the Council to respond quickly in a targeted manner.

I'd like to finish with a request to Council that our term be extended from October 2020 to May 2021 in line with changes to the election time-table.

I will now hand over to Mireille to address the Council on another request.

Mireille Kayeye - Item 9.2 Multicultural Advisory Committee update and "All One Together" Anti-Racism Campaign

I am here today as the Deputy Chair of the newly formed Multicultural Advisory Committee.

Thank you for providing us with this opportunity to address you today.

As mentioned by the Chair, MAC has been working on all issues that affect multicultural, refugee and asylum seeker communities in the City of Port Phillip with an intention of providing Council with advice and feedback.

Today we would like to seek Council support to join "All One Together" which is a Victoria-wide anti-racism campaign. I will present the background information about this campaign and the steps Council needs to take to join the campaign.

The recent Black Lives Matter movement reminds us that systemic racism is everywhere including Australia. Research shows that BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) continue to disproportionately experience systematic discrimination including the way maternal care is provided to black women, in the educational and employment obstacles black youth encounter and black people's interactions with the justice system and police. The recent example in Victoria of the 'African gangs' rhetoric by mainstream media is very damaging to the way people of colour are perceived in the community.

I come from Burundi and I am living in St Kilda whilst seeking asylum. racism has been something I often deal with at many levels. The intersectionality between being a woman, a person of colour and a refugee will determine the jobs I am allowed to do, if I ever secure an interview, the housing I can access or the legal support I am linked to.

This campaign is one of the rare opportunities for organisations to collaborate and tackle discrimination in Victoria and Australia wide. It invites corporate activism, a strategy to promote respect and dignity for all individuals within their own organisations and their communities regardless of their origins, religion and race.

The All One Together Campaign invites organisations to join and commit to delivering an action to address racism, key actions involve:

- Establishing a senior led culture of no tolerance to racism,
- implementing specific policies and procedures to address complaints.
- Reviewing employment policies to detect biases in recruitment and career pathways.
- Developing mentor and role-modelling programs for new migrants.
- Making legislation that protects all citizens against racism including official channels for complaints outside an individual's organisation.
- Investing in culturally responsive practices and services.

By pledging their support to this campaign, Council will show publicly its ongoing commitment to challenging racism in practical ways. This is particularly important at a time when there is exacerbated racism through misinformation about the COVID-19, an increase in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and suspicion about those seeking to enter the community from overseas.

Port Phillip Council has a long history of supporting multicultural communities through endorsement of campaigns that promote social cohesion. The following has occurred in the last three years:

- In 2019, Council reaffirmed its commitment as a Welcome Refugee Zone by signing the Welcome Refugee Scroll.
- In 2018, Council membership of the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum.
- In 2017 - Council called for the evacuation of Manus Island and banners were erected on a temporary basis to publicly support asylum seekers on Manus Island and reconfirm Council's commitment as a Welcome Refugee Zone.

To date the following organisations have taken the pledge and issued a "Statement of Commitment":

- Moreland City Council,
- Australian Conservation Foundation,
- Welcoming Australia,
- Australian Multicultural Foundation,
- Think HQ,
- Victoria University,
- Yarra Valley Water,
- Capire Consulting Group and
- Football Victoria.

We call on the Council to consider the following actions specifically which are suggested by the campaign organisers:

- take the "All One Together" Pledge, noting that all partners who take the pledge will be highlighted on the campaign website.

- provide a 'Statement of Commitment' and issue a message from the Chief Executive Officer specifying why Council supports the "All One Together" and Defining one action Council will implement to tackle racism and discrimination. The action Council chooses to take should align with the council Plan and be fit purpose, and readiness.

By joining this campaign, Council will encourage stakeholders, businesses, organisations and residents who may not pay attention to racism, to actively implement means towards fighting against it. We look forward to a positive response that can foster strong relationships between and inclusion of all sections of our multicultural City of Port Phillip.

Rachel from Port Melbourne - Item 14.2 Proposed Tenancy Agreement - Port Melbourne Soccer Club

As a resident of Port Melbourne and a parent with a child at Port Melbourne school I object to the City of Port Phillip granting the proposed tenancy agreement to the Sharks on the terms outlined in the council papers item 14.2 for the meeting of July 15.

The proposal has been written in consultation with the Sharks and contains many inaccurate points that have not been verified with the community.

My objection is based on the following grounds:

1. Access to the grounds by local residents.

The proposal states the grounds are open for all residents. This is not true. The grounds are fully fenced and both the car parks and grounds are normally locked. The current fencing means that 1/3 of the JL Murphy Reserve is not accessible by local residents.

This morning the carpark was locked and all but one gate was locked. The car park is usually locked. I am a member of the adjoining Dig In community garden and we have been told we are not allowed access to the car park. Older members carry heavy materials, from Williamstown Road when they could park in an empty car park next door.

Signage on the fences around the grounds say 'if a ball goes over the fence you are to contact the Sharks' – by calling them on a phone number. Clearly this is saying don't come in and get your ball.

At the beginning of 2020 the council negotiated for one gate to be open to the community, but this does not signal free and welcoming access to the grounds. Also, this gate can be locked at any time.

2. Privileged access without providing a benefit to the Port Melbourne Community

Under the current tenancy agreement with Council, the Sharks were required to report quarterly detailing the community benefit programs undertaken by the club for the community. Clearly for the last 15 years this information was not verified and the community did not realise that this was a lease condition.

In the lease submission that I am objecting to today the claim is that they partnered with Port Melbourne Primary school providing playing grounds, technical support, and scholarship positions. This is not true. There is no relationship with the school and long-time school Principal Peter Martin is happy to be contacted to verify this. Not only is there no relationship with the Sharks the current primary school PE teacher has tried to reach out to the club without success.

They also claim to have a partnership with One Ball. The One Ball CEO has confirmed that One Ball is funded by a separate community grant. The Sharks do not provide support to

One Ball and the only benefit One Ball receives is that are allowed to use a field after 4pm on Sunday when everyone else has gone home. The One Ball coach plays for the Sharks but his contribution to One ball is funded through the community grant. The Sharks are misrepresenting their relationship and support of this organisation. The CEO is also happy to be contacted.

In the current lease document, the juniors/minirooms soccer program is also reported as a community benefit, but players must pay between - \$770-\$990 per season. In the same document these fees are listed as a source of revenue for the club. The kids are funding the adults.

The Sharks private club is a professional club with paid coaches and high fees. Many of the players are from outside the community. Middle Park soccer club is seen to be the community team for our area and they have to fight to get any access to the fields.

The membership numbers quoted in the lease agreement are also unusual. Parents and 'others' make up more than half the member numbers and many of these people do not reside in the community. There are very few players from Port Melbourne School.

3. In summary

I think it is very hard to justify continuing to subsidise a professional soccer club with community rates. There are many clubs that rely on Bunnings Sausage sizzles for their primary source of income. In this respect, it is very unfair that a privileged club gets access to such large council subsidises and grants.

It should be noted that the Sharks have not met their community obligations. If they receive a new tenancy, they need to rectify this.

False claims in the draft lease agreement need to be rectified.

The whole reserve needs to be accessible and the only way to achieve this is by removing the fence on the Eastern border to allow the residents free access to this very large piece of land. We should not need to beg to use these facilities.

I strongly oppose the Proposed Tenancy Agreement for the Sharks as outlined in the lease proposal.

My question to councillors is if someone today proposed to lock-up 1/3 of Murphy's Reserve without community benefit would it be approved?

Annette Maloney - Item 14.2 Proposed Tenancy Agreement - Port Melbourne Soccer Club

I'm a resident in Port Melbourne, a mother of 2 very sporty children aged 16 and 11, secretary of the Port Colts Junior Football Club and have recently stepped down as Port Melbourne Primary School -School Council President after 10 years.

I am here to object the City of Port Phillip granting the proposed tenancy agreement to the Sharks on the terms outlined in the council papers item 14.2 for the meeting of July 15

I think the question all Councillors need to consider is 'How does this exclusive tenancy benefit the local community?'

I have always been totally opposed to any user group having 'exclusive' use of pavilions / grounds / facilities.

For many years members of the soccer club came from so many other areas of Melbourne with only a small proportion actually from our community. I presume this is still the case. The club has never been about 'community sport' but rather a destination club for players with talent to enjoy the sport at the highest amateur levels. And that in itself isn't a problem – but expecting 'exclusive' access to community facilities is.

I believe they are currently trying to reinvent themselves as a 'Port' friendly 'local' club to secure the tenancy agreement with Council and have made some very 'false' statements in their proposal regarding their relationship with Port Melbourne Primary School.

As the School Council President for Port Melbourne Primary School for the last 10 years (I stepped down in March this year) I took liberty to consult with Peter Martin, the school Principal for the last 18 years (retired at the end of June 2020) to confirm what involvement PMSC has had with the school. His reply:

I had no idea that "Under the existing tenancy agreement PMSC is required to provide for community use. PMSC achieved this in 2018 by partnering with Port Melbourne Primary School and Emerald Hill Mission providing playing grounds, technical support, and scholarship positions." even though I was the school principal at the time. The school has worked very closely with both the Port Melbourne Netball Club and the Port Colts Junior Football Club for many years but has only ever had a "passing" relationship with the PMSC. I suggest that Council ask the PMPS Head of PE, Stephen Brewer, to outline to it his experiences in attempting to work closely with the PMSC. Council may also like to contact the Middle Park Soccer Club to hear about the difficulties that it has faced in finding opportunities in Port Melbourne for its junior players, most of whom are CoPP residents, to train and to play matches.

I suggest that Council in reviewing the submission re renewing the lease, ask the PMSC to provide details of the proportion of its soccer players (both senior and junior) who reside in the CoPP, and perhaps compare this with similar statistics for the Port Colts and Port Colts juniors. If there is a disparity, then the conditions of any lease should include details of how the PMSC intends to increase the number of CoPP residents who utilise its facilities and that this be a KPI for any future renewal of the lease. Further, the idea of any one organisation holding exclusivity over the use of public lands, particularly at a time when access to public land is becoming more and more critical in the light of the Fishermans Bend redevelopment, is one which would be anathema to many ratepayers in Gateway Ward, and any lease agreement MUST include provision for managing public access to both the grounds and the pavilion.

I would like to know how Council officers verified the statements made by the Sharks in their proposal re community involvement?

The pavilion should be a multi-use facility and there definitely shouldn't be permanent fences - open space is becoming more and more scarce and is vital for community health. Just as Woodruff and Aanensen ovals are open for anyone to come along, run, kick the ball, walk their dog, etc - so should the soccer grounds be available. JL Murphy pavilion is also available for all community user groups as well. As it should be.

I would also urge PMSC to appoint a socially skilled grounds person as the current gentleman who is currently often at the club is far from welcoming to members of the local community who come onto the grounds.

Upkeep of the grounds I presume is a council responsibility - therefore should be available to all in the community.

I agree that there should be an opportunity to fence off the No 1 oval when there is an upcoming feature game and prepare the grounds to competition standard, take gate takings at games, proceeds from the day etc. As I understand, these top tier games are limited throughout the year but hold the club in high esteem.

It is also wonderful that in 2023 the club will play host to teams competing in the FIFA Women's World Cup – I imagine there will be specific requirements regarding security and training requirements that will need to be managed during this time that will exclude the public – understandable.

With the Fisherman's bend, anticipated population of 80,000 by 2051 with residents already moving into the area, it is vital that we don't allocate any sporting facility for the exclusive use of any particular group for an extended period of time.

Summary

I would urge all councillors not to approve any exclusive use of the pavilion or the grounds. I'm sure there is a compromise that can be reached whereby PMSC has exclusive use for various times throughout their season but for the rest of the year the grounds and pavilion are available for community use in line with current CoPP requirements for casual use.

Thank you

Russell Abotomey - Item 14.2 Proposed Tenancy Agreement - Port Melbourne Soccer Club

I am a resident, ratepayer and Dig In Community Garden member. I regularly attend the gardens and walk around the JL Murphy Reserve.

I have made a written submission that I will take as read by the Councillors.

I request that the following items be added as conditions of granting a new lease to the PMSC:

1. That the gates to the facility and carpark are left unlocked at all times.

The gates (2 pedestrian and 4 access gates) including the carpark are regularly padlocked and access to the facility or easy access to the grounds for use by local residents is made difficult. Photos have been included in my written submission of the locked gates as of yesterday. There is currently only one pedestrian gate that allows access to the facility, in the south west corner along Williamstown Road. Recently the pad lock was removed from this gate. Additional pedestrian gates should be added to the Eastern fence line, to allow easy access.

2. That DIG IN members have use of the carpark.

Many of the Dig In gardeners are elderly and currently have to carry their goods from either Williamstown Road or Plumber Street. The carpark is located right next to the gardens and there are gates available to access from the carpark. Currently the carpark is regularly locked and members for the PMSC have told Dig In gardeners that they are not permitted to park in the carpark. Alternatively a padlock be added to the carpark gates keyed the same as the Dig In gardens locks to allow Dig In members to access the carpark.

3. That DIG IN members have use of the toilets in the Pavilion.

Dig In members have been told they are not permitted to use the toilets in the PMSC pavilion, which is accessible by a pedestrian gate. Members currently have to walk 250 meters to the JL Murphy Pavilion to use a toilet.

I also request that the CoPP make available to its Rate Payers transparency as to the total cost that CoPP contributes to the maintenance of the facility, both the pavilion and playing fields.

Thank You

Darren Hose - Item 14.2 Proposed Tenancy Agreement - Port Melbourne Soccer Club

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to our valuable community.

PMSC are passionate about supporting our community and sporting endeavours.

As a relatively newly elected board, we have been openly working with council since 2018; predominantly David Nankervis, his team, as well as sharing our visions with Dick Gross.

The majority of our board are local residence and have children who have attended local schools and appreciate first-hand the need for community support.

Our Port Melbourne Sharks is a community Club which has been run by volunteers for the past 52 years. There is a lot of history in this club which has produced Soccerroo Players and A-League Players.

The pavilion itself provides a family environment for current and past players and members dating back generations, which gives a sense of belonging to the community with a lot of history.

Using these facilities helps us generate fundraising income all year round, providing our main source of revenue that pays for programmes we offer to the community.

We have unfortunately had to turn away kids, especially junior girls wanting to participate in soccer as we are lacking the additional playing pitches required to grow our members.

We are also struggling to cater for men's and woman's change room and shower facilities with these currently being shared.

Port Melbourne Soccer Club Vision:

Our aim is to support the council's vision of providing building infrastructure as well as developing interagency partnerships that support connected communities within the City of Port Phillip.

We are also supporting the Fishersmans Bend Vision – Wirraway

We have been working to achieve this by:

- Fostering existing and new community relationships with local schools, local support groups, local businesses and local professional organisations
- Develop women's community teams
- Extend relationships with national sporting associations to attract infrastructure funding
- Build our NPL Soccer program to be best practice

Below is are our action categories, most of which are now underway, including;

1. School Programs – Port Melbourne, Albert Park, Middle Park and St Kilda Park
2. Emerald Hill Mission player sponsorships
3. Holiday & SAP Programs
4. Women's Community Teams
5. Football Empowerment
6. Australian Corporate Games
7. A-League Association
8. Lengo Football Academy
9. Soccer Mums
10. Supporting Local Businesses

In 2018, council officers worked with the PMSC to improve community access to our grounds which we supported as a club board.

Our gates have been left open for public use outside of training and game days and have been all year.

We are also passionate about continuing our 52 year history and would welcome additional playing fields allowing us to provide a pathway for girls to progress into our, recently established, two senior women's community teams.

Major funding will be available for facilities nominated to support our Australia and New Zealand successful bid to host the 2023 Women's World Cup.

PMSC with the support of the Council has been nominated as a training facility.

As a result we are working with the international governing body and government departments, including council, to secure funding to improve our facilities, sharing this benefit with our club and greater community. Our aim includes; pitch upgrades and female change facilities.

We are open to further asset improvements including; pitch 2 and clubrooms with the aim of also sharing these upgrades with the broader community.

We as a board are opening and available to explore these possibilities.

John Turnbull - Item14.2 Proposed Tenancy Agreement - Port Melbourne Soccer Club

Dear councillors,

I have been volunteering at Port Melbourne Soccer Club in a coaching capacity for 2.5 years now. In an average week, I spend about 20 hours at the club. I have worked with mini-roos through to seniors, but my main role has been as head of women's football. After relaunching the women's programme in late 2018, we have grown to 40+ members and have two teams competing in the Victorian State League community competition. We have players ranging in age from 14 to 51, from a variety of different backgrounds, and a great many of the squad live or work in Port Phillip (as evidenced by the excellent posts from some of our players in this thread). Port Melbourne Soccer club wants to build a truly

inclusive home for women's soccer in the area and is committed to establishing a development pathway for local girls that can be a leader in its class. None of this can happen without facilities. The subsidised rent at JL Murphy allows us to keep our membership costs competitive, lowering the barrier to entry for many who would otherwise find themselves unable to participate in a sport which is disproportionately expensive to play in this country compared to elsewhere. Indeed, even with rent as it is, the club has run the women's programme at a loss for the past two years in order to help it succeed. The women's World Cup, a once in a lifetime opportunity which the club helped secure, will be a catalyst for the world game in Australia, which will bring tourism, investment and attention to the Port Phillip area. It will also see interest in the game swell, and demand to play the sport explode, especially among women. I truly believe that not only should the council renew PMSC's tenancy at JL Murphy, but that they work with the club, local businesses and the governing body to bring the facilities up to a level that can cope with current and future demand, and be held up as an example of CoPP's commitment to growing female participation in sport.

Many thanks

Amanda Moore - Item 14.2 Proposed Tenancy Agreement - Port Melbourne Soccer Club

I've read the PDF in full. As mentioned by a resident in the Facebook thread, Fishermen's Bend Gymnastics Club pays 40x the amount of rent that is being proposed to the soccer club (over \$120k). FBGC on average has 480 members from City of Port Phillip plus hundreds more children attending play gym (1-5yrs), birthday parties and holiday programs.

FBGC has a fantastic relationship with the CoPP community and holds free incursions for all kindergartens (all age groups/classes), childcare centres and schools in CoPP who are interested and the club supports all of their fundraisers by request by way of voucher donations.

FBGC are so grateful for the few thousands in funding from the amazing people at South Melbourne Community Chest (with support from CoPP) which allows the club to subsidise fees for a number of vulnerable and disadvantaged children from CoPP and supports our Leadership Program whereby we train our senior gymnasts and teens from CoPP to become qualified gymnastics coaches. We also recently received two grants from Toyota and CoPP for two laptops and a rail bar (co-funded by the club). The gymnastics club is desperate for the support that other AFL and soccer clubs in the area have though when it comes to rent/facility support. Yes, gymnastics requires a large space to operate in but so does AFL/Soccer yet FBGC does not have council funded space/facilities as clubs from these codes do or rental assistance when the gymnastics club is contributing just as much or even more to CoPP children/residents.

FBGC covers all abilities from grassroots to competitive state level (possibly national if the sport wasn't so underfunded). FBGC don't receive sponsorship dollars aside from the grants mentioned above and we promote healthy lifestyles so the club also doesn't benefit from the sale of alcohol. It just seems that predominantly female sports are already disadvantaged when it comes to sponsorship opportunities and even more so when there isn't a level playing field in terms of funding. The inequality when it comes to council support is a gross injustice to female sports and not for profit clubs like FBGC that operate in the same municipality as Port Melbourne Sharks, Port Melbourne Colts and PMFC.

FBGC did originally operate in council facilities (the community centre in Garden City) however in addition to the set up and pack down requirements every day, the club outgrew

the facilities with a jump in membership from 100 gymnasts to over 400 and our gymnasts simply couldn't be accommodated in the premises. A large increase in participation is a great success story but the rent on the now permanently set up warehouse in Port Melbourne is huge.

FBGC currently runs at full capacity with morning Kindergym sessions and after school classes (8 classes of 8 children rotating on apparatus in the afternoon).

FBGC would be thrilled to have a councillor visit our premises in Boundary Street, Port Melbourne down the track once restrictions ease and we would certainly be welcome to discussion about increased funding from council. I could also envision the club being utilised for some council programs or sessions for seniors/50+ during our off peak times.

We have always had the best interests of our local community at heart as is reflected in our club values and our vision for the club. Gymnastics is a foundation sport and develops physical skills like balance, flexibility, muscular endurance, power, strength and coordination as well as having a positive impact on the vestibular system and auditory processing (critical for reading and maths and listening in the classroom), building bone density and enhancing social and emotional skills for children and youths; lifelong skills to have.

Our club has never been pushy when it comes to requests for council funding and we have always been pro-active in trying to remain financially viable. It's just disheartening when we know we are providing such a wonderful service for the children of CoPP and setting them up with life skills but the risk of the club folding after 70 years is at the forefront of our minds when our rent is so high and no support is received.

The following statements were submitted prior to the meeting and a summary of the statements were read out during the meeting by the Coordinator Governance.

Adrian Jackson – Public Question Time

1st Submission:

While accepting that the Corona Virus has/is disrupted sporting club activities recently and perhaps forever as the corona virus is here to stay in my view, why are ratepayers loaning funds for sporting clubs in the first place for kitchens and cool rooms of all things? Surely, beside the playing facilities, these clubs only need toilets and change room facilities. If they want to socialise after the games and eat and drink let the go to a nearby cafe or hotel and support local businesses instead now that we don't have 6 o'clock hotel closing times anymore. Many clubs, sporting and otherwise, were set up to get around the former 6 o'clock closing legislation for hotels of the past but that is history now. Why don't sporting clubs review membership fees if funds are needed as Port Phillip is now an affluent middle class municipality?

2nd Submission

A decade ago, I suggested a few times that 40 KPH should be the norm in all built up area residential street. Nothing came of it until a few years ago when the government introduced these limits. In Port Phillip, it is working well in Middle Park and environs. This 40 KPH limit was also imposed on the coastal road between Fitzroy St and Luna Park too even though this is a Victoria Roads road I think which is great. 40 KPH limits are also needed in Kerferd Rd, Albert Park, and Canterbury Rd, Middle Park, Kerferd Rd is only about a short section

but has a few uncontrolled crossings, like Richardson St, so there is no need to travel any faster. Canterbury Rd is longer but has 3 or 4 pedestrians crossing and a tram turning light at Mills St, that slows or stops car traffic as do the light at Fitzroy St and Kerferd Rd. Cars that race to these lights often have to wait at the red light so why the rush? I always travel in these roads at 40 KPH and a car that pass me will see me catch up at the lights. I save wear and tear on the car and fuel too. Councillors impose 40 KPH a limit in these two roads. I love driving my cars, but at a sane speed. My white 1985 Range Rover V8 Classic keeps me dry and warm in Winter with the car heater and cool in Summer with car air conditioning when needed. My orange 1960 Triumph TR3A Roadster is more a summer fresh air car. Dark black and grey coloured cars are a safety hazard on our roads as they blend in with the black road surface, particularly approaching last light. We live in Australia not Europe were dark cars contrasting against the snow conditions for half the year overseas but not here.

3rd Submission

I just made an online submission for budget 20/21 concerning not funding activities that are closed or cancelled, like events and galleries, because of the Corona Virus. However, while most contact details were requested the address of the submitter was absent. Whether the submitter is a ratepayer or resident of Port Phillip is required. We don't want people not connected with Port Phillip making frivolous or dodgy demands for funding in the budget. Further council should not be funding and planning events in 2021 that won't happen, like sadly, the St Kilda Festival. Recently the St Kilda Film Festival had to go online when St Kilda theatres and the town hall could not be used. The Corona Virus is here to stay and will only get worse as has happen in the weekend 11/12 Jul 20 when Victoria has its first corona virus death, a man in his 90's. Conspiracy theory "good old boys" from the dysfunctional USA will soon say the virus is a prelude to "Mars Attack" like in the funny film with Jack Nicholson and Glen Close. I don't believe American conspiracy promoters though. Please Explain.

Trevor White – Public Question Time

Many ratepayers and residents of the City of Port Phillip have either lost money in their business, been put on job keeper or lost their job and now on job seeker. These people need support from the City. Will Council support ratepayers, businesses and community groups who are experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic by giving rate waivers, rate relief or deferrals? Business and landlord rate relief should be extended to tenants, who do not directly pay rates, with the agreement of their landlord that any deferral or rebate will be directly passed on to the tenant. It is suggested that, to be eligible, ratepayers (direct or indirect, such as tenants) must be a Commercial and Community group ratepayers who have been required to close due to COVID-19 and are eligible for the Job Keepers payment. Residential ratepayers should be eligible for the Job Seeker or Job Keeper payment. Any other ratepayer experiencing financial hardship due to income dropping by 15 per cent or more. It's easy, Council can use existing documentation which has already been verified by the ATO, hence it's easy to implement. Many in the community were disappointed that the majority of Councillors voted against having a budget option prepared for review based on a no rate increase option. This is an opportunity to support ratepayers and tenants who have lost income in their business, on Job Keeper or lost their job and on Job Seeker. An example of this rate support can be found at the City of Mitcham in Adelaide which have adopted such support for residents and businesses.