



A NEW LORD MAYOR AND NEW SOUTH WARD COUNCILLORS

At the recent Adelaide City Council elections a new Lord Mayor, Martin Haese, and new South Ward Councillors Alex Antic and Priscilla Corbell were elected. The previous Lord Mayor, Stephen Yarwood, South Ward Councillors Michael Henningsen (who stood for the position of Lord Mayor) and Tony Williamson together with Area Councillor David Plumridge were unsuccessful. SECRA has written to all of the above congratulating those who were successful and extending SECRA's commiserations to those who were unsuccessful and thanking them for their support while on Council.

During Stephen Yarwood's term as Lord Mayor a meeting between the Lord Mayor, Councillors and Residents Groups was established on a three monthly basis to provide a forum where city residents' concerns and issues could be raised and discussed. It is pleasing to see that the new Lord Mayor, Martin Haese, has agreed to continue with these forums and one was held on 8th December 2014. Residents' concerns about the withdrawal of Council's representation on the approval process for major developments in the city and the possible return of horse racing to Victoria Park (and the permanent pavilion) were raised and discussed.

South east city residents are encouraged to contact the South Ward Councillors, Alex Antic and Priscilla Corbell, if they have any concerns or questions regarding issues associated with the Adelaide City Council. Contact information is provided as shown. SECRA will continue to represent south east city residents and pursue residents' issues and concerns with both the Adelaide City Council and the State Government as appropriate.



Alex Antic
Ph. 0477 731 114

Priscilla Corbell
Ph. 0438 568 270

a.antic or p.corbell @adelaidecitycouncil.com

VICTORIA PARK – A RETURN TO HORSE RACING?

In December 2006 (when the parliament is not sitting and the general public is more focused on Christmas and holidays) the Rann Government announced plans for a permanent structure in Victoria Park. It therefore came as no surprise that December 2014 was chosen by the Weatherill Government to raise the return of horse racing to Victoria Park and of course the associated permanent structure! However it beggars belief that this announcement was released to the media without any consultation with the Adelaide City Council who is the custodian of the Park Lands. This again illustrates the arrogance and non consultative attitude of the Weatherill Government that has been seen in the planning and development process.

While SECRA opposed the construction of a permanent pavilion in Victoria Park some 8 years ago it did not oppose the use of the park for horse racing which had been held at the park for over a hundred years. However the situation has changed. Since the SAJC vacated Victoria Park and horse racing is no longer held there over 10 million dollars have been spent by the council in upgrading the park. The park now has a network of paths for walking, running, bike riding and dog walking, etc together with a criterium track for cycling and pedal car racing, soccer and cricket facilities and the upgraded heritage grandstand and premium field which is used for many events including rugby, polo and the Australian International 3 Day Event.

On October 15th 2014, journalist Sophie Perri wrote in The City: " Victoria Park. So Much Space. These parklands are magical; it feels like the world is at your fingertips here. You'll have to stop yourself from spinning Julie Andrews style. Head here on the weekend – around sunset is beautiful – and see all types of people getting the most out of this endless stretch of greenery. It's full of cyclists, people walking their dogs, artists quietly sketching on the benches, guys flying model helicopters ... it really is the people's park."

To have horse racing return to Victoria Park would now be inappropriate as is stated in the letter opposite that was published in the Advertiser on Saturday 13th December 2014. It could be likened to someone advocating the return of motor vehicles to Rundle Mall! SECRA member and ex Area Councillor, David Plumridge, also had a letter published on the same day in which he stated *“Setting aside the sheer arrogance of the proposition that a popular park can be alienated by building a massive multistory pit structure (justified by reintroducing horse racing) two hoary old myths need to be dispelled. One is that car racing only needs one building – in fact the event builds over 40 structures. The other is that the park lands are some kind of “wasteland”; in fact Victoria Park is a well developed and extensively used oasis of recreation in the heart of the city”*

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The final report “The Planning System We Want” by the Expert Panel on Planning Reform was released by the Government on 12th December 2014 for consultation which closes on 13th February 2015. SECRA has submitted a number of submissions to the Expert Panel and will be preparing a submission on this final report. The final report is 179 pages and contains 22 recommended planning reforms.

The report can be viewed at www.thinkdesigndeliver.sa.gov.au and residents are encouraged to read the report as it may not be “The Planning System **YOU** Want”! Any comments or concerns that you have with the report can be emailed to DPTI.PDPlanningReform@sa.gov.au by 13th February 2015.

PARKLANDS DRY ZONE ANNOUNCED

On 18th December 2014, after many months of apparent inaction, the Government announced a 3 month dry zone trial in the Adelaide Park Lands over summer. The dry zone will apply from 8pm to 11am and not for 24 hours as requested by the Adelaide City Council. Hopefully this will provide some respite to those residents close to the south Park Lands who have had to put up with alcohol related antisocial behaviour for many months. However if drinking is allowed in the Park Lands until 8pm there could be many inebriated people who remain in the Park Lands after 8pm and still present a problem. The dry zone initiative needs to be accompanied by a strategy to help and assist those people who are presenting the problem.

WELCOME TO ADELAIDE – A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

The Adelaide City Council has produced a “new residents” card that will be available at universities, letting agents, etc. This initiative is a result of a request by SECRA for information to be provided to new residents of the city so that they are aware of the services available to them and of their responsibilities regarding such things as the placement and removal of their bins for collection, etc. This card lists the “top 10 things you need to know” and directs new residents to www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/welcome where there is information on “how to be a good neighbour and stay safe in the city”. SECRA welcomes this initiative and encourages not only new residents but all residents to visit this web site.

The SECRA committee wishes all residents an enjoyable Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015.

Email: secra@gmail.com Web: www.secra.asn.au Postal: PO Box 7017, Hutt Street, Adelaide, SA 5000

Racing is over

THE Adelaide City Council has spent millions of dollars on upgrading Victoria Park with a new criterium track, an area for model aircraft flying, soccer pitches and a network of paths for walking, bike riding, dog walking and running – together with new landscaping.

There is now a push to have horseracing return to the park which will be completely incompatible with what is now a park well used by the public.

The days of having horseracing – with a pedestrian accessible, simple post-and-rail fencing requiring marshals placed around the track to ensure that no one crosses during a race – are long gone.

Horseracing at Victoria Park nowadays would require a permanent, non-pedestrian accessible fence around the racetrack which would severely restrict public access to the park.

There are parliamentarians and others who incorrectly say that Victoria Park is a wasteland when in fact it is a vibrant park visited each day by hundreds of locals and others.

It will, however, become a wasteland devoid of people if fenced off for horseracing.

JOHN UNDERWOOD,
Chairperson, South East City
Residents Association.