Woollahra Plaques Advisory Committee Minutes

Woollahra Council Chambers,
Wednesday 3 June 2015 at 6pm

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Chair – Councillor Anthony Marano

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NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER AT 6PM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS – THORNTON ROOM
Woollahra Plaques Advisory Committee

Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on
Wednesday 3 June 2014 at 6pm

1 Present & apologies

Present: Councillor Anthony Marano (Chair)
Councillor Peter Cavanagh
Graham Humphrey Community Representative
Camilla Strang Community Representative

Staff: Vicki Munro Manager, Library & Information Service
Joan Ruthven Community Programs Team Leader
Jane Britten Local Studies Librarian

Absent: Councillor Luise Elsing; Di Brown, Christopher Dawson, James Dolton, Adrian Gruzman, Sophia Hart, Chris Howe.

2 Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes. It was moved by Councillor Cavanagh and seconded by Graham Humphrey to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

3 Selection of successful nominations for plaques

The four nominations were discussed by the Committee. The four selected nominations were: Margaret Olley, Herbert Henry (Dally) Messenger, Captain John Piper and Nikolai Nikolaevich de Micklouho-Maclay (see Annexure 2 for details of each nomination tabled at the Advisory Committee meeting). The Advisory Committee resolved that of the four plaque nominations recommended to Council for 2015, the first three listed below would proceed to implementation with the fourth subject to further research:

- Margaret Olley
  Site of plaque: Frontage of 48 Duxford Street, Paddington.
  Wording for plaque: Artist and benefactor lived here.

- Herbert Henry (Dally) Messenger
  Site of plaque: Frontage of 16 Transvaal Avenue, Double Bay.
  Wording for plaque: Sportsman, lived here.

- Captain John Piper
  Site of plaque: Frontage of the Rose Bay police station, New South Head Rd, Point Piper.
  Wording for plaque: Military officer and public servant lived in Henrietta Villa (demolished) on the Point Piper estate.

- Nikolai Nikolaevich de Micklouho-Maclay
Site of plaque: Frontage of the Marine Biological Station, 31 Pacific Street, Camp Cove.
Wording for plaque: Details to be finalised once the decision on the nomination has been resolved.

It was noted that some information had been traced concerning one of the nominees, Nikolai Nikolaevich de Micklouho-Maclay, that might, if proven, exclude him from eligibility. It was agreed that more research should be undertaken to substantiate the claims made in relation to that nominee. It was also suggested that the nomination might proceed if the wording on the plaque was confined to “scientist and explorer”.

The Advisory Committee also discussed the nomination of Margaret Olley and that this nomination called upon the Exceptional Circumstances provision in the selection criteria to be used, as Margaret Olley died in July 2011 which is less than the minimum period of ten years normally required before consideration is given for eligibility:

“Except where exceptional circumstances exist, a person must have been dead for ten years or have passed the centenary of their birth, whichever is the earlier, and have resided in the Woollahra Local Government area”.

The Advisory Committee agreed to uphold the selection of Margaret Olley on the grounds that she made exceptional contributions through:

- Philanthropic support
- Standard of her work
- Support for young artists
- Standing in the Arts community

Actions:

- Local History staff to provide further information on Nikolai Nikolaevich de Micklouho-Maclay;
- The information researched by the Local History staff in relation to the three selected nominations be placed on the Woollahra Council Plaque Scheme web pages; and
- The Community Programs Team Leader to send letters to all nominees advising of the outcome of the selection for the Woollahra Plaque Scheme 2015.

4 Determine Plaque Launch dates over the coming 12 months for successful nominations
At the meeting, the unveiling schedule of the 2015 Woollahra Council Plaque Scheme was discussed and recommendation made that it be staged over the ensuing 12 month period concluding in June 2016 as follows:

- Captain John Piper
  Date of unveiling: Wednesday 10 February 2016, the date that the relevant land grant was formalised.
- Herbert Henry (Dally) Messenger
  Date of unveiling: March 2016, a date to coincide with the official commencement of the NRL season.
- Nikolai Nikolaevich de Micklouho-Maclay (pending confirmation)
  Date of unveiling: Thursday 14 April 2016 – anniversary of the date of his death.
- Margaret Olley
  Date of unveiling: Friday 24 June 2016 – anniversary of the date of her birth.
5 **Discussion of next steps**
All nominees will be advised of the outcome of their applications and advice given to Engineering services concerning dates of unveiling for all possible plaque inlays. The Community Programs Team Leader will obtain quotes from Cunneen signs and raise orders prior to the end of the financial year.

6 **Launch of Plaque for Sir John Hay 22 June 2015**
Councillor Marano advised the Committee of arrangements for the unveiling of the plaque commemorating Sir John Hay. The unveiling ceremony will be held at 337 New South Head Rd on Monday 22 June at 10:30am-11:30am.

7 **Discussion of attendance at Plaques Advisory Committee**
Attendance at meetings was raised as a concern among the Advisory Committee members. It was agreed that an absence of three consecutive meetings without explanation should warrant an approach to the member to determine if they wish to remain on the Advisory Committee.

*Action:*
- James Dolton to be approached by the Community Programs Team Leader to see if he wishes to continue his involvement with the Advisory Committee.

8 **Other Business**
Committee members were reminded of the new schedule for nominations and rollout of the next round of plaques for 2016 commencing from 1 September 2015 and closing 31 October 2015.

9 **Next Meeting**
Wednesday 18 November at 6pm, Council Chambers – Thornton Room

The meeting closed at 7:15 pm.