Minutes of the Community Services and Facilities Committee - 17 August 2026

Members The Rt Hon Clover Moore AO - Lord Mayor of Sydney (Chair), Deputy Lord Mayor - Councillor Jess Miller, Councillor Olly Arkins, Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore (Deputy Chair), Councillor Lyndon Gannon, Councillor Robert Kok, Councillor Zann Maxwell, Councillor Matthew Thompson, Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM and Councillor Adam Worling.

Order of Business

Councillors agreed that the Order of Business be altered such that the Community Services and Facilities Committee be brought forward and held before the Equity and Housing Committee.

At the commencement of business at 3:10pm those present were -

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Adjournment

At 4:15pm, following the vote on Item 4, it was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Thompson –

That the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee be adjourned for 15 minutes.

Carried unanimously.

At the resumption of the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee at 4:30pm, those present were –

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller and Worling.

Councillor Thompson left the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee at 4:15pm, at the adjournment, and did not return.

Councillor Weldon left the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee at 4:15pm, at the adjournment, and did not return.

The meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee concluded at 4:31pm.

Item 1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee of Monday 22 June 2026, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Olly Arkins disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 4, in that Paul Sekfy is on the board of the Local Community Services Association and has not been recommended to receive a grant in this program. She has known Paul as a longtime activist in the Labor Party. Councillor Arkins also has various relationships with Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC), which has been recommended for an accommodation grant:

- A community relationship with Katie Green, CEO Inner City Legal Centre, who she has known though work in the lead up to NSW Drug Summit. This is from her work in music festival and the ICLC program providing free legal advice to festival goers around police powers.

- Board member Jeremy Moineau through personal and professional networks.

- Board member Jo Tilly, who she has known for over a decade as a fellow Inner City activist. She met Jo through her partner Penny Sharpe, a senior member of the NSW Labor Government. Red Tilly, Jo’s son, works with Councillor Arkins in her office.

- Board member Eden Tollis, who she has known for over a decade, as he lived in a share house with a close personal friend and more recently though his work at Sydney Film festival.

Councillor Arkins considers that these non-pecuniary conflicts of interest are not significant and do not require further action in the circumstances as neither she nor her staff have had contact with any of them about this item.

Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 4, in that she has worked with or known a number of submitters, including Cathy Eatock with whom she worked at the former NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Aunty Kathy Farawell Dodds who is a family friend, and former Councillor (Waskam) Emelda Davis with whom she served on the City of Sydney Council last term.

Councillor Ellsmore considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because she did not discuss the item or decision with any of the submitters.

No other Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee.

The Community Services and Facilities Committee recommended the following:

Item 3

Grants - Ad Hoc Grant - Bridge Housing Limited/PCYC - Capital Works Funding

It is resolved that:

(A) Council approve a cash grant to Bridge Housing Limited for $5 million (excluding GST) to support the construction of a new community facility as part of the Redfern Place development at 600-660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) approval of the cash grant will be withdrawn if:
  - (a) the project materially changes from the current proposal as outlined in recommendation (A)
  - (b) Bridge Housing does not demonstrate evidence of a construction certificate having been obtained for the project by 1 December 2027
- (ii) the grant funds will only be paid when evidence of a construction certificate for the project is provided
- (iii) a covenant must be registered on the title to the community facility building that limits use of the land to a community facility in perpetuity, on terms required by the City, prior to occupation or commencement of use (whichever occurs first) of the community facility
- (iv) a subdivision certificate for the development will only be issued by the City when evidence of the instrument that will register the covenant on title required by recommendation (A)(iii) is provided
- (v) until the covenant required by recommendation (A)(iii) is registered on title, the City will require the grant to be repaid in full indexed annually by CPI if:
  - (a) the project materially changes from the current proposal as outlined in recommendation (A), or
  - (b) the community facility at Redfern Place is not fully completed and operational (including fit-out and activation) by 1 September 2030
- (vi) acquittal of the grant is to be provided by way of:
  - (a) evidence of registration of the covenant required by recommendation (A)(iii)
  - (b) evidence from Bridge Housing of a legally binding lease or agreement with PCYC, or similar organisation, for the activation and operation of the community facility at Redfern Place

(B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to:

- (i) finalise negotiations, execute and administer the grant agreement with Bridge Housing Limited in accordance with this report
- (ii) otherwise administer all matters relating to this grant.

(Note – at the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and carried unanimously.)

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Speaker

Michael Silman (CEO PCYC) addressed the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee on Item 3.

Item 4

Grants - Accommodation Grants

The Community Services and Facilities Committee decided that consideration of this matter shall be deferred to the meeting of Council on 24 August 2026.

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommendation to the Community Services and Facilities Committee was as follows –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council approve the value-in-kind recommendations for the accommodation grant program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report

(B) Council note the applicants who were not recommended for support for the accommodation grant program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report

(C) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST

(D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer occupancy agreements with any organisation approved for a grant under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants policy

(E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided.

Staff Report

The staff report on this matter can be found at Item 4 on the agenda of the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee on 17 August 2026.

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Speakers

(Waskam) Emelda Davis (Chair Australian South Sea Islanders - Port Jackson), Uncle Ben Harry (Torres Strait Elder-in-residence Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries), Aunty Kathy Farrawell (Glebe Aboriginal leader), Eli Roberts (Tribal Warrior), Coral Lever (Founder and CEO First Nation Response) and Mel Marshan (Inner City Legal Centre) addressed the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee on Item 4.

Item 5

Adoption - Support for Charities Policy

It is resolved that:

(A) Council adopt the updated Support for Charities Policy as shown at Attachment A to the subject report

(B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor amendments to the Support for Charities Policy in order to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication.

(Note – at the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and carried unanimously.)

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