Director Governance & Financial Services Report No. GF26/17

GF26/17

Subject: **Kensington Park Community Centre Bookings Fees & Charges**

Folder No: F2017/00098

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Introduction

A Council Report proposing draft fees and charges for the Kensington Park Community Centre was tabled at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23 May 2017, where it was resolved;

"(Stavrinos/Moore) that:

a) the Draft Kensington Park Community Centre Casual Hire fees be placed on public exhibition for not less than 28 days, inviting submissions from the public;
b) at the conclusion of the period of public exhibition consideration be given to any submissions made concerning the fees; and
c) the General Manager be authorised to make any minor changes if required."

The public exhibition period has now closed and the purpose of this report is to seek adoption of the proposed fees.

Issues

The consultation was open for a period of thirty (30) days from 24 May to 22 June 2017. 85 surveys were submitted on line and 60 surveys were hand delivered to Council. There was 698 visits to the Your Say page. The consultation was promoted via the following means:

- Email to all Your Say Randwick subscribers (2562 recipients);
- Email to all who participated in the Kensington Park Plan of Management consultation;
- Copies of the survey were available at all libraries and Customer Service;
- Facebook post and twitter on 4 June;
- eNews article;
- Listed in Randwick News in the Southern Courier on 7 June; and
- Mail box drop to 5000 residences around Kensington Park.

<u>Proposed Fees & Charges</u>
Four questions were asked relating to the proposed Fees & Charges;

- How do you feel about the proposed Commercial rates for hiring Hall 1 and Hall 2? Weekday rates $70 & $60;
- How do you feel about the proposed Commercial rates for hiring Hall 1 and Hall 2? Weekend and public holiday rates: $80 & $70;
- How do you feel about the proposed Charities/Not for Profit rates for hiring Hall 1 and Hall 2? Weekday rates: $49 & $42; and
- How do you feel about the proposed Charities/Not for Profit rates for hiring Hall 1 and Hall 2? Weekend and public holiday rates: $56 & $49.

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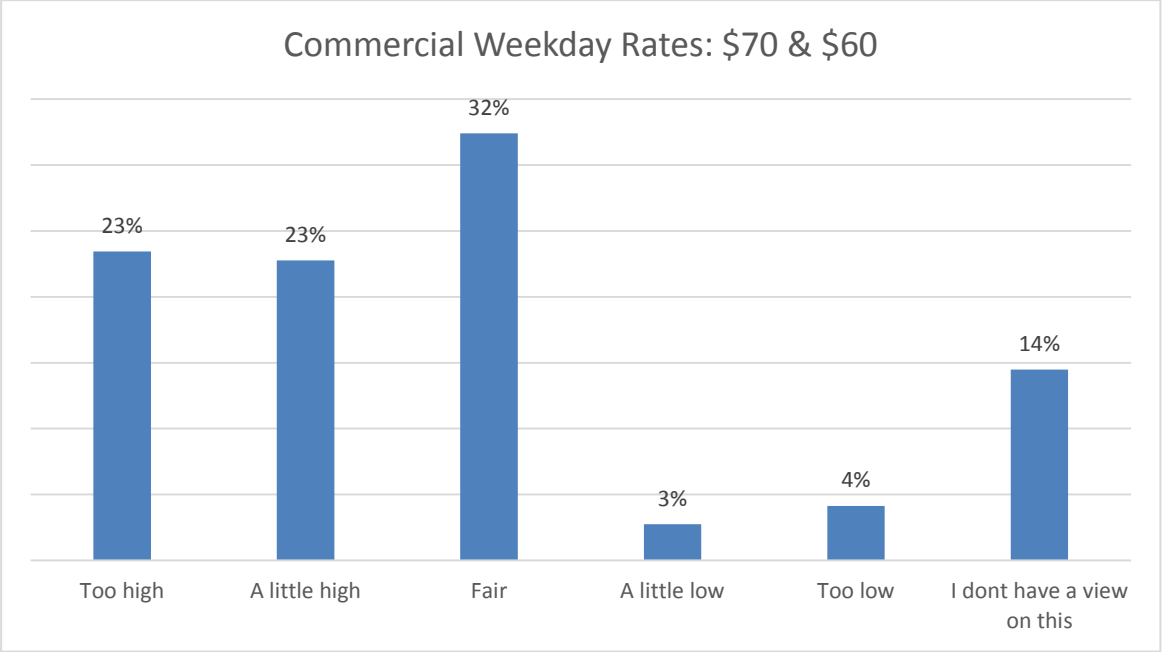
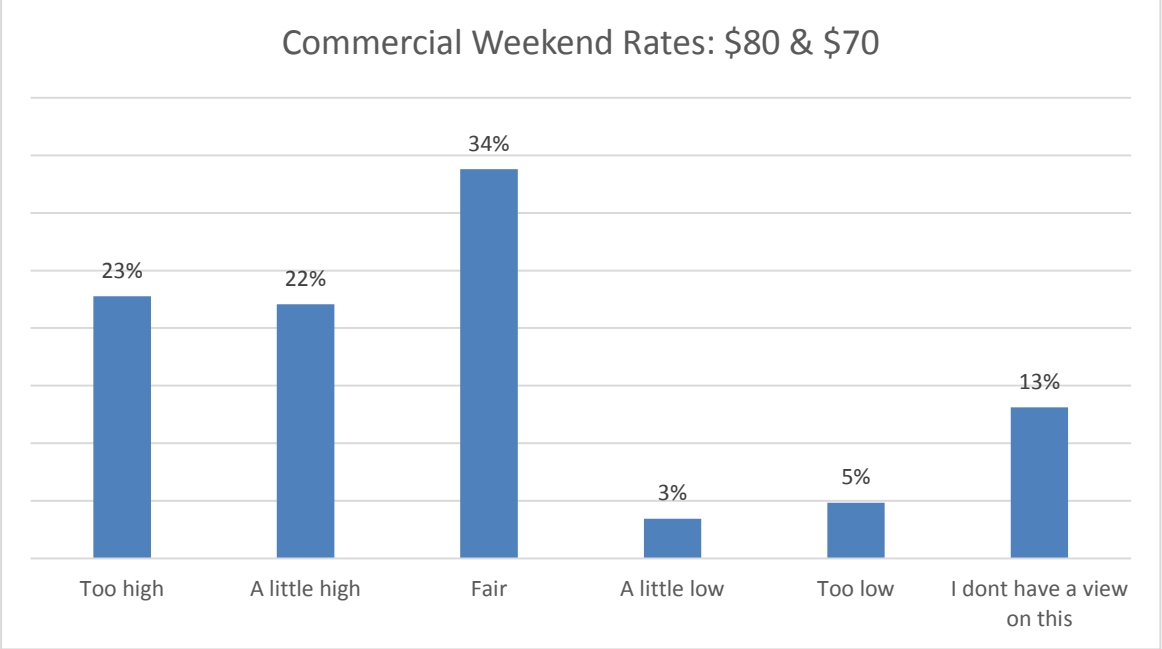
The results of the survey are listed as follows:

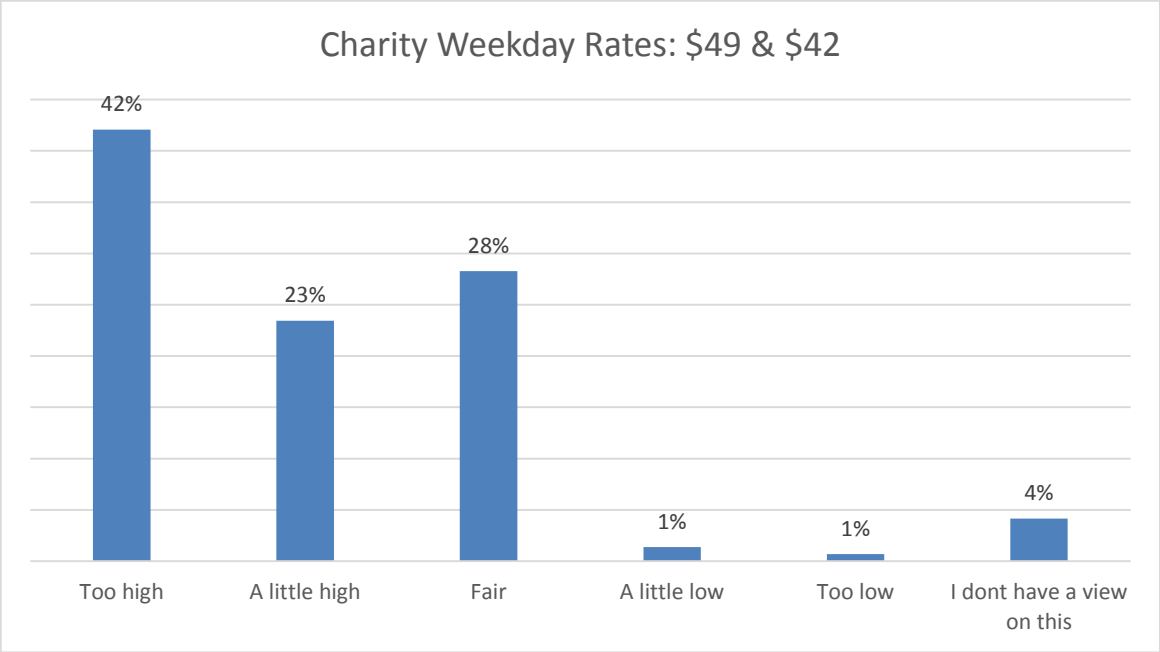
Question 1: How do you feel about the proposed Commercial rates for hiring Hall 1 and Hall 2? (Note: rates are per hour)



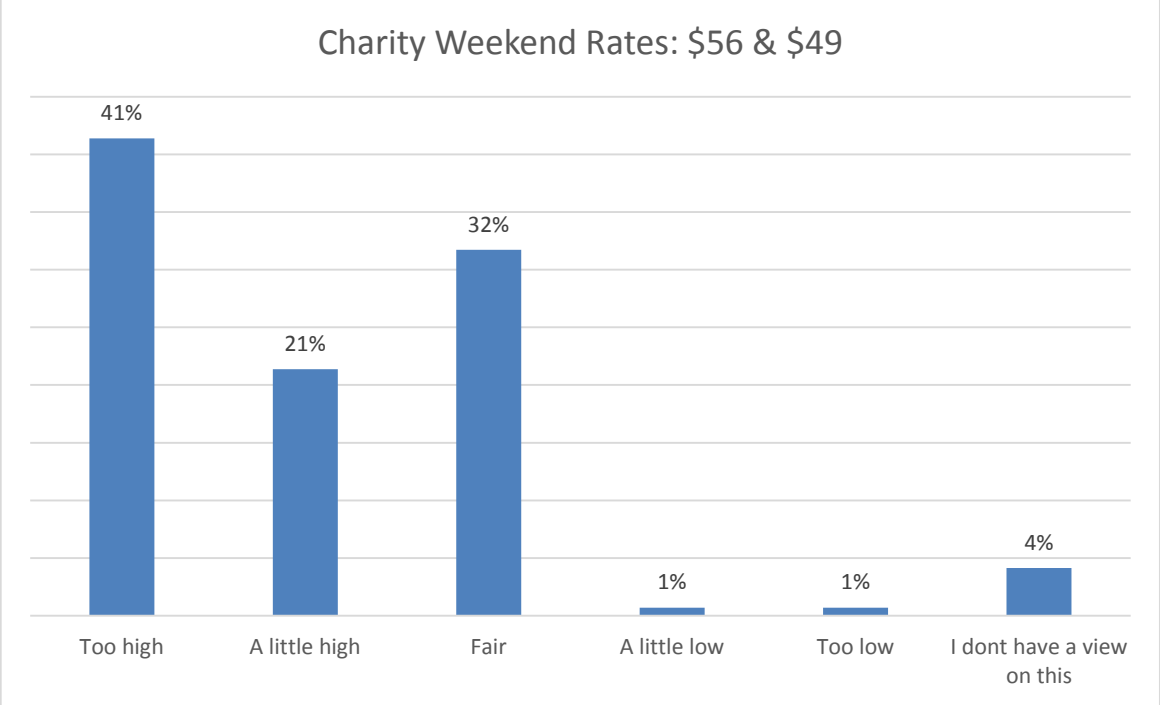
A total of 46% of respondents perceive the commercial weekday rates as being 'too high' or 'a little high'. 32% of respondents perceive the rates as being 'fair', and only 7% in total feel the rates are 'a little low' or 'too low'. 14% did not have a view on this.



Question 2: How do you feel about the proposed Charities/Not for Profit rates for hiring Hall 1 and Hall 2? (Note: rates are per hour)



A total of 65% of respondents perceive the charity weekday rates as being 'too high' and 'a little high'. 28% feel the rates are 'fair'. Only 2% in total feel the rates are 'a little low' or 'too low'. 4% did not have a view on this.



A total of 63% of respondents perceive the charity weekend rates as being 'too high' and 'a little high'. 32% feel the rates are 'fair'. Only 2% in total feel the rates are 'a little low' or 'too low'. 4% did not have a view on this.

Addressing the community concerns that the charity/not for profit rate is too high, it is proposed that the hire subsidy for non-commercial entities be increased to the equivalent of 35% of the market value for venue hire, thereby increasing the subsidy by 5%. In other words, the discount rate for these groups will be increased to 35%.

Charities/Not for Profit

Community Facility	Lettable area (m2)	Estimated capacity	Mon-Fri 8am-9pm (Ex. GST)	Sat-Sun & Public Holiday 8am-9pm (Ex. GST)
Kensington Community Centre – Hall 1	134	130	$45.50	$52
Kensington Community Centre – Hall 2	100	100	$39	$45.50

Activities & Centre Comments

Questions were asked seeking feedback on ideas for the types of community activities at the Centre and any general comments about the Centre. The suggested activities included; Playgroups, fitness classes, Citizenship Ceremonies, music events, Zumba classes, Senior Citizens Club, craft and bingo, Nursery activities, mobile libraries, Birthday parties, sporting events, games clubs, Precinct meetings, men's group, karate, judo, and general information sessions.

The general feedback about the Centre is very positive with the majority of submissions grateful for the new facility and thanking Council for the Centre.

Motions & Considerations

In consideration of the community consultation process, a number of actions are proposed. The Mayoral Minute tabled at the Ordinary Council meeting on 27 June 2017 proposed to have Council staff open the Kensington Park Community Centre to the public for Council activities and seminars during set hours per week. It was resolved;

"(Mayor, Cr N D'Souza) that:
Council use existing staff to open the Kensington Park Community Centre for a period of two hours per week for information sessions, activities and seminars on Council programs, consultation and events, for a trial period of six months to commence after the opening of the Community Centre."

Accordingly, the Council activities at the Centre will be staffed and promoted by Council's Community Services Department.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 1: Leadership in sustainability.
Direction 1a: Council has a long term vision based on sustainability.
Direction 1c: Continuous improvement in service delivery based on accountability, transparency and good governance.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter. Revenue generated by the hire of the Centre will be dependent on the level of usage by our local community.

Conclusion

The Kensington Park Community Centre draft fees and charges consultation period has closed. The Charity/Not for Profit rate is proposed to be reduced in line with the majority view of community respondents. Council staff will open the Kensington Park Community Centre for a period of two hours per week for information sessions, activities and seminars on Council programs, consultation and events.

Recommendation

That the Kensington Park Community Centre Commercial Private Hire Fees be adopted and the Charity/Not for Profit Hire Fee be reduced to reflect a 35% subsidy of the commercial private rate.

Attachment/s:

Nil