



Finance, Community & Services Committee

Tuesday 2 April 2024
6.30pm

Late Correspondence

Privacy Statement:

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Subject: **LATE CORRESPONDENCE - FC&S - 2 APRIL 2024**
Author: Carolyn Nurmi, Governance Officer
File No: 24/56144
Purpose of the Report: To table late correspondence as submitted for consideration by the Mayor and Councillors relevant to the Finance, Community & Services Committee held on 2 April 2024.
Alignment to Delivery Program: Strategy 11.3: Ensure effective and efficient governance and risk management.

Recommendation:

THAT the Finance, Community & Services Committee receives and notes the late correspondence and reads late correspondence in conjunction with the relevant Agenda items.

Please find attached late correspondence relating to matters appearing on the Agenda for the Finance, Community & Services Committee held on 2 April 2024. Correspondence received is listed below:

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Memorandum

Date 02 April 2024

File No.

To The Chair, Toni Zeltzer
All Committee Members
Senior Staff

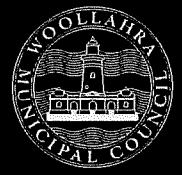
CC

From Paul Ryan, Chief Financial Officer

Subject LATE CORRESPONDENCE - FINANCE & COMMUNITY &
SERVICES COMMITTEE - 02 APRIL 2024

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R5</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs	<u>Y</u> / N
Meeting:	<u>FC+8</u>
Date:	<u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>

Woollahra
Municipal
Council



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Please find attached late correspondence relating to matters appearing on the Agenda for the Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 02 April 2024. The correspondence received is listed below:

Item	Matter	Author	Approved
R5	Investments Held as of 31 Mar 2024	Abdullah Rayhan	Paul Ryan

Regards

Paul Ryan
Chief Financial Officer

DETAILS OF INVESTMENTS PORTFOLIO AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

P2

RATING	BANK & SECURITY	PURCHASE DATE	MATURITY DATE	TOTAL TERM (DAYS)	REMAINING DAYS TO MATURITY	%	BOOK VALUE \$
	1. OAKVALE CAPITAL Limited						
	Emerald Reverse Mortgage Backed Security Face Value 1 Million						727,156.28
	2. WMC DIRECT INVESTMENTS						
AA	<u>NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	13/04/2023	15/04/2024	368	15	4.50	3,000,000.00
BBB	<u>BENDIGO ADELAIDE BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	27/04/2023	26/04/2024	365	26	4.70	5,000,000.00
BBB	<u>BANKVIC</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	29/05/2023	29/05/2024	366	59	5.11	5,000,000.00
BBB	<u>AMP BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	8/06/2023	11/06/2024	369	72	5.45	4,000,000.00
AA	<u>NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	19/07/2023	22/07/2024	369	113	5.44	5,000,000.00
BBB	<u>AMP BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	19/07/2023	22/07/2024	369	113	5.75	3,000,000.00
AA	<u>COMMONWEALTH BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	21/08/2023	20/08/2024	365	142	5.53	5,000,000.00
A	<u>SUNCORP BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	21/08/2023	21/08/2024	366	143	5.21	5,000,000.00
AA	<u>NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	20/09/2023	23/09/2024	369	176	5.30	8,000,000.00
AA	<u>WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	31/10/2023	31/10/2024	366	214	5.50	2,000,000.00
A	<u>SUNCORP BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	28/11/2023	28/11/2024	366	242	5.47	2,000,000.00
BBB	<u>BANK OF QUEENSLAND</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	20/12/2023	21/01/2025	398	296	5.10	1,000,000.00
A	<u>SUNCORP BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	20/12/2023	21/01/2025	398	296	5.20	7,000,000.00
A	<u>ING DIRECT</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	20/12/2023	21/01/2025	398	296	5.23	7,000,000.00
AA	<u>NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	24/01/2024	4/02/2025	377	310	5.15	3,000,000.00
AA	<u>WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	24/01/2024	4/02/2025	377	310	5.16	7,000,000.00
AA	<u>NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	27/02/2024	4/03/2025	371	338	5.10	5,000,000.00
AA	<u>WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	27/02/2024	4/03/2025	371	338	5.12	5,000,000.00
BBB	<u>BANKVIC</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	13/03/2024	13/03/2025	365	347	5.11	2,000,000.00
A	<u>ING DIRECT</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	13/03/2024	13/03/2025	365	347	5.13	5,000,000.00
BBB	<u>BANKVIC</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	26/03/2024	2/04/2025	372	367	5.15	2,000,000.00
A	<u>ING DIRECT</u>						
	TERM DEPOSIT	26/03/2024	2/04/2025	372	367	5.11	3,000,000.00
AT CALL:							
AA	<u>COMMONWEALTH BANK</u>						
	ONLINE SAVER A/C					4.35	14,000,000.00
AA	<u>NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK</u>						
	LOANS REPAYMENT A/C					4.75	584,733.84
	Total WMC Direct Investments						108,584,733.84
	Weighted Average Days to Maturity of WMC Direct Investments				219		
	Weighted Average Return of WMC Direct Investments					5.20	
PORTFOLIO TOTALS							<u>109,311,890.12</u>

I hereby certify that the above investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council's investment policy.

P. Ryan

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>B7</u>
Previously forwarded to Clrs	<u>P3</u> <u>Y/N</u>
Meeting:	<u>FCYS</u>
Date:	<u>21.4.2024</u>

From: Diana Olsberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 12:40 AM
To: Records
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear review panel considering The finalisation of the tender for Cooper Park Tennis Courts.

First and foremost I want to record my objection at being asked to entitle my written submission LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS.

I only received the invitation to make a written submission in the email what is now yesterday morning March 31 as this is the first time I have had to write my submission just after midnight so really on April 1.

But at no time will I accept that my submission must be regarded as 'LATE'. I have not previously been given an opportunity to make a submission and I have reported within the same day. This therefore CANNOT and MUST NOT be regarded or classified as LATE..

I and my three friends have been regular clients or. Customers at the Cooper Park Tennis Courts and Cafe for eight or nine years on a regular weekly basis. The venue is a much valued facility serving the tennis players, their friends and Cafe attendees in the Woollahra Municipality and their family and friends nearby.

This is a very special community. Not only have we developed good relationships with the Cooper Park Tennis organisation and their staff but we have a long established group of customers who have become friends in our little community.

How often nowadays do we get confronted with the decimation of small business enterprises replaced through bureaucratic processes by large conglomerates. In almost every case services become more expensive and less efficient. And thereby community culture is thereby sacrificed.

Please do not let this happen. Confirm the contract be once again awarded to the Cooper Park Tennis organisation. Councils should support local community businesses - not be blindsided by large conglomerates.

Sincerely. Associate [REDACTED]

I do not know how to input the multiple copy recipients. I am very highly educated but technologically challenged and on my device I cannot do a select transfer of all those names to which copies must be sent. I ask that you please action this urgently so that EVERY PERSON on that copy list receives my written submission well before 10 am on Tuesday April 2 so that my submission be properly registered and considered.

Thank you again [REDACTED]

> richard.shields@woollahra.nsw.gov.au, sarah.swan@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> isabelle.shapiro@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> sean.carmichael@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> lucinda.regan@woollahra.nsw.gov.au, luise.elsing@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> nicola.grieve@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> mark.silcocks@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> toni.zeltzer@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> peter.cavanagh@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> harriet.price@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> matthew.robertson@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> susan.wynne@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> mary-lou.jarvis@woollahra.nsw.gov.au,
> merrill.witt@woollahra.nsw.gov.au
> c) List the Subject of your email: "LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER
> PARK TENNIS COURTS"
>
> It has been our absolute pleasure to operate the Cooper Park Tennis
> courts for the past 17 years. We are grateful for and humbled by the
> incredibly special community that is Cooper Park Tennis. We will miss
> seeing you all on a daily basis, however look forward to catching up
> in the future as locals and friends.
>
> Kind regards,
>
> Cooper Park Tennis.

LATE CORRO Item: R7
Previously forwarded to Cirs (P/N)
Meeting: FLS
Date: 2, 4, 2024
Email: mail.com>

From: Friends Of Co
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 7:54 PM
To: Records
Subject: Late CorrespondenceCooper Park Tennis Courts -

Dear Sirs,

Along with a wide selection of irate residents, I attended the Council meeting on the 6th November on the subject of the new lease for the tennis courts and cafe.

The meeting resolved to re-issue the tender without the contentious item on multi use.

However, the other subject discussed quite heatedly on that evening was the matter of the choice of tender.

Council at the time was strongly favouring the corporate entity generally known as Voyager.

The word which came up over and over was LOCAL.

I do not need to reiterate the arguments against corporatisation. Council has by now received multiple submissions asking that the chosen tender should be one whose chief preoccupation is to keep the tennis courts and the cafe within the community, run from within and for the community, with the interests and connection, input and participation of the community. Since Councils exist to cater for their constituency, ergo the preferences of the community in matters which affect them should prevail.

By no stretch of the imagination could Voyager be thus defined.

Conglomerates are not local. They do not operate on the personal level. They exist to make money. This involves peripatetic managers, vending machines, standardised operating procedures and nil sense of individual style or input. Rushcutters Bay is the perfect example.

If we want Corporate, Westfield is five minutes away. Nothing less personal or local can be imagined.

We appeal to Council - please do not corporatise Cooper Park.

LATE CORRO Item:	R7
Previously forwarded to Clrs	P7N
Meeting:	FCU
Date:	2, 4, 2024

From: Ronald Downs <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 2:01 PM
To: Records; Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; marks.silcocks@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; merril.witt@woollahra.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Late Correspondence RE: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

To Mayor Richard Shields and all Woollahra Council Councillors

My husband and I have lived in the Woollahra Council Municipality since our marriage in 1964 and in 1969 moved to [REDACTED] Avenue, Woollahra which is on the Edgecliff ridge and not far from Cooper Park Tennis courts. We have four children and now they each have three children, all of whom play or have played tennis. We have both played tennis at Cooper Park, I play on Tuesdays with friends and Saturdays with one of our sons and our three grandchildren, they also play on Sundays. The courts are consistently busy both day and night. **Tennis is such a great healthy game going back hundreds of years and can be played by all ages.**

Cooper Park Tennis courts were built in 1923 and celebrated 100 years of operation last year, sadly with no fan fare. The courts were originally clay courts for years and have been improved over our years of tennis experience there with the wire fencing between the courts and the sheds built.

We believe Sydney Sports Management Group (SSMG) and Voyager Tennis Academy have been recommended as the preferred tenderer and that this recommendation will be put to a vote at the Council meeting on Tuesday April 2 at 6.30pm. I understand this team have a number of courts that they manage and if this tender is voted on the Cooper Park Tennis Courts will lose the personal nature of local tennis courts which it has been for so many years. It would be disappointing to the many who use the facilities and have done for many years. Continuity in life is so important and these days it is becoming sadly remiss.

We believe that there should not be any change in the usage of the eight tennis courts and hopefully this will not happen if Council award SSMG and Voyager the tender. As happens so often after a year or two the new tenderer could bring in changes which would definitely change the dynamic of a local facility possibly to their own financial advantage.

Please consider the above as a matter of urgency and also the possibility that the present tender be continued.

Kind regards

■ Beverley Downs
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Clrs <u>Y/N</u>	
Meeting: <u>FC4S</u>	
Date:	<u>2, 4, 2024</u>

From: Sharon Huston <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 7:00 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Toni Zeltzer; Mary-Lou Jarvis; peter.cavangh@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Harriet Price; Mark Silcocks
Subject: staff recommendation to accept the tender submitted by SSMG Voyager Operations Pty Ltd for the lease of the Cooper Park Tennis Courts.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am very concerned to hear that the Council has recommended the same group SSMG Voyager Operations Pty Ltd as the preferred tenderer as last time as their bid was very contentious and highly rejected by the local tennis community.

In regards to the consideration of Tender Responses for the the Lease and Operation of the Cooper Park Tennis Centre I ask that the Council consider the following before making a final decision.

- 1: Were the Community concerns communicated to and part of the brief to the independent arbitrator or was it just a financial decision.
- 2: That the local communities preference of a local operator was given the appropriate weighting in the overall percentages of the tender.
- 3: The local community made it very clear with over 100 people attending the earlier council meeting, that they wanted it to be a local operator, involved with the community and catering to their specific demographic that included older people.
- 4: That Cooper Park remains a thriving hub and meeting place for the local community.
- 5: Can the councillors make a variance on the process to award the tender to a local person/group.
- 6: Capital works - are the capital works proposed expenditure by the parties analysed comparatively. Are the costings on the upgrades to the tennis courts by each party made on the same specifications? Were they similar or was there an inflated variation that impacted on the total amount of capital works proposed by the winning tender.
- 7: I understand that reference were sought, did you know that the Rushcutters Bay tennis courts coffee shop was idle for over a year and is now outsourced.
- 8: Were the small local operators disadvantaged because they don't have as much experience running multiple locations and is this relevant to operating only one location.
- 9: Why did the original tender have a 30% financial component in the evaluation and this tender have a 40% financial component in the evaluation, when it seems the community concerns and input were not given an increase in the percentage of the evaluation.

I feel very disappointed that the Council has not listened to the residents input and feel that the process should be more transparent.

Kind regards,

Sharon Huston
 [REDACTED]

LATE CORRO Item: R7
Previously forwarded to Cirs (Y) / N
Meeting: FCIS
Date: 2 / 4 / 2024

P9

From: Melissa Bruce
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 9:48 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: "LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS"

Letter of Concern 01/04/2024

Dear Councillors,

It has been brought to our attention that Woollahra Council has decided to maintain the previous recommendation and award the Lease of the **Cooper Park Tennis Courts** to the partnership between **Sydney Sports Management Group (SSMG) and Voyager Tennis Academy**.

We are Woollahra Council rate payers and for many years have fully appreciated the use of the courts, pavilion and park. We are heartbroken and horrified about this decision which seems primarily focused on finance rather than community wellbeing. The lack of community consultation for this historically important location has shocking.

The current management of this operation has created a powerful healing hub in a world that is currently despairing. Judging by other venues managed by the proposed new groups, it seems the tranquility and sense of community that the courts, cafe and 100 year history of the tennis centre has provided is under great threat.

I'm sure we speak on behalf of many who enjoy the current operation, that a change to the nature of the cafe and use of the courts would definitely send us elsewhere.

Please consider the statistics on mental health in our city. We live near The Gap and we are witness on a regular basis to the tragic outcome for people unable to cope with overwhelming anxiety and depression. Cooper Park tennis and community cafe is one of the few places of peace where people can gather without noise and visual pollution and the stress of over-stimulation. We don't need more activity and construction. We need less. We don't need the disconnection of corporate management, we need welcoming, friendly baristas who remember our orders and the connection of community for our sanity.

Cooper Park Tennis and the pavilion are operating tremendously well. We've never seen the wonderful cafe empty, even on rainy days when we are not playing tennis but rather attend to meet friends or take a break from our walks.

We are certain that the newly proposed management, based on other venues, will eventually reduce the number of courts and introduce (noisy) multi-sports to the area. Cooper Park Tennis courts are in such demand that we need to book early in the morning and 2 weeks in advance to secure a court. We can't afford to lose any courts. Tennis is not going out of fashion. Tennis is fully celebrated in this country. We are proud of our Grand Slam winners and the Australian Open is one of the fully booked highlights of the sporting calendar year.

Sincerely,

Melissa Bruce & Ravi Proctor

Previously forwarded to Clrs Q/N

Meeting: FCS

Date: 2 / 4 / 2024

From: Phil Mendoza-Jones <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].com>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 2:19 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

On behalf of the players and non players who love Cooper Park Tennis, we are utterly distressed about your suspicious decision to award the management to organisation/s who have nothing to do with our Community. It's a disgrace.

Our Community should have been involved in an honest transparent selection process, which affects us all greatly.

So what was the process? Or are we to be kept in the dark? Why were these organisations chosen, what were they promising?

What we are all asking ...

- Will there be a friendly person answering the phone for bookings?
- Will there be a friendly person there (who knows us) when we arrive to pay for our courts?
- Who will organise restrings?
- Who will give us new grips?
- Who will provide new balls?
- Who will provide snacks for kids?
- Who will offer lunches and coffee?
- the list could go on ...

We are a very unhappy Community. How has it come to this after all our representations at the meeting last year? Are we being ignored? Why?

Has this been a thoroughly professional and objective assessment of all applications? How would we know? We should but haven't been told.

Essentially this situation is a disgrace. It's your decision and you don't care about ours.

Is this Woollahra Council? It seems to be.

Is this a real Community concern for you? Probably not.

We all know our communications to you all will make no difference, and that is an absolute disgrace.

Our beloved Cooper Park Tennis Courts will be no more ... thanks to all of you.

You've thrown our Community Centre to the dollar wolves.

Thanks but no thanks.

Phil Mendoza-Jones

LATE CORRO

Item:

R7

Previously forwarded to Cirs ^Q/R11

Meeting:

FC+S

2 April 2024

From: Jeremy Resnick [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 7:38 PM
To: Records
Subject: Objection to Voyager Tender for Cooper Park tennis club

Dear Sir/Madam

I have been playing tennis at Cooper park every week for 7 years. It is a unique venue in Sydney whose qualities have been explained at length. I previously submitted my concerns about the proposed management takeover by Voyager with plans to alter the nature of the club by including other court sports. I remain concerned about this proposal and am opposed to it. I hope my objection will be taken into account when the decision is made.

Kind regards

Jeremy Resnick

Sent from my iPhone

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LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
	<u>P12</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs	<u>Y/N</u>
Meeting:	<u>FCIS</u>
Date:	<u>2, 4, 2024</u>

From: Adam Dinte [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 7:28 PM
To: Records
Subject: Objection to Voyager group cooper park

Hi,
I live around the corner from Cooper Park tennis courts in Ranfurley Road Bellevue Hill. I have grown up in Woollahra and have been monthly playing at Cooper Park tennis courts for over 35 years.

I am very disappointed and honestly bewildered to hear that you have awarded the contract of the management of the tennis centre to Voyager group.

I was genuinely excited when I heard that Cooper Park had a lot of interest from owner operator tennis coaches, and I can't understand why you have made this decision.

I have two young daughters who attend Bellevue Hill public school. I would have loved to sign them up for coaching at cooper park tennis courts but I won't do so if Voyager are running the show.

I think the council should seriously consider their constituents best interests and revisit this decision.

Cooper park is an outstanding venue with so much potential.

Regards
Adam Dinte

Sent from my iPhone

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs	<u>Y</u> ^{OP13} <u>N</u>
Meeting:	<u>FC+S</u>
	<u>2</u> , <u>4</u> , <u>2024</u>

From: Ilana Kresner Alphabet Wings
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 9:18 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis courts change of Management

Dear Councillors,

I am disappointed with the recommendation by the staff to re-award the tender to a large tennis management company. This is against the sentiments of the previous meeting. The incumbent has done an excellent job and developed a sense of community. I very much doubt the new organisation will do this job well.

Your Sincerely,
Ilana M Kresner
Local resident

LATE CORRO Item: R7 p14

Previously forwarded to Clrs (Y) / N

Meeting: FC+S

Date: 2 / 4 / 2024

From: Russell Aboud
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 5:59 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis

Dear Woollahra Council

Thank you for your time. My name is Russell Aboud. I am 66 years old & I have lived in Bellevue Hill for more than 40 years. While not regular, I have played at the Cooper Park courts. I am quite disappointed to hear that our Council has again decided to recommend SSM Voyager to manage this facility. I strongly believe this is not in the interests of local residents. I would like to outline why I think long term this recommendation will lead to a poor outcome. SSM Voyager are a franchise model where the franchisee struggles financially with a consequent effect on our facility. Also they run a cookie cutter approach with no local knowledge, feel or community engagement. We also run a common risk that they bring players from outside our local area (at the expense of locals) to bolster their revenue instead of growing the game locally. The monopoly characteristics of their longer term business plan will mean they have a huge advantage in future tenders that will compromise Woollahra Council's ability to get proper price tension into the process in future tenders. While I am sure you believe this is a good financial outcome for the Council I do not believe you have fully assessed the longer term downside risks both financial & the user utility. I think its only fair that the residents are informed on why you have undertaken this risk on their behalf. I am happy to discuss this & explain in more detail why I am nervous that material downside scenarios have been underestimated.

Regards

Russell Aboud
[Redacted Signature]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Ctrs <u>Y</u> / N	
Meeting: <u>R CTS</u>	
Date: <u>2, 4, 2024</u>	

From: Brittany Bloom <b[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 6:39 PM
To: Records
Subject: Consideration of Young Aces Tennis - Cooper Park Tennis Courts

Hi Councillors,

I am writing to express my support for Young Aces Tennis in their bid for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

As a local resident, I am very disappointed to hear that SSM Voyager has been recommended (again) as preferred tenderer for the centre for a number of reasons:

1. They are a large corporate group who does not have presence in the Eastern Suburbs, which means that they don't know the area and will be spread thin across their existing centres.
2. They are taking away opportunity for a local business operator to succeed. This is not in the best interest of the community.
3. I have known Will as a coach for 10+ years and I am certain that he, and the Young Aces team, are the best people to run the centre. They are incredibly passionate about the community and grassroots tennis.

Thanks for your consideration and I am hoping that you make the best decision for the community.

Thank you,
Britt Bloom

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs	<u>P16</u> <u>Y/N</u>
Meeting	<u>FLS</u>
Date:	<u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>

From: Sandra Bills <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 10:34 PM
To: Records
Subject: Community First!

To Whom It May Concern

Our family of four live very near to the Cooper Park tennis courts and feel privileged to do so. We are keen tennis players but not necessarily the most skilled, in spite of our consistent efforts and devotion of time.

We are writing now to express our dismay that the council is recommending that the Sydney Sports Management Group Voyager Operations take over management of these courts. We have had personal experience with SSMGVO and do not feel that it represents the individual requirements of the Cooper Park Courts, or our community, and we are further disappointed that the council would recommend a franchise model, which shows little understanding with regards to the heritage value of our courts or the various communities they service across the Municipality.

Independently managed tennis centres foster a sense of community and encourage engagement among all ages and skills. They provide a place that locals can connect in a way that is often missing and in a way that the council appears not to appreciate.

There was a very strong objection from the community when it was recently planned to turn the courts over to a corporate entity, so we ask you to please listen to your residents and not now employ a corporate entity to manage our local tennis courts. This is your opportunity to engage, not disengage.

An enthusiastic, independent operator will have the opposite effect, so please don't miss this opportunity to create something special.

Kind regards,

Sandra Bills and Peter Ruchin
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs <u>Y</u> / <u>R17</u>	
Meeting:	<u>FCJS</u>
Date:	<u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>

From: Bev Chesterman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 10:38 AM
To: Records
Subject: Re: Late correspondence re Cooper Park tennis courts

Sent from my iPad

On 1 Apr 2024, at 10:25 am, Bev [REDACTED] wrote:

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bev Chesterman [REDACTED]
Date: 1 April 2024 at 9:59:19 am AEDT
To: records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Late correspondence re Cooper Park tennis courts

Woollahra Council.

I have enjoyed the current management and would like to be assured that the general conditions in terms of engagement remain.

In addition I assume that the tendering process and any changes to the current conditions will be transparent and open to neighbourhood consultation.

I have lived for over 30 years at 16 Edward St Woollahra and my property backs onto Cooper Park. I walk daily in the park and have enjoyed many happy hours on the verandah of the tennis court. Now that you are proposing a change of management I am surprised that a proposed management plan has not been submitted to all nearby residents as would be the case for a DA.

1 Are any structural changes proposed.?

2 Is there going to be any change to the ambiance of the precinct? Such as use of loud hailers, loud music, renting out of the facility etc.

In a previous submission late last year we, the local residents stated that a former manager Apollo had our great respect and also that we would prefer a local manager who understands the understated beauty of a "heritage" tennis club house.

Up to date there has been no public reporting from the Council of the upcoming change, which I believe the council is required to supply. I am not aware of any public notification for change but would like to be informed when and or if any are submitted.

Beverley Chesterman
 Sent from my iPad

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs	<u>Y</u> /N18
Meeting:	<u>FEIS</u>
Date:	<u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>

From: Isman Family <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 12:14 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

Hi

As a frequent user of Cooper Park courts I am disappointed to learn that Woollahra Council has decided to recommend SSM Voyager to run the courts for the next 14 years.

Voyager has a monopoly on tennis centres on the north shore and the Woollahra council is opening up their march into the eastern suburbs tennis centres, while weeding out the smaller independent operators.

I am concerned we will see constant changing of coaches and managers at the centre and the facility will not be as good as it would be if managed by an independent professional who is passionate to make it a success.

I strongly urge you to put in an independent to operate the centre who is hands on and will concentrate all their efforts in ensuring its success for the benefit of the community.

I don't believe it's possible for big business to get the centre to the standard that a professional who is passionate about what they do. Their focus will be on the bottom line rather than providing a tennis centre of excellence for our community.

Regards

Jonathan Isman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cllrs	<u>R19</u> <u>17</u> N
Meeting:	<u>FC+U</u>
Date:	<u>21 4 2024</u>

From: Tracey O'Dea [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 9:07 AM
To: Records; Toni Zeltzer; Richard Shields; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Peter Cavanagh; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Harriet Price; Mark Silcocks; Merrill Witt
Subject: Late Correspondence Re: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

Hi,

I received the notice that Council has maintained their decision to award the lease to SSMG and Voyager. My concern regarding this is that their previous submission I believe included multipurpose use of the courts. Per an email received from Lucy Regan on 16 November 2023

"As you may be aware, at last night's Council meeting (15 November 2023), Council resolved to invite **new** tenders for the lease of the Cooper Park tennis courts and cafe based on the previous tender specifications but **excluding** any consideration of multi purpose use of the courts. This will retain the courts for tennis use only. "

As long as the new operator is NOT allowed to vary the usage of the courts and they remain for tennis use only then I hope that the new operators can run the centre as well Dieter and Sarah have been doing for at least the last 10 years that I have been using the facilities. It is a real shame they were not awarded the contract and I hope the council have not only considered the financial aspect of awarding the tender but also the community feelings.

Thanks and regards,
Tracey O'Dea
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs	<u>B2R</u>
Meeting:	<u>FG+S</u>
Date:	<u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>

From: Martin Goldstein
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 9:24 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis

Good morning,
To Woollahra Council

I write as a tennis player of 45 years and a player of Cooper Park Tennis Centre. Cooper Park is a special centre, not only because of its beautiful setting in nature but because of the local community club feel that it fosters. I am so sad and disappointed to hear that council has recommended SSMG to take over the centre this year. SSMG has multiple centres across Sydney, none in the Eastern Suburbs. A franchise model has no place in the Eastern Suburbs. This sets a dangerous precedent for other Woollahra tennis centres that will go up for tender.

I am passionate about the game and the tennis community that we have created here in Woollahra. We risk losing this spirit with companies like SSMG taking over. I hope council listens to the community's concerns and I hope to continue to enjoy the unique community spirit we have built here in Woollahra and Cooper Park for years to come. It has always been a relaxing, friendly environment and I would hate it to change for what?

Thanks,
Martin Goldstein

[REDACTED]

From: Danny Nemeny [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 9:45 AM
To: Records
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Lease

>
LATE CORRO Item: R7
Meeting: ECBS
Date: 2 / 4 / 24

Attention Woollahra Council
Cooper Park Leasing Advice and Decision

As a longtime resident of the municipality of Woollahra with many members of my family both elderly and young residing and playing tennis in the Woollahra area I was unpleasantly surprised by recent news that Woollahra Council is intending to allow the lease of Cooper park tennis courts to fall into the hands of SSM Voyager group.

I believe this is a poor and reckless decision taken by Council officers in face of widespread community objections which were apparent at the past council meeting with regard to the previous tender process for Cooper Park tennis Courts.

I believe more than an ample number of community members showed their objection to SSM Voyager taking over the Cooper Park lease as they have done so with multiple other leases in the community tennis space.

The apparent intended actions of Council flies in the face of the wishes of many members of both the Woollahra community and the local tennis community who wish for a family tennis environment provided by local, caring tennis professionals and not large corporate entities with no ties to the local community.

I do hope that Council will reverse this apparent badly conceived decision based on poor methodology, ignoring the local community voices and their wants and needs and reconsider the choice of new Lessee in favour of local professionals with a proven track record in providing a tennis environment and services for all our community members especially our local older players and the young children growing up in our community who need to be encouraged in their pursuit of this wonderful game.

Regards

Danny

Danny Nemeny
[REDACTED]

From: anthony Pridgeon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 10:30 PM
To: Records
Subject: Attention: Cooper Park

DATE CORRO Item: 127
Meeting: FCBS
Date: 2 / 4 / 24

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for your time.

I have read the new article and community post outlining the communities objections. Therefore want to ensure resident's and community have a voice.

Our family have been local residents for the last 3 years. We have always enjoyed the local community and believe that our voice as a community needs to be heard.

I understand that there is a council meeting to discuss the management of Cooper Park.

We are concerned and disappointed to hear that council have decided to recommend SSM Voyages. SSM Voyages are franchise model with multiple site and managers. SSM Voyages have no connection to the Eastern Suburbs. It is our belief that a large operators would only see Cooper Park as a commercial enterprise and value profit or community.

As a community we want Cooper Park to have a local feel with small independent tennis operators. This way local community have a voice and direct contact with the operators. With an independent tennis operator who values community and tennis I believe Copper Park will be an asset to all.

Once again. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anthony

Meeting: FCPS

Date: 2/4/24

P23

From: Evelyn & Mash <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 9:08 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS
Importance: High

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing in relation to the outcome of the second tender for the management of the Cooper Park tennis courts. Firstly, I would like to express my concern and disappointment that this information was only available just prior to a long weekend, with the meeting immediately following. Clearly this does not provide the many interested parties with the opportunity to be made aware of the outcome, let alone address it. One could surmise that this was intentional?

My main concern about the outcome is that it seems the community sentiment – which came through loud and strong at the last meeting – has had little impact on this process or outcome. We expressed a number of serious concerns, and it's difficult to know to what extent these have been addressed. Although the multisport aspect has been withdrawn from the tender documentation, it seems this would still be possible for the lessees to implement down the track. The term to be 'primarily used' as tennis courts is used, which could be open to interpretation. We have no assurance that this won't happen in the future.

A community engagement criterion formed part of the tender specification. However, awarding the courts to a large organisation which is acquiring courts all over Sydney, does not seem to take into account any true commitment to **this** community. Given the huge amount of support there clearly was for the incumbent lessee, it is baffling that he was not even invited for interview.

We, as the community, have no information about how the new group will run CPT, and whether or not the new lessee will honour the current social groups, which are so important to many, both in and out of the LGA. There is a strong sense amongst Cooper Park supporters, that despite the response at the previous meeting, Council does not care about the community it is supposed to service. This may well be reflected in the next election.

I feel strongly that the future of the courts should have formed part of the overall Cooper Park management plan, and it is difficult not to be cynical about the way in which this outcome has been reached.

Kind regards,

Evelyn Mike



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From: Belinda Haines <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 9:31 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Submission

WOLLAHRA	ATE CORRO	Item: <u>27</u>
Meeting: <u>FCBS</u>		
Date: <u>2 / 4 / 24</u>		

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you with regard to the current tender process being undertaken for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre. I have heard that the Council's preferred tenderer is SSM Voyager; a large corporate group with no contact with the Eastern Suburbs. I find it so sad that this is the case. As a local resident of Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill, I find it disappointing that a large, impersonal group would be taking over such an intimate, bespoke tennis facility. Cooper Park is truly a gem in Woollahra Council's Parklands and we need to have someone who has that has a true interest in the Woollahra community.

I have known Will as a coach for over 4 years and I am certain he would do a fantastic job in running the Cooper Park Tennis Centre. He is just such a passionate coach; having coached at Ascham, Tennis Australia and also running another tennis centre in Belrose.

I urge you to reconsider your choice as I know many local residents would flock to Cooper Park under Will's stewardship.

Warm regards,
Belinda

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7

P25

LAT: BORBO	Item: R7
Meeting: FC&S	
Date: 21/4/24	
Re: Cavanagh; Luise Fling; Nicola	

From: Michael MacMahon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 8:52 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Toni Zeltzer; Mary-Lou Jarvis; [REDACTED]
Subject: Tender for Cooper park tennis courts

To FC&S Committee,

It is my understanding that you will be voting on the tender for Cooper park tennis courts today. This unique tennis operation provides users with a tranquil setting and environment to play tennis and have a cup of coffee that is not seen anywhere else in this city. The current operators have encouraged and maintained this enviroment which I feel will be lost with the appointment of SSMG voyager Operations PTY LTD. I remind those who are voting of a famous Winston Churchill saying " those who do not acknowledge their past have no future ".

Yours sincerely

Michael Macmahon

Meeting: FCBS

From: Michele Brooks <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 8:53 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park tennis courts

2 / 4 / 24

I am concerned that the contract for the Cooper Park tennis courts has been awarded to a large organization that's primary concern is making profits and not what will be best for the community.

This is the same company that the community rejected late last year. Why did the council go through the process of rebidding for the contract, when it intended to award the contract to this large organization anyway?

The courts are an important community asset and should be managed for the benefit of the community and not a large corporate enterprise, whose only interest will be profit.

This is a very disappointing outcome.

Michele Brooks
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Alison McKenzie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 9:38 AM
To: Records
Subject: Tennis Centre Tender - Cooper Park - Late Correspondence

ATE CORRO Item: R7
Writing: F C B S.
2 / 4 / 2024

To whom it may concern,

As a local resident of the area for over 15 years who has used the centre on numerous occasions, I am writing to express my disappointment to hear that SSM Voyager have been recommended again as the Manager for Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

I understood the process was being re-done due to community concerns about a large corporate coming in to run the centre, the tennis program and the cafe and the lack of a recommendation for a local community-oriented person/small business to run it. I believe that getting a smaller passionate local business to run the centre will provide a better outcome for people locally who use the centre rather than a large corporate entity with no connection to the Eastern Suburbs.

I don't believe the franchise model employed by SSM Voyager will make the centre a great place for excellent tennis coaching, playing and also a community hub with a better food offering in the cafe. It is a well-known fact that local businesses always operate better when the owner is there much of the time, getting to know people and customers and providing the personal touch, and as feedback is given or any issues arise an owner-operator can deal with them directly and not have to channel things up a management line to eventually get a response and act on it - and it may not even be a positive response.

I have read of community discontent that the recommendation has gone to SSM Voyager, I can't understand why this choice was made instead of a local operation - is it down to profit for the council? While the money needs to be taken into account as it is ultimately rate-payers money council is managing for us, the benefit to the community and the community opinions and concerns should be taken into account too and I am sure a balance is what the Council would usually try for.

I would ask that Council looks carefully at this decision and the fact that the better option for the surrounding community would be a local owner-operator business who already knows the local community to ensure a tennis centre and community hub that really responds to locals and becomes a part of the fabric of the Cooper Park area (tennis players, walkers, families with little kids who play in the playground, dog owners/walkers, young mums meeting for lunch etc) There is a lot of the local community to be impacted by this decision - not only people who play tennis on the courts.

Kind regards,

Alison McKenzie [REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>P28</u>
Previously forwarded to Cllrs <u>B/N</u>	
Meeting: <u>FC+S</u>	
Date: <u>2, 4, 2024</u>	

Subject:

FW: Meeting 2 April, 2024 Cooper Park tennis centre

From: Brian Knox <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 10:21 AM
To: Records <Records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Meeting 2 April, 2024 Cooper Park tennis centre

The General Manager
Woollahra Council

I wish to attend the meeting on Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 6:30 pm and to speak on Agenda Item no R 7 at the meeting.

In summary form, I wish to oppose the recommendation to award the lease of the Cooper Park Tennis Courts to the partnership of Sydney Sports Management Group (SSMG) and the Voyager Tennis Academy.

I have been a ratepayer of Woollahra Council for over 30 years and a user of these courts over that period. My objection to the recommendation is on the following basis that:

- (a) such a commercial arrangement conflicts with the proper use of this community facility which has always been designated as part of the approved plan as tennis courts;
- (b) a commercial consortium with its capital proposals for commercialization of the site will inevitably put the facility out of the reach of the community users;
- (c) the prior erroneous lease recommendation contrary to the approved plan and the continued recommendation over the continuing community objections demonstrates that the Council has been committed to this course of action without taking into account the community views. Similarly the very short notification period to affected persons and the holding of the meeting at the conclusion of the Easter holiday period raises an inference that the proposal is being rushed through without sufficient time for community consideration.

I have attempted to set out this objection by completing the form shown at <https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/council/documents/code-of-meeting-practice-comp-public-forum-registration-form-general-manager-and-officers-reports-2023-2024.pdf> but the link to that form is shown as being broken on the Council's website. I will try again tomorrow prior to 10 am.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Knox SC
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u> ^{P29}
Meeting: <u>FC45</u>	
Date: <u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>	

From: michael fabian [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 7:46 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear All,

I am writing in relation to Woollahra Council's decision to maintain its previous recommendation to award the Cooper Park Tennis Courts lease to the Sydney Sports Management Group (SSMG) and Voyager Tennis Academy.

As Council is very aware, this is an issue that is very important to the local community and we would like Council to listen carefully to what we have to say. I live just above Cooper Park and have been playing tennis at the courts and taking walks through Cooper Park for nearly 60 years. I have witnessed various lessees over the years but it is only since the present lessee Dieter Wilhelmi and his team including Sarah Morante took over that a strong sense of local Cooper Park community feeling has really developed. This community is comprised of tennis players and non-tennis players alike. With their professional, caring and friendly attitude, Dieter and Sarah have earned enormous goodwill, respect and support from everyone in the local area.

The local community reacted strongly against Council's previous recommendation of SSMG and Voyager partnership for a variety of reasons including:

- they are not local and have no knowledge of the community and its interests;
- they already operate a vast number of tennis centres around Sydney and this decision is just further increasing their grip on tennis in the Sydney region concentrating power in the hands of one group;
- they had wanted to convert some courts to multi-sport use that would substantially increase noise levels for the local community and also decrease the number of courts available for hire when they are already heavily booked; and
- the local community stands firmly behind the present lessees who have been doing an outstanding job in serving the local community.

The trend of large corporate groups which come in with higher financial offers, often due to their economies of scale, squeezing out smaller players with strong local roots is very worrying. This should be so much more than just a financial decision. I understand the tender evaluation (which was carried out very quickly) and recommendation of SSMG and Voyager was made by the Finance Committee. I know there were criteria other than money but one may expect finance committees in general to prioritise quantum over other so called 'softer' but very important criteria. After all, these 'softer' criteria are the very areas that most concern the local residents and users.

The local Cooper Park community would like Council to listen to its voice. We elected you to represent us and we feel very strongly about this matter. We do not want the lease of the Cooper Park Tennis Courts to be awarded to a non-local, large corporate group which has no local ties.

We are asking you to please stand up for the local community and do the right thing by us.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Fabian

[REDACTED]
 Woollahra, NSW 2025

P30	
LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Meeting: <u>FC+S</u>	
Date: <u>2, 4, 2024</u>	

From: Mark Sheldon <[REDACTED]@cooperpark.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 2:48 PM
To: Records; Friends OCooperPark
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Nicola Grieve; Luise Elsing; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Merrill Witt; enquiries@cooperparktennis.com.au; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; matthew.robinson@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis
Subject: "LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER.PARK"
Importance: High

Dear Council

I attended the Council meeting on Monday 6th November 2023, at which time the meeting concluded with a recommendation by the Mayor that tenders would be re advertised with revised criteria including, greater community engagement, no multi use courts, local content and taking into account the very vocal sentiment of the meeting and the various presentations made.

I understand that new tenders have now been received and presentations made by the proponents, so in the final stages of evaluation.

I am also lead to believe that 'Voyager' is the preferred tenderer.

I would like to recall the strong views of the tennis community using the courts and facilities, and who by and large are very happy with the incumbent.

So if my understanding is correct, how could Council possibly find 'Voyager' the preferred tenderer, in the interests of the local community, its wishes and relative the local ethos of Cooper Park.

The main issues at the November 6 meeting were . . .

- The successful tenderer should be a local to the area
- Have a strong sense of Community
- Have a strong sense of acceptance from the Community
- A preference for people service over online systems
- A smaller organisation with the personal touch
- No online booking systems
- No multi use courts

While we recognise tenders also include a financial component, we trust Council will not see this as a priority over tenders with smaller or different financial offerings, but more suited to this venue.

Cooper Park is a very special place as we all know. The tennis courts are low key, community based and the tennis fraternity like it pretty much as is.

It is not a big suburban tennis centre, as is the case with Voyager's other venues. Cooper Park tennis courts do not fit into a corporate multi tennis centre culture, bigger is not better, Cooper Park tennis courts are a unique, one off community sports facility.

So we hope Council makes its selection taking into account the above criteria, and the strong sentiment of the meeting of November 6.

That sentiment strongly supported one of the other smaller operators.

We would hope that Woollahra Council does actually listen to its constituents, and not simply select a tenderer on the numbers.

Regards
 Mark

Friends of Cooper Park

Mark Sheldon

From: Jonathan Ortner <j[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 7:14 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper park tennis centre tender - objection

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Meeting: <u>FCJS</u>	
Date: <u>2, 4, 2024</u>	

To whom it may concern,

I am a former local resident of the Bellevue hill area and I continue to frequent cooper park tennis centre.

I also terribly concerned and upset to hear that SMS Voyager Franchise, another corporate entity, has been recommended to take over the tennis centre. This is another example of monopolising businesses and take away opportunities from small independent operators who will contribute more to the community and economy than any corporate will. Profits over community engagement is a blight on this council and any decision to appoint SMS should be seriously reconsidered. Locals pay council rates with an expectation that council will act in the best interest of the community and this is certainly not the case. The voice of the community has been heard on this issue and it was made abundantly clear that a corporate tennis operator was not the preferred choice. It is disgusting that this voice has been ignored.

Regards,

Jonathan Ortner

Regards,

Jonathan Ortner

Regards,

Jonathan Ortner

Sent from my iPhone

Regards,

Jonathan Ortner

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u> <u>P32</u>
Previously forwarded to Clrs <u>0/1</u>	
Meeting:	<u>FC+S.</u>
Date:	<u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>

From: Alex Ortner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 9:28 PM
To: Records
Subject: Objection to Cooper Park tender decision

Hi there,

My name is Alex Ortner (nee Borowsky) and I have grown up in the Woollahra council area. I am very connected to Cooper Park and while I didn't play tennis myself - two left feet etc. - I remember bringing my brothers to the Cooper Park courts every Thursday afternoon and watching them play while I sat in the sun and took in the beautiful surrounds.

I am extremely disappointed to learn that the Council has decided to recommend SSM Voyager again for the Cooper Park tender. Bringing in a large corporate franchise with multiple managers and centre models will only serve to create a monopoly this side of the bridge (as they have done so in the north) and drive out small independent operators. SSM have no ties to the Eastern Suburbs and the decision appears to be placing profits over community engagement and the community's love of tennis.

I have seen several news articles and community group posts that clearly outline the community's objection to this concerning decision when it occurred the first time. Why have the residents' voice not been heard for the second time?

I would be grateful for your reconsideration that takes into account the clear voice of the Woollahra council community.

Kind regards
Alex Ortner
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>B7</u>
	<u>P33</u>
Previously forwarded to Clrs <u>Y</u> / N	
<u>FCIS</u>	
Meeting: _____	
Date:	<u>2, 4, 2024</u>

From: Michael Bodey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 8:10 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Courts

richard.shields@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; toni.zeltzer@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; mary-lou.jarvis@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; peter.cavangh@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; luise.elsing@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; nicola.grieve@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; harriet.price@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; mark.silcocks@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

I was very supposed to be informed that tomorrow night the Finance, Community and Services (FC&S) Committee will vote on a staff recommendation to accept the tender submitted by SSMG Voyager Operations Pty Ltd for the lease of the Cooper Park Tennis Courts.
 Surprised for a number of reasons:

1. The agenda appears to have been released late on Easter Monday, 24 hours ahead of the meeting, allowing no real time for anyone to be informed or mount an objection. Why the secrecy and haste? Is the Council unwilling to see open consultation after the opposition to the initial tender process?
2. The Community Consultation on Cooper Park is ongoing and a draft plan has yet to be released, let alone submitted for public consultation. Who's to say a major commercialisation of Cooper Park is in keeping with the desires of the community?
3. The lease agreement is for an initial 7 year plus a 7 year option term. This is unfeasibly long, and egregious if Voyager allows the site to run down, as it has with two of their sites I've visited on the North Shore.
4. We know from the initial tender, Voyager offered the highest fee to the Council, based on its proposal to take tennis courts for use of other faddish sports, including padel. Has the company changed its tender price and/or is it a condition of any contract that the 8 courts remain available to tennis?
5. It seems council is making its decision purely on the highest bid. Is this the best criteria for a loved and well-used public space? Did not other bidders offer better criteria than Voyager than on price?

The undue secrecy and accelerated timing with which this decision appear to be made smells awful. Particularly in the middle of the public consultation on Cooper Park, which now appears to have been merely a ruse to appease the widespread community opposition to the tender process.
 I do hope the commercial and personal arrangements and connections stand up to governance scrutiny. This continues to be a unclear and questionable process that requires a pause rather than acceleration.
 Regards,
 Michael Bodey

Michael Bodey

[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs	<u>R34</u> <u>Y/N</u>
Meeting:	<u>FCIS</u>
Date:	<u>2, 4, 2024</u>

From: Sally Goodchild [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 30 March 2024 4:35 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park,

What an incredibly disappointing outcome. It seems that the original tennis conglomerate who had secured the tender at first, has yet again succeeded against all the locals concerns.

I can hardly believe that after all the community passion and the specific reasons/details presented at the public council meeting, the council has still gone against all the wishes of the those who use the facilities on a regular basis.

It makes you wonder why we all bothered. The administrators to the council seemed as if their minds were already made up - even at the meeting. I really thought that the councillors, however, looked as if they had listened and understood our concerns. Obviously not enough to vote in a local business as requested.

It would be good to understand why and how this particular tennis outfit has succeeded above other more local tenderers. Is there any paperwork/ minutes that are available for public consumption?

Kind (but devastated) regards
Sally Goodchild

Sally Goodchild
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs <u>P35</u> / N	
FCIS	
Meeting: _____	
Date: <u>2</u> / <u>4</u> / <u>2024</u>	Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 6.30pm.

Subject:

FW: Cooper Park tennis centre Tender meeting - Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 6.30pm.

From: Nick Lucas <[REDACTED]>

Date: 1 April 2024 at 10:28:01 pm AEDT

To: Records <Records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Cooper Park tennis centre Tender meeting - Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 6.30pm.

Dear Mayor, Councillors, and Manager of Governance & Risk,

I am writing this email as a resident of Cooper Park and a regular tennis player at the Cooper Park Tennis courts and Rushcutters Bay tennis courts and I wish to provide you all with my objections to the consortium of SSMG Voyager Operations Pty Ltd being awarded the successful tenderer.

I have concerns about the matters outlined in the agenda, but more importantly, with councils disregard for the communities' preference for Cooper Park tennis to remain as a unique, personalised recreational facility for locals to socialise and enjoy, as opposed to what I am afraid will become a cold, bottom line financial enterprise that will not provide locals with the meet and greet destination it is today. Nor in my opinion, will it comply with councils "Play Space Strategy", which states that council "Shares the results of community consultation - what's important in the playground to you, and what areas of concern are not being met". As a local resident who lives within 250 meters of the Cooper Park tennis courts, I can advise that the local community does not wish to see a commercial, financial enterprise run the tennis courts. The locals would prefer a more personalised, community - oriented tennis operator that encourages socialisation and community wellbeing.

As councillors will have read, part of SSMG Voyager mission statement states, "we have the ability to commercially maximise valuable community assets" and see "improved profitability". My concern is that SSMG Voyager's Rushcutters Bay tennis courts is an example of the basic, cold attitude that is likely to occur at Cooper Park should they be awarded the tender. IE: No personal involvement; communication or service from management; on line bookings with press button key access to courts; no meet and greet on arrival nor the ability to have planned post tennis social occasions.

In accordance with their website, SSMG states they manage 12 tennis facilities with more in the pipeline. The community of Cooper Park do not wish to endorse a company with a monopolistic business attitude. They wish to maintain this facility as a unique personalised tennis venue within an environment that respects Cooper Park's worth as a historic recreational area. This was the vision in 1885 when Cooper Park was purchased by the then government from the Cooper Park estate.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Lucas

LATE CORRO Item: R7
P36
Previously forwarded to Cirs 0
FGS
Meeting: _____
Date: 2 / 4 / 2024

From: Olivia Templeman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 9:27 PM
To: Records
Subject: For Apr 2 meeting: Tennis Court operator

Hi, my name is Olivia Templeman and I am a local resident of 17 years, just under two thirds of my life. I grew up in cooper park, playing tennis there every Sunday with my family and going to tennis camp at the courts during the school holidays.

I am extremely concerned with the council's decision to recommend the SSM Voyager franchise, versus a smaller independent operator.

Small, independent operators are crucial for local tennis clubs like at cooper park. As a young child, I knew all the coaches, I knew the owner, and that he cared about us kids, was always down at the courts making sure we were having fun, a good run around, and learning to play tennis.

Having a large, faceless corporate owner is not only dangerous for the culture of our local community, but it is ripe for mismanagement and negligence, particularly when young children are involved.

Tennis operates best when there are people who are community minded, who show up not just as coaches but as mentors for parents and kids alike.

I've seen how many other residents share these concerns on social media and community group posts. I hope the council recognises the error in selecting SSM Voyager, and the destructive impact that a corporate manager will have on the tennis experience of their own families and kids.

LATE CORRO Item: R7

Previously forwarded to Clrs Q/N

FCS

Meeting: _____

Date: 2 / 4 / 2024

P37

From: Annie Iredale [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 12:00 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I have just become aware of the Council's decision not to renew the lease of the current management of the Cooper Park tennis courts. The current management has been excellent and I would like to be assured that the general conditions, in terms of engagement of a new management, remain the same.

I have lived for well over 60 years in close proximity to Cooper Park and walk in it each day. Now that you are proposing a change in management I am surprised that such a change has not been submitted to all nearby residents.

I now ask, are any structural changes proposed and if there are any planned changes that will affect the current ambience, such as the use of loud speakers or music or the casual renting out of the facility?

Last year, this same submission arose and again without any prior information made to the local public or residents. The same thing has happened again. Shouldn't the Council be informing us well in advance of making these important decisions?

We are extremely lucky to have inherited such a beautiful park which was created by hard physical work so many years ago. It is truly an oasis in a now very busy world and we should do all we can to preserve it as best we can.

Yours faithfully,

Annie Iredale
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO Item: R7
Previously forwarded to Cirs OP38
Meeting: FGS
Date: 2 / 4 / 2024

From: Ed Miles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 9:06 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park tennis, tender concerns

G'day.

I am writing to express concerns over the decision to potentially select a large operating group to run our community tennis facilities at Cooper Park.

I am not privy to the decision making process but I have heard it has been a bumpy process.

I was hoping you could consider Will Skeggs. He knows our community. A SMB that would do the most fantastic job running the venue and coaching generations of tennis enthusiasts. He cares enormously and would do a terrific job...

Thanks in advance. Kind regards, Ed

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs	<u>889</u>
Meeting:	<u>FCTS</u>
Date:	<u>2, 4, 2024</u>

From: Antonia O'Neil [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 8:57 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Tender - Insufficient Due Diligence

To Whom It May Concern,

I hope you enjoyed the Easter break.

I understand you are the conduit to Council, so my apologies for what I am suspecting is a strong community voice of protest regarding the imminent decision to appoint a corporate operator to manage Cooper Park Tennis courts.

As a member of a tennis-loving family – both immediate and extended, I represent 17 members of the Woollahra municipality – both O'Neill families (residents of Kambala Rd, March St and Albemarle Ave) and the Miles family ranging in age from 85 to 8 and voting residents for up to 65 years. I have lived here for 50 years.

We have been made aware that Council has decided to recommend Sydney Sports Management Group Voyager Operations (SSMGVO) despite community-wide concerns regarding the transparency of the real benefits to Woollahra residents and the true representation of community sentiment.

The Woollahra municipality has a unique and cherished appeal for its sense of local community, support of local residents' businesses and nurturing of local sporting talent, as well as the provision of true community facilities across the spectrum of ages and genders. The potential decision to appoint a multi-centre operator seems a departure from the Woollahra local community value system. If you drive past the corporate group's operations in Willoughby you are "welcomed" by a website not people. Equally, you see a sea of empty tennis courts – no tennis playing community results in under-utilised community assets. It is a drive I do multiple times a week at multiple times a day. Perhaps the due diligence has been insufficient, due to a lack of available time for Council members?

It is also concerning that the search terms to actually find the SSMGVO tennis courts are complex and not intuitive – a simple search to play tennis on the North Shore will not direct you to this corporate website. You are directed to multiple local tennis clubs and locations – those who understand what recreational tennis players are looking for and how they think. How many opportunities will be lost through an operator without local knowledge and one whose selection of search terms demonstrate cost-minimisation to the operator is the fundamental priority rather than optimising the outcomes for the tennis-playing community.

I appreciate your time and consideration ahead of a final decision.

Yours sincerely,

Antonia Miles (nee O'Neill)
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs <u>Y</u> / N	
Meeting: <u>FLS</u>	
Date: <u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>	

From: Sarah Colquhoun
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 7:58 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park tennis centre lease

Dear Council,

I am writing this email feeling disappointed and frustrated by council's decision to again propose recommending SSM Voyager for the Cooper Park lease.

I attended the 6 November 2023 meeting where I observed strong and loud objection not just to the multi sports use of the courts but also to a large corporate entity, SSM, taking over the lease.

Since this time, this objection has been made clear in the Wentworth Courier and the Eastern Suburbs Loop Facebook group - I urge council to go and read these messages from their community.

As a tennis player and rate paying Woollahra resident myself, I echo this objection and am really disheartened to see council has not taken this feedback on board.

We cannot let the tennis industry (particularly in the east) be monopolised and commercialised.

I am worried that my children won't get to experience what it means to be part of a nurturing local tennis community and enjoy the sport as I have for my lifetime.

I hope that council recognises and acts upon the objection they are facing for a second time around and takes its residents' concerns seriously. After all, isn't that what council is there to do?

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Colquhoun
[Redacted Signature]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u> <u>P41</u>
Previously forwarded to Clrs <u>Y</u> /N	
Meeting: <u>FCYS</u>	
Date: <u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>	

From: Sharon Ortner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 7:44 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Centre

To whom it may concern

I am writing in respect of the Cooper Park tennis lease.

I am shocked and outraged by Council's decision to recommend SSM Voyager, especially after receiving such strong objection to the corporate commercialisation of the centre at last year's Council meeting. It would be a travesty if Cooper Park tennis centre were to be relinquished to yet another large corporate organisation. I have been a Woollahra resident for over 50 years, a tennis player, a tennis parent and now a tennis grandparent. My parents were Woollahra residents as are my children and grandchildren, in keeping with tradition. There is no doubt in my mind that I would choose a centre that was run by a local, experienced and passionate operator with a history of success over a large corporate organisation that is endeavouring to monopolise the world of tennis as we know it. This is especially true in a centre like Cooper Park, a place where we have all grown up and consider a family and community environment, one that needs nurturing from those that care, to ensure the continuance of its ideals. Residents will not stand for the ongoing corporatisation of local spaces and businesses. The objections to SSM Voyager winning the tender and taking the centre were made very clear at a council meeting. This seems to have been totally ignored by Council. It is time to listen to what the residents and tennis world really want and need in the Woollahra Municipality before it is too late. It is the responsibility of Woollahra Council and its management to ensure that this happens.

I urge Council to seriously reconsider this recommendation and effectively serve the community's wants and needs.

Dr Sharon Kohn

Meeting: FCISDate: 2 / 4 / 2024

From: Carrie Roberts <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 8:39 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Courts Tender

To whom it may concern,

I have lived locally in the Woollahra and Waverley areas for the past 15 years and have had the privilege of playing frequently at the beautiful Cooper Park Courts. I am a passionate tennis fan and the peaceful, tranquil setting of the centre provide these courts with a unique resort like atmosphere - which is remarkable given their central Sydney location.

I am therefore writing to express my disappointment at the tender process for the local tennis club at Cooper Park and dismay upon learning of Council's decision to recommend Sydney Sports Management Group Voyager Operations (SSMGVO) yet again.

Council's recommendation of a large franchise model with multiple centres and managers will destroy the heritage and community essence of the area. These centres on the North Shore are impersonal and generic and lack positive community engagement. In these socially disconnected times, community involvement is essential for the mental health and well-being of the community.

In my experience, tennis centres operate more effectively with a hands-on personal approach, when managed by a small team of like-minded passionate individuals. Please reconsider your decision to hand over this pristine and unique location to large enterprise, and instead listen to the concerns of the residents who have the area's best interests at heart.

I trust that you will give this matter the necessary consideration it deserves and take the relevant steps necessary to rectify the situation.

Sincerely,
Carrie Roberts

[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: _____
P43	
Previously forwarded to Clrs Y / N	
Meeting: _____	
Date: ____ / ____ / ____	

[REDACTED]

From: Nithan Thiru <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 9:32 AM
To: Records
Subject: Woollahra Council | Community Concerns

Dear Woollahra Council,

I hope this email finds you well.

As a local resident and avid tennis lover, I feel I must express my concern for the local area and tennis community.

We are losing touch with so many things that make the Woollahra area so special.

- 1- We are disappointed and concerned about the recent news that Woollahra Council have put forward SSM Voyager again to manage our clubs, despite the local area not wanting this or agreeing to the franchise model SSM Voyager provides. This drives out small independent tennis centres and operators who love the sport and understand our community.
- 2- SSM Voyager has no connections or understanding of the Eastern suburbs and does not align with our community values. For example, SSM Voyager will always put the profits over community engagement and love of tennis. This is such a shame for our children who will not get the same best experience that our own tennis coaches.
- 3- We find ourselves reading news articles and community group posts outlining the clear community objection, people are getting frustrated that local voices aren't being heard when it's the local people who invest in the sport, we invest in the local tennis coaches and dedicate time to the tennis schools, athletes and upcoming tennis professionals.

We need your immediate understanding and support to help change what's happening so we can protect our sport.

Please feel free to call me on [REDACTED] to discuss this matter further and talk through any key areas of concern.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Nithan Thiru
Managing Director

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

P44
LATE CORRO

Item: R7

Filing: FCIS

2 / 4 / 2024

From: Pip Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 1:33 AM
To: Records
Cc: Mark Silcocks; Harriet Price; nicola.grieve@woollahra.nsw.au;
luise.elsing@woollahra.nsw.au; peter.cavanagh@woollahra.nsw.au;
richard.sheilds@woollahra.nsw.au; merrill.witt@woollahra.nsw.au
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE re Cooper Park Tennis courts

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the proposed takeover of Cooper Park Tennis Courts and park by a conglomerate. Cooper Park Tennis has served as a vital social and recreational hub for our community for over a century, and this proposal never received the public consultation it deserves. This attempt to acquire and potentially transform a cherished community asset has raised significant alarms within our local community.

Cooper Park Tennis has a rich history, spanning over a century, and has been an integral part of our neighbourhood's identity. It has not only provided residents with a place to enjoy the sport of tennis but has also been a central gathering place where people of all ages and backgrounds come together to form strong social connections.

I am deeply concerned that the proposed takeover will jeopardize the integrity of our community. The lack of adequate public consultation has left us in the dark regarding the conglomerate's intentions for Cooper Park Tennis and Park. The absence of transparency and community involvement is deeply troubling, as it does not take into account the wishes and concerns of citizens.

I urge you to reconsider your approach and engage in a comprehensive public consultation process that includes input from local residents, tennis enthusiasts, and community organisations.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I look forward to your prompt response and a commitment to engaging with our community.

Sincerely,

Philippa Wilson
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
<u>FC+S</u>	
Meeting: _____	
Date:	<u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>

P45

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Monday, 1 April 2024 11:00 PM
Records

"LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS"

It is with great disappointment that I have been advised that Woollahra Council has again decided to put to a vote tomorrow night a second proposal to commercialise the Cooper Park tennis courts, despite very strong local opposition to this proposal by local residents, tennis players and residents in the Woollahra Municipality who use the beautiful park for recreational activities.

It is sad to see Councilors who represent their constituents participating in a greedy grab for money.

I and many other residents who love the park and have sent many emails to the council and Councilors outlining our opposition. I received emails from several councilors supporting my position. I will not repeat my arguments at this late stage as the council brings this motion on with undue haste. My hope is that the residents of Woollahra, when casting their votes at the next council election, take note of those councilors who vote in favour of this resolution will make sure those councillors will not be re-elected

Kind regards

Rosemary Bridge.

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs	<u>OP46</u>
Meeting:	<u>FCIS</u>
Date:	<u>2, 4, 2024</u>

From: Margot Toll <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 7:41 PM
To: Records
Subject: Tenderer for Cooper Park

Dear Councillors,

I understand that SSM Voyager has been chosen for the Cooper Park tender. This is very disappointing to hear as they are a large corporate group with no connection to the Eastern Suburbs.

As a local resident I am deeply concerned that a local manager has not been appointed who will be more invested in ensuring the needs of the local residents are prioritised. A big tennis conglomerate such as SSM Voyager will not provide the same level of service as they will not appoint a centre manager providing a hands-on approach. As a keen tennis player and local resident, I do not believe the appointment of SSM Voyager is in the best interest of the local community. I understand there is considerable community opposition to this decision. I hope there is a process to get community views on this appointment.

Regards,

Margot Toll
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>	P47
Previously forwarded to Cirs <u>Y</u> / N		
Meeting: <u>FCS</u>		
Date: <u>2, 4, 2024</u>		

From: Augustin Chauvet <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 10:22 AM
To: Records
Subject: Objection to Cooper Park tender

Hi Woollahra Council,

I'm writing to express my sincere disappointment to hear of the decision to recommend the Cooper Park tender to SSM Voyager.

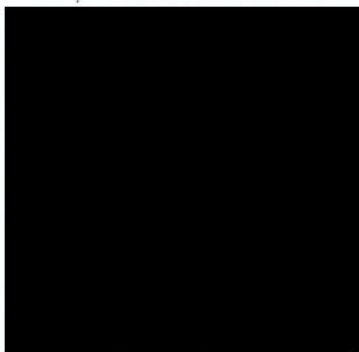
As a local Eastern Suburbs resident of over 20+ years and an avid tennis player, I'm of strong belief that small business tennis clubs are of significantly more value than franchise businesses like SSM Voyager. In my experience, a small business tennis coach puts love and care into each and every one of their students, whereas businesses like SSM Voyager take a more cookie cutter approach.

SSM Voyager has multiple centres around Sydney and it seems like they're just looking to expand their portfolio. This Cooper Park lease was an opportunity for us to retain the small local feel of the tennis school and tap into the community.

So much is being said about supporting smaller businesses but it seems to be all a ruse. SSM Voyager may potentially seem like it has more to offer from the outside, ie. better on paper with potentially more budget than smaller businesses. However, small businesses will always lose out if a conscious decision isn't made to support them. Without support from councils like yourself, the smaller guys will always lose out.

Please reconsider.

--



AUGUSTIN CHAUVET

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
	<u>P48</u>
Previously forwarded to Clrs	<u>V/N</u>
	<u>FGS</u>
Meeting:	
Date:	<u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>

From: Georgia Kam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 9:03 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park tennis centre lease

Dear Woollahra Council

I am a Woollahra resident of 18 years and I am extremely disappointed and angry to learn that SSM Voyager is taking over the Cooper Park tennis court centre's lease. I've played at the Cooper Park tennis courts countless of times throughout the last 12 years and have always enjoyed and appreciated the community feel.

Why has council chosen not to support a smaller local business? Are you more concerned about the commercialisation and financial benefits of big business, over caring about the impact on the local community? SSM has no ties to the east or surrounding community and is a franchised model that will not put in the same effort, care and passion as a smaller local business.

I encourage the Woollahra council to support its residents and represent their views and values. I urge council to seriously reconsider this recommendation.

Kind regards
Georgia Kam

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
	<u>P49</u>
Previously forwarded to Ctrs	<u>Y/N</u>
	<u>FCTS</u>
Meeting:	
Date:	<u>2, 4, 2024</u>

From: Rebecca Koerber <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 8:20 PM
To: Records
Subject: Tennis at Cooper Park - objection

To whom it may concern,

We have been local residents in the Woollahra council area for the last eight years and enjoy playing tennis at Cooper Park.

We are incredibly disappointed and concerned to hear council has decided to recommend SSM Voyager to take over Cooper Park tennis for the second time. In doing this, council is driving out small local independent tennis centre operators and putting profits over community engagement and love of tennis.

We have also read news articles and community group posts outlining the community objection, so why have the residents' voices not been heard for the second time?

Regards,
Rebecca and Max

([REDACTED])

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
	<u>P503</u>
Previously forwarded to Clrs	<u>Y/N</u>
	<u>FGIS</u>
Meeting:	
Date:	<u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>

From: Nina Murray <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 8:35 PM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis tender - Once again - profits before the community

To Whom It May Concern

As long-standing residents of our community for over 24 years, my husband and I, along with our two children, have enjoyed the privilege of calling this area home.

I am writing to express our deep disappointment and concern regarding the recent tender process for the local tennis club at Cooper Park. Being a family of avid tennis players, mostly at local tennis centres, for over ten years, Cooper Park has become a cherished spot, providing not only recreation but also a sense of heritage and tradition.

It is with this attachment in mind that we express our dismay upon learning of the council's decision to recommend Sydney Sports Management Group Voyager Operations (SSMGVO) once again, especially considering the perceived inconsistencies of the previous council process.

Our disappointment is further compounded by the council's recommendation of a franchise model with multiple centres and centre managers, rather than a boutique group that values the heritage and community essence of our area. I have been to these centres across the north shore and the experience and the branding are generic at best.

The exclusion of independent tennis centre operators, who have been integral to fostering a sense of belonging within the club, is disheartening. While we acknowledge the need for a broader vision for tennis, it should not come at the expense of community engagement and a genuine love for the sport.

It is our belief, based on our experience and observation, that tennis centres operate more successfully with a hands-on approach, one that prioritizes the needs and sentiments of the local community. It is disconcerting to note the apparent disregard for the voices of residents, despite widespread objection as evidenced by news articles and community group posts.

We implore the council to reconsider its decision and to genuinely listen to the concerns of the residents who hold the best interest of our community and its heritage at heart. Our local tennis club is more than just a facility; it is a symbol of our shared identity and values.

We trust that you will give this matter the attention it deserves and take necessary steps to rectify the situation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards

Nina and Craig Murray
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: R7
Previously forwarded to Cirs Q / N 51	
Meeting:	FC+S
Date:	2, 4, 2024

From: J Fab <[REDACTED]>
 Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 4:38 PM
 To: Records; Richard Shields
 Cc: Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Merrill Witt
 Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

To: The Mayor; Woollahra Council; Councillors

I am writing in regard to the proposed leasing arrangements for the Cooper Park Tennis Centre. This correspondence is of necessity "*Late Correspondence*" as the news of the Committee Meeting to consider a recommendation was only circulated just before Good Friday with the meeting to be held immediately after Easter. Whether this was designed to mute community awareness or merely a rushed process is open to question.

The Council would be well aware of the concern in the community regarding the lease process and I am sure if there was more opportunity for the recommendation to be digested by concerned ratepayers there would be far greater acceptance that the process has been fair and transparent.

The Finance, Community & Services Committee Meeting on November 6th last year resolved that:

Staff to consider objective criteria to assess community involvement in the tender to engender a sense of community.

Yet there is nothing in the proposal before Council that illustrates how the proposed tenderer intends to achieve this.

I note that the Council papers refer to "*Consultations about the Tender process were undertaken with Council's Open Space and Recreation Planning Team Leader*". I am not sure what this refers to as the consultation event at Cooper Park that I attended was in relation to the Plan of Management and explicitly excluded any discussions regarding the tender process. I remain puzzled why Council would embark on a Cooper Park Plan of Management that excludes one of the major features of the park.

The Request for Tender document posted near the tennis courts stated:

The Council will welcome and give favourable consideration to any additional innovative proposal in relation to any capital investment into the fit-out of the Kiosk and/or the operation and maintenance of the Courts including multi-function uses.

The community no doubt would be interested to hear of any "*innovative proposals*" put forward by the proposed tenderer.

I understand that the reference to "*multi-function uses*" was amended to make clear that the courts were to be "*primarily*" used as tennis courts. While this is welcome it does not make clear what "*primarily*" actually means. I would have thought that it was clear from

the FC&S Committee meeting last year that there was an appetite to make it clear that the tennis courts were intended to be used exclusively for tennis. I am sure the community would be interested in knowing whether the proposed tenderer is still intending to introduce multi-sports.

From discussions with other members of the tennis community it appears there is a great deal of suspicion and concern regarding the re-tender process and that community consultation about what is actually proposed for the site is required.

I would ask the Committee to delay the finalisation of the tender process until some of the issues I and others have raised are taken into account.

Jeremy Fabinyi

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>B7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs	<u>P53</u> <u>V/N</u>
Meeting:	<u>FG+S</u>
Date:	<u>2, 4, 2024</u>

From: Liz Gregory <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 3:21 PM
To: Records
Subject: FW: Late Correspondence re Cooper Park Tennis Courts

The email below was just sent to you. You will see from my previous email (5 minutes ago), I copied some information from Bev Chesterman, but all the sentiments are my own. If there is any possibility of taking out the reference to Mrs Chesterman, I would appreciate it. I have done so below. Thanks. Liz Gregory.

From: Liz Gregory
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 3:12 PM
To: 'records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au' <records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Late Correspondence re Cooper Park Tennis Courts

I would appreciate it if copies of this submission could be given to Council members.

Written Submission for Council Meeting, Tuesday 2 April, 6.30pm

I would appreciate it if you could pass copies of this submission to all Council members.

Woollahra Council.

I was under the impression the redevelopment/change of management and usage of the tennis court was resolved last year and the current management would remain. Perhaps I am wrong, and it may be that the current management no longer wishes to continue in that role. However...

This is truly a unique area of Sydney. The park itself is a gem, with hidden walkways, all variety of aquatic life, insects and tiny creatures – a delight for young and old. Such a small area, beautifully “constructed” to take advantage of every aspect of this small gully in the centre of Sydney Eastern Suburbs. We are blessed.

Of course, tennis courts are tennis courts, and it is unlikely any sports consortium would find it necessary to change these. However, the café – the heart of Cooper Park – might be seen as “potential” for development. As a resident of the area for 50 years, I am truly worried that the character and charm of the café and surrounds will change. The café provides so much pleasure to locals with their dogs, walkers, tourists, school children, the elderly having a cup of coffee and to the tennis players. The current management work hard, know all the locals and run a professional enterprise. However, it is really the café itself which stirs me to write. Any change could hardly be for the better; it is a gentle, relaxed café in the centre of a park with a charm no modernisation could possibly replicate.

I remain to be convinced – perhaps there is information available somewhere.

As others have written –

1 Are any structural changes proposed, and if so, what?

2 Is there going to be any change to the ambience of the precinct? Such as use of loud hailer, loud music, renting out of the facility etc.

Please consider carefully any handover of management and permit the residents to access to any proposal before the Council.

Kind regards.

Liz Gregory

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Clrs <u>0/15</u>	
Meeting: <u>FCJS</u>	
Date: <u>2/4/2024</u>	

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 5:01 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: Finance Community and Services Committee meeting on Tuesday 2 April 2024 Agenda Item R7. Late Correspondence re tender for new lease of Cooper Park Tennis Courts

Dear Woollahra Council and Councillors

I understand the Finance, Community Services Committee will consider the submissions for the new tender for the lease of Cooper Park Tennis Courts at its meeting tomorrow evening. I am not able to attend the meeting so would like to send my views to Councillors in this email.

From viewing the meeting agenda and supporting papers, I read that Council staff have once again recommended that the tender from the joint venture SSMG Voyager Operations Pty Limited be accepted.

First and most importantly , I sincerely thank Councillors for accepting the views of the community of tennis players at Cooper Park and for re-conducting the tender process on the basis that 8 dedicated tennis courts are retained.

Secondly, I remain of the view that Sydney Sports Management Group (SSMG) and Voyager Operations operate their respective tennis centres in a way that it is quite different to the current personal and community nature of Cooper Park. My view is also based on discussions I have had with some highly regarded and knowledgeable people in the tennis community who are familiar with SSMG and Voyager tennis centres. As I said at the Committee meeting last November I hope that Councillors have visited at least some of the

other centres operated by SSMG and by Voyager to see first hand how these tennis centres are run.

I trust that Councillors will be provided in the confidential attachment prepared by Council staff sufficient information to assess how SSMG Voyager Operations will satisfy the new tender criterion "Capacity of the tenderer to engender a sense of community" . I hope for example that the successful tenderer will be required to continue to accept telephone and in person bookings and that keypad locks and security cameras will not be installed on the courts at Cooper Park as is done at some other tennis centres.

Yours sincerely

Tim Hirshman


Meeting: FC&SDate: 2 / 4 / 2024

From: Sally Goodchild [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 10:46 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Merrill Witt; merrillforvacluse@gmail.com; Toni Zeltzer; Mary-Lou Jarvis; 'Peter Cavanagh'; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Harriet Price; Mark Silcocks
Subject: RE: Re Staff recommendation to appoint SSMG Voyager as the new operator for the Cooper Park Tennis Courts - R7 Agenda for tomorrow night's FC&S Committee Meeting at 6.30 pm

Dear Council,

I can only reiterate once again my extreme disappointment that despite all the community support to ensure a locally based tender be chosen for Cooper Park Tennis, you have still decided to choose a large company to take over the running of these courts. One which has no record of fostering community spirit in any of its other locations nor is based locally.

I find it hard to understand the logic of this after the enormous backlash against this particular company at the council meeting.

Why, Why, Why?

You saw for yourselves how much those who use the courts constantly, value them and the deep feeling against this particular tenderer. And yet, you have still made this decision against all the wishes of those closest to the venue.

I say yet again how deep is my disappointment in this extraordinary decision.

Regards
Sally Goodchild

Sally Goodchild
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Merrill Witt <Merrill.Witt@woollahra.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 5:05 PM

To: merrillforvacluse@gmail.com

Subject: Re Staff recommendation to appoint SSMG Voyager as the new operator for the Cooper Park Tennis Courts - R7 Agenda for tomorrow night's FC&S Committee Meeting at 6.30 pm

Dear supporters of the Cooper Park Tennis Courts,

I just wanted to let you know that at [tomorrow night's meeting](#), the Finance, Community and Services (FC&S) Committee will be considering a staff recommendation to accept the tender submitted by SSMG Voyager Operations Pty Ltd for the lease of the Cooper Park Tennis Courts. The lease agreement is for an initial 7 year plus a 7 year option term.

Apologies for the late notice, but I'm not on this Committee and its Agenda has only just come to my attention.

As you were among a record number of local residents and users of the Cooper Park Tennis Courts who either submitted [Late Correspondence](#), attended the [FC&S Committee meeting on Monday 6 November 2023](#) or have taken an interest in this issue, I wanted to make sure you were informed of this recent development.

As many of you recall, [SSMG Voyager operates](#) a number of sports and tennis facilities in Sydney including North Ryde Fitness + Aquatic, Tennis World North Ryde, Rushcutters Bay Park Tennis Courts, Chatswood Tennis Club, Heffron Park Tennis Centre, Tennis World North Sydney, Padel Sydney North, Cintra Park Tennis & Sports Centre, The Willis Recreation and Sports Centre, Mutch Park Tennis & Squash and Artarmon Tennis Centre.

If you would like to submit Late Correspondence, please email records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au before 10 am tomorrow morning. To register to speak, please follow this link to download the [Meeting Registration Form](#).

The Councillors on the FS&C Committee are:

The Mayor, Councillor Richard Shields ex-officio richard.shields@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Toni Zeltzer (Chair) toni.zeltzer@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Mary-Lou Jarvis (Deputy Chair) mary-lou.jarvis@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Peter Cavanagh peter.cavangh@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Luise Elsing luise.elsing@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Nicola Grieve nicola.grieve@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Harriet Price harriet.price@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Mark Silcocks mark.silcocks@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Please feel free to cc the Committee members and myself on your Late Correspondence.

Thanks again for your interest in and continued engagement on this issue.

Regards,

Merrill Witt

Woollahra Councillor for the Vacluse Ward

[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>
Previously forwarded to Cirs	<u>P59</u> <u>Y/N</u>
<u>FCRS</u>	
Meeting	
Date:	<u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 April 2024 1:54 PM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Harriet Price; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK TENNIS COURTS

Dear Councillors,

We am writing to express our deep concern about the suggestion that a new tenderer may potentially change Cooper Park Tennis from a Community Facility to a commercial venture.

We have been actively playing tennis at this facility for over 62 years, we have developed a strong attachment to it, and we believe it holds immense value as a community asset.

Cooper Park Tennis Complex has served as more than just a sports venue; it has been a place where individuals, families, and friends have come together over the years to enjoy the sport as well as foster a sense of camaraderie and shared experiences. It holds significant sentimental value to many people within the community.

This is NOT an asset for Council to exploit for higher rental returns.

We kindly request that the Council take all necessary measures to preserve the courts for their designated purpose of tennis and to maintain its low cost attraction for the Community.

Considering the rich history and role that the Cooper Park Tennis Complex has played within our community, we firmly believe that any potential changes in its use and cost base would have a detrimental impact on the local tennis community and the community spirit nurtured within the facility.

We understand that Council decisions are made taking all relevant factors into account, however, we would like to stress the importance of maintaining Cooper Park Tennis Complex as a dedicated low cost community tennis facility for future generations to enjoy. As a community-driven facility, it has provided numerous opportunities for people of all ages to engage in an inclusive and healthy activity.

We kindly request that Council preserve the courts for firstly tennis use and NOT for a commercial enterprise. Council must ensure that the Cooper Park

Tennis Complex continues to thrive as a valuable community asset which would be greatly appreciated by the countless individuals who have benefited from its presence over the years.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that Council will prioritize the voices of the community in any decision-making related to the future of Cooper Park Tennis.

We need to cherish this community tennis facility.

Sue & Gary Inberg OAM

LATE CORRO	Item: R7
Previously forwarded to Clrs	P61 N
Meeting:	FCIS.
Date:	2 4 2024

Subject:

FW: Late correspondence Cooper Park tennis, regarding the meeting Agenda - Finance, Community & Services Committee, Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 6.30pm
Doron Argaman - Public Forum Rregistration Form items not on the agenda 2023-2024.pdf

Attachments:

From:

Date: 1 April 2024 at 8:36:55 pm AEDT

To: Records <Records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Late correspondence Cooper Park tennis, regarding the meeting Agenda - Finance, Community & Services Committee, Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 6.30pm.

Dear Mayor, Councillors, and Manager of Governance & Risk,

Because of the Easter holiday and the constrained timeframe within which I could send my original email, dated Saturday, 30 March 2024, at 10:53 PM, I am sending this revised correspondence again along with additional information. Please disregard my previous email and the attached form.

I am writing to you regarding the agenda published on the Woollahra Municipal Council's website for the Finance, Community & Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 2 April 2024, at 6:30 pm ("Meeting"). As a dedicated ratepayer and avid tennis enthusiast who frequently utilises the Cooper Park tennis courts, I have concerns about the matters outlined in the agenda, particularly regarding the lease and operation of the Cooper Park tennis courts under tender number SC7818 ("Tender").

The reconsideration of tender SC7193, now the Tender, to the consortium of SSMG Voyager Operations Pty Ltd ("SSMG Voyager"), raises suspicions about the reasons behind this decision, which are not entirely transparent due to the confidentiality surrounding the selection process and public documentation.

Therefore, I encourage the councillors to object the awarding of the Tender to SSMG Voyager and respectfully request the opportunity to attend and speak at the Meeting to address the following concerns:

1. Why does the agenda for the Finance, Community & Services Committee meeting scheduled for 6 November 2023, include an attached Report to the Finance, Community & Services Committee dated 3 October 2023, containing detailed information on the bidders and their bids, while the attachments to the Meeting agenda are kept confidential? This departure from standard procedure for a tender already under scrutiny raises serious questions.

2. The Recommendation section of the agenda to the Meeting should align with Addendum 1 of the Tender, ensuring that the initial lease period (7 years) and its optional extension period (additional 7 years) explicitly prohibits activities other than tennis on the tennis courts.

3. I am sceptical about how SSMG Voyager rationalises paying excessively higher rent of \$290,000 per annum plus GST (compared to \$280,000 in tender SC7193) while maintaining the same exorbitant refurbishment commitment of \$926,408 plus GST, especially

considering the absence of multi-sports in the Tender. It seems improbable that SSMG Voyager would choose to invest significantly more than necessary or more than what other tenderers offer without clear benefits and possibly negative repercussions for the tennis community for years to come.

4. Based on shared experiences of tennis enthusiasts regarding the tennis courts managed by SSMG Voyager, there are apprehensions that the ordinary standard provided in these courts may not meet the expectations of the community, possibly falling short of enhancing the distinctive experience already offered by the Cooper Park Tennis Centre for the community.

5. I urge the Council to avoid endorsing a monopolistic approach that could disadvantage smaller tennis centre operators and hinder their ability to compete in future tenders against the growing influence of SSMG Voyager. I previously raised these concerns during the Finance, Community & Services Committee meeting on 6 November 2024 and would appreciate the opportunity to reiterate them at the upcoming Meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and respectfully request the opportunity to attend and speak at the Meeting.

Your sincerely,

Doron Argaman

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>	P63
<u>EC+S</u>		
Meeting: _____		
Date: <u>2 / 4 / 2024</u>		

From: Doron [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 5:32 AM
To: Nick Lucas
Cc: Records; Richard Shields; Helen Tola; Sean Carmichael; Isabelle Shapiro; Sarah Swan; Nicola Grieve; Peter Cavanagh; Luise Elsing; Lucinda Regan; Susan Wynne; Harriet Price; Mark Silcocks; Merrill Witt; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Toni Zeltzer; Matthew Robertson
Subject: Re: Cooper Park tennis centre Tender meeting - Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 6.30pm.

Hi Nick,

A very good email.

If you intend to attend the meeting you need to register your name with the Council. If you intend to speak at the meeting, you need to fill in a PDF form and send it to the Council not later than 10 am.

Kind regards,

Doron Argaman
[REDACTED]

On 1 Apr 2024, at 22:27, Nick Lucas <[REDACTED]>

Dear Mayor, Councillors, and Manager of Governance & Risk,

I am writing this email as a resident of Cooper Park and a regular tennis player at the Cooper Park Tennis courts and Rushcutters Bay tennis courts and I wish to provide you all with my objections to the consortium of SSMG Voyager Operations Pty Ltd being awarded the successful tenderer.

I have concerns about the matters outlined in the agenda, but more importantly, with councils disregard for the communities' preference for Cooper Park tennis to remain as a unique, personalised recreational facility for locals to socialise and enjoy, as opposed to what I am afraid will become a cold, bottom line financial enterprise that will not provide locals with the meet and greet destination it is today. Nor in my opinion, will it comply with councils "Play Space Strategy", which states that council "Shares the results of community consultation - what's important in the playground to you, and what areas of concern are not being met". As a local resident who lives within 250 meters of the Cooper Park tennis courts, I can advise that the local community does not wish to see a commercial, financial enterprise run the tennis courts. The locals would prefer a more personalised, community - oriented tennis operator that encourages socialisation and community wellbeing.

As councillors will have read, part of SSMG Voyager mission statement states, "we have the ability to commercially maximise valuable community assets" and see "improved profitability". My concern is that SSMG Voyager's Rushcutters Bay tennis courts is an example of the basic, cold attitude that is likely to occur at Cooper Park should they be awarded the tender. IE: No personal involvement; communication or service from

management; on line bookings with press button key access to courts; no meet and greet on arrival nor the ability to have planned post tennis social occasions.

In accordance with their website, SSMG states they manage 12 tennis facilities with more in the pipeline. The community of Cooper Park do not wish to endorse a company with a monopolistic business attitude. They wish to maintain this facility as a unique personalised tennis venue within an environment that respects Cooper Park's worth as a historic recreational area. This was the vision in 1885 when Cooper Park was purchased by the then government from the Cooper Park estate.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Lucas

LATE CORRO Item: R7
Previously forwarded to Clrs P65 0/N
Meeting: FCIS
Date: 2 / 4 / 2024

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 30 March 2024 10:53 PM
To: Records
Cc: Helen Tola
Subject: Late correspondence Cooper Park tennis, regarding the meeting Agenda - Finance, Community & Services Committee, Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 6.30pm.
Attachments: Doron Argaman - Public Forum Registration Form items not on the agenda 2023-2024.pdf

Dear Mayor, Councillors, and Manager of Governance & Risk,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recently published agenda on the Woollahra Municipal Council's website for the Finance, Community & Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 2 April 2024, at 6:30 pm ("Meeting"). The agenda focuses on matters concerning the lease and operation of the Cooper Park tennis courts under tender number SC7818 ("Tender"). As a dedicated ratepayer to the Council and a passionate tennis enthusiast who frequently utilises the Cooper Park tennis courts, I find this agenda deeply concerning.

The reconsideration of tender SC7193, now tender SC7818, to the consortium of SSMG Voyager Operations Pty Ltd ("SSMG Voyager"), raises suspicions regarding the underlying reasons for this award, which are not entirely transparent to the public due to the confidentiality surrounding the selection process of the tender. Therefore, I urge the Council to address the following issues:

1. Is there any connection, affiliation, association, or conflict of interest between Councillor Harriet Price and SSMG Voyager, or its Chief Executive, Richard Price? This inquiry is significant because Councillor Price was the sole advocate for SSMG Voyager during the Council's meeting on 6 November 2023, as documented in the meeting minutes.
2. SSMG Voyager already operates numerous other tennis centres, which does not compliment or enhance the uniqueness of the Cooper Park tennis community. Based on the experiences of my fellow tennis enthusiasts, the tennis courts they currently manage in Rushcutters Bay Tennis offer a very ordinary tennis experience. Cooper Park Tennis Centre holds significant importance, and it would be unfortunate for the Council to allow it to become just another ordinary tennis facility. The Council should refrain from endorsing a monopolistic approach that favours SSMG Voyager at the expense of smaller tennis centre operators who are equally committed to tennis and serving the local community. Such a stance could impede their ability to compete in future tenders against the growing influence of SSMG Voyager. I previously voiced this concern during the Finance, Community & Services Committee meeting on 6 November 2024, and I would like to emphasise it once again.

I request the opportunity to attend and speak at the Meeting.

Regards,

Doron Argaman

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>R7</u>	F66
Meeting: <u>FG+S</u>		
Date: <u>2, 4, 2024</u>		

From: Doron [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 30 March 2024 5:48 PM
To: Records
Subject: Re: Late correspondence Cooper Park tennis, regarding the meeting Agenda - Finance, Community & Services Committee, Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 6.30pm.

Dear Woollahra Council,

Please ignore draft email that was mistakenly sent to you in the past few minutes.

Kind regards,

Doron Argaman

Dear Mayor, Councillors, and Manager of Governance & Risk,

I am writing to convey my concerns regarding the recently published agenda on the Woollahra Municipal Council's ("Council") website for the Finance, Community & Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 2 April 2024 at 6:30 pm ("Meeting"). The agenda in question pertains to matters concerning the lease and operation of the Cooper Park tennis courts under tender number SC7818 ("Tender"). As a dedicated ratepayer to the Council and a passionate tennis enthusiast who frequents the Cooper Park tennis courts, I find this agenda deeply troubling.

Considering the Tender a second time, previously Tender SC SC7193, to the consortium of SSMG Voyager Operations Pty Ltd ("SSMG Voyager") raise suspicions to the underline reasons for this award, which is not entirely visible to the public eye due to the confidentiality in the selection process of the Tender. For this reason, I would like the Council to consider the following issues of concern:

1. Does the councillor Harriet Price have any relationship, affiliation, association or conflict of interest with Richard Price, the Chief Executive of SSMG Voyager? This question is of a concern because councillor Price was the only councillor voting in favour of SSMG Voyager in the Council's meeting on 6 November 2023.
2. SSMG Voyager already operates a large number of other tennis centres, not an advantage to the uniqueness of the Cooper Park tennis community because the experience of my tennis community points to a very ordinary tennis experience in the tennis courts they are currently manage in Rushcutters Bay Tennis.
3. The Council should avoid endorsing a monopolistic approach that favours SSMG Voyager at the expense of smaller tennis centre operators who are equally dedicated to tennis. Such a stance could hinder their ability to compete in future tenders against the rapidly expanding influence of SSMG Voyager. I previously raised this concern during the Finance, Community & Services Committee meeting on November 6, 2024, and I wish to reiterate it. Cooper Park Tennis Centre holds a unique significance, and it would be regrettable for the Council to let it devolve into just another ordinary tennis facility.

I would like to attend and speak at the Meeting.

Regards,

Doron Argaman
[REDACTED]

LATE CORRO Item: R7
P67
Previously forwarded to Clrs

Meeting: FCS
Date: 2 / 4 / 2024

From: Caldwell, Rebecca
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 10:02 AM
To: Records
Cc: Richard Shields; Toni Zeltzer; Mary-Lou Jarvis;
peter.cavangh@woollahra.nsw.gov.au; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: COOPER PARK

Dear Woollahra Council

I am writing in relation to a recent decision by the Council awarding the lease of Cooper Park Tennis Centre to Sydney Sports Management Group and Voyager Tennis Academy. I understand the Finance, Community and Services Committee will be voting on this decision tonight. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this evening's meeting, however, I would like to express my deep concern about this decision and urge you to vote against it.

I have had the opportunity to play at Cooper Park as well as many of the facilities operated by SSMG/Voyager, including North Ryde Fitness & Aquatic, Tennis World North Ryde, Rushcutters Bay Park Tennis Courts, Heffron Park Tennis Centre and Tennis World North Sydney. At Cooper Park I have experienced a close knit community that provides a relaxing, casual and stress-free environment to play tennis and get fit. They are people oriented and respect the individual, making each person feel welcome and a part of this community. I have never felt this way at any of the SSMG/Voyager locations. On the contrary, I feel they are there first and foremost to take my money. While I have no doubt SSMG/Voyager will run a smooth operation, I strongly believe they will diminish the existing positive community that the current management team have built and maintained over the past 17 years. This is something that cannot be created or maintained through spend. It takes a team who genuinely cares about the people and genuinely want to provide a service to the community, whether it be recreational tennis or development of players. Deiter and Sarah both have immense knowledge and experience in operating a tennis centre and coaching, and they are clearly passionate about the people they serve.

I urge you to reconsider the decision and allow Deiter and Sarah, the current management team, to continue to operate Cooper Park Tennis Centre.

Kind regards
Rebecca Bridger

General

LATE CORRO	Item: <u>RP68</u>
Previously forwarded to Cllr <u>Y/N</u>	
Meeting:	<u>FC+S</u>
Date:	<u>2, 4, 2024</u>

From: d [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 10:10 AM
To: Records
Subject: Cooper Park Tennis Lease

Attention Woollahra Council
Cooper Park Tennis Lease

As a resident and active tennis player residing in the municipality of Woollahra I was taken aback by recent news that Woollahra Council is intending to allow the new lease of Cooper park tennis courts to be issued to SSM Voyager group.

I believe this is a very bad decision by Council. It is against the interests of local residents and tennis playing community. This was apparent at the past council meeting at which numerous community objections were voiced.

Objections were voiced regarding SSM Voyager taking over the Cooper Park lease, as they have done similarly with multiple other leases on the north shore in the community tennis space. The fear is also that they will dominate the tennis space at other venues in our municipality as leases come up for renewal, such as Lyon Park etc.

We cannot allow one corporate entity to dominate the tennis community in our Woollahra area.

The apparent intended actions of Council does not serve the best interests of the many members of both the Woollahra community and the tennis community who wish for a family friendly tennis environment provided by local tennis professionals and not large corporate entities with no ties to the community.

The choice of a new corporate Lessee in favour of local professionals is a very poor decision. Local professionals will always provide many wonderful community programs in a tennis environment and provide social and other services for all our community members especially our local older players and the young children growing up in our community who need to be encouraged in their pursuit of our great game of tennis.

Kind Regards,

Peter Ortner

d [REDACTED]

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LATE CORRO Item: R7
P70
Previously forwarded to Clrs (Y)
Meeting: FC+5
Date: 2 / 4 / 2024

From: Michael Parke
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 9:55 AM
To: Records; Harriet Price; Sean Carmichael; Richard Shields; Sarah Swan; Isabelle Shapiro; Sean Carmichael; Lucinda Regan; Luise Elsing; Nicola Grieve; Mark Silcocks; Toni Zeltzer; Peter Cavanagh; Matthew Robertson; Susan Wynne; Mary-Lou Jarvis; Merrill Witt
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE RE: SSMG and COMMUNITY TENNIS at COOPER PARK

Dear councillors and others,

I currently play, and have played over many years, at courts managed by SSMG. By-and-large they do a good job. I have also played at other courts in the eastern suburbs and the experience has been poor.

However, the best social tennis I have ever played, and continue to play, is at the Friday night social at Cooper Park. This is a priceless treasure for many reasons.

The social at Cooper Park is a 100% self-sustaining community event. It is old fashioned and that helps a great deal.

Moreover, it is entirely organic. You **cannot** register online (and then pull out without telling anyone). Those who turn up in time get to play. In peak times some are turned away. That is how prized it is.

The social tennis at Cooper Park has been running longer than any of you have been involved in the affairs of the Council.

Quite simply, **it must be stipulated in any contract with SSMG that the Friday night social tennis MUST continue** in its current form and method of organisation.

I am currently a member at Heffron Park. For \$35/month I can play in up to eight social games a month and have up to 90 minutes court time each day during the day. A bargain!

At Cooper Park we pay \$20/night to play on a Friday night (\$80/month for four games). So, if SSMG cannot make the social tennis on Friday night stick, entirely in its current form, it should not be awarded the contract.

If the Council is as competent as we hope, the **Friday night social tennis arrangements will be written into the contract**. SSMG should have no fear of this and if they do, then I suspect they are not being truthful about their plans and should not be awarded the contract. There is nothing complicated about this, so please act on it.

Regards,
Michael



LATE CORRO	Item: P787
Previously forwarded to Circ (Y)	
Meeting:	FGS
Date:	2 / 4 / 2024

From: Charlotte Thornton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 9:39 AM
To: Records
Subject: Woollahra Council Tennis Concerns.

Dear Woollahra Council,

I hope this email finds you well.

I feel I must express my concern for the local area and tennis community as a resident and tennis lover for many years.

I have made a few points below to hopefully help shed some light on the areas of concern.

1. We are disappointed and concerned about the recent news that Woollahra Council have put forward SSM Voyager again to manage our clubs, despite the local area not wanting this or agreeing to the franchise model SSM Voyager provides. This drives out small independent tennis centres and operators who love the sport and understand our community.
2. SSM Voyager has no connections or understanding of the Eastern suburbs and does not align with our community values. For example, SSM Voyager will always put the profits over community engagement and love of tennis. This is a shame for our children who will not get the same best experience as our tennis coaches.
3. We should support a company that doesn't work with us or understands our area and players, it's unfair.
4. We find ourselves reading news articles and community group posts outlining the clear community objection, people are getting frustrated that local voices aren't being heard when it's the local people who invest in the sport, we invest in the local tennis coaches and dedicate time to the tennis schools, athletes and upcoming tennis professionals.

We hope you understand our concerns and can help direct the relevant people involved to make the changes we need.

Thank you.

Kindest Regards,

Charlotte Thornton
[REDACTED]