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## **Submission to Future Melbourne Committee**

City of Melbourne, Melbourne Town Hall,  
21 March 2023, 5.30pm – Meeting No.52  
Agenda Item FMC 6.6: Southbank Temporary Play Court Options

The Southbank Residents Association (SRA) is pleased to see further consideration on our recent amenity loss of the Boyd Park basketball court.

While it was always known the Boyd basketball court was temporary, it was not expected by the community for the Kings Way undercroft redevelopment to take so long.

The Boyd basketball court was actively used by the community almost daily and its closure was a massive disappointment to the community.

SRA has been advocating for solutions to this since the closure and it is comforting to see one of our solutions being considered, and endorsed here.

In 2022, SRA suggested the City of Melbourne to reach out to OSK, the Melbourne Square developer, to investigate an option to use their currently unused land opposite Boyd park. This location would be ideal.

SRA has also been bold by suggesting to transform the roof of the electrical sub-station directly oppose Boyd on Kavanagh street into a play space.

Owing to the shortage of open space and councils past failures to plan for adequate open space, council also needs to be bold, adaptive and creative with initiatives which will offer more to our community with open space.

Of the 4 options being considered by council, SRA considers the following:

Option 1: Sturt Street Reserve is considered too removed from central Southbank as has been highlighted by the council officers.

Option 2: Boyd Park we have reservations of utilising this park for a temporary park, not only for the cost for such a temporary project, but our own community survey, which attracted 120 responses indicated two thirds of the community were not in favor of a reduction in green open space for a temporary basketball court.



Option 3: Northern Undercroft is not feasible owing to the planned works for the upcoming works.

Option 4: Melbourne Square development site is the best solution and probably the cheapest. However, we are mindful of the potential impacts of noise from loud users of the space, and constant ball bouncing and dribbling until all hours of the night. This might be disruptive for the neighbouring residents. While the design is unknown at this stage, but the court could be inside a fenced area with gated access, which would restrict late night usage, but would require the gate to be opened and closed each day.

SRA applauds councils and its officers for further consideration of our community needs and hope this will continue into the foreseeable future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Penna".

Tony Penna  
President  
Southbank Residents Association

