

# Minutes

## Heritage Advisory Committee

Date: Monday 12 December, 2016, Collingwood Town Hall

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Chair: Councillor Fristacky

Attendance: Councillor Stephen Jolly (SJ), Councillor Jackie Fristacky (JF), Alix Hill (AHi), Jill Anwyl (JA), David Walmsley (DW), Ian Wight (IW), Amanda Haycox (AH), Claire Baker (CB), Paul Beekman (PB)

Apologies: Councillor James Searle, Margaret O'Brien, Fiona Bell, Lucinda Owen, Anne Holmes, David Langdon, Janet Taylor

*diverse*

*vibrant*

*exciting*

*inclusive*

<p>1. <u>Introductions</u></p> <p>Members introduced themselves to new HAC Councillors</p>	
<p>2. <u>Appointment of Chair</u></p> <p>Cr Jolly moved that Cr Fristacky be the chair. Committee supported the motion.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Functioning of the Committee</u></p> <p>SJ led a discussion about the functioning of the Committee. Wants to see the Committee running more effectively.</p> <p>SJ asked about the three HAC vacancies. DW advised that there had been an expression of interest process and Council had received three nominations. The opportunity to appoint members had been caught up in the Election caretaker period. It was also felt that as this Committee is due for reappointment mid-2017, the vacancies would remain until then.</p> <p>Committee keen to see the vacancies filled and new members appointed.</p> <p>IW led discussion about agenda items for upcoming meetings. It was agreed a new rolling item would be added to the agenda opening up to the HAC to nominate items for the agenda for the next meeting</p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p> <p>Views of the HAC on vacancies to be included in delegate's report.</p> <p>AH to add item to Agenda calling for items for the next meeting</p>
<p>4. <u>St Vincent's Private Hospital redevelopment</u></p> <p>PB raised concerns about proposed demolition of Free Thought Hall. Advised that reports had indicated could be of international significance. Druids Hall was lost last year. Free Thought Hall has been rejected for inclusion on the state heritage register. In order to get registration now, new evidence would need to be supplied.</p> <p>PB advised St Vincent's proposed redevelopment involving demolition of heritage buildings. This appears to be stage 1 of a 3 stage development.</p> <p>SJ advised this was the first time it had been brought to his attention and will discuss proposal with Minister Wynne. Will ask that there be no decisions over the Christmas period.</p> <p>HAC recommended that there should be a meeting with St Vincent's regarding the development proposals and the impacts on the heritage of the site.</p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p> <p>Views of the HAC regarding the proposed St Vincent's redevelopment and request for a meeting with St Vincent's be included in the delegate's report</p>

<p>5. <u>Review of previous minutes – 3 August 2016</u></p> <p>Accepted.</p>	
<p>6. <u>Heritage Strategy Year 1 highlights</u></p> <p>CB presented summary of Year 1 highlights to Committee.</p> <p>AH presented Year 1 summary – 35 items of which 7 were completed, 18 underway/ongoing and 10 yet to commence.</p> <p>DW advised that in terms of the items yet to commence, there are some actions to commence in later years. Discussion around some items – there has been some action on some of the items. AH to update table.</p> <p>The Year 1 summary report was accepted by the HAC.</p>	<p><b><u>Actions</u></b></p> <p>Updated Year 1 Heritage Strategy implementation summary report to be included in the delegate's report.</p>
<p>7. <u>Review of HAC</u></p> <p>DW presented a draft methodology for the review for a consultant to look at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the terms of reference,</li> <li>• how the meetings have worked and</li> <li>• the heritage strategy implementation.</li> </ul> <p>The consultant would conduct one on one discussions and hold a workshop to report back on findings for consideration by the HAC.</p> <p>The report would need to be presented to Council in June.</p> <p>The Committee agreed with the approach presented.</p> <p>Please ensure that any comments on the draft methodology are submitted (to AH) by <a href="#">13 January 2017</a>.</p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p> <p>HAC to provide any additional comments on Review Methodology by 13 Jan 2017.</p>
<p>8. <u>Planning Scheme rewrite</u></p> <p>Background material for the policy review was circulated as part of the agenda to all HAC members.</p> <p>DW outlined the work undertaken as part of the planning scheme review and detailed how the gaps identified in the existing Heritage Policy had informed the work done so far. The experience from other Councils had also formed part of the background work as their experiences with Planning Panels and the like provides useful instruction to Yarra.</p> <p>Consultants have been engaged to look at former industrial buildings, commercial centres and further work on residential buildings. This work will help address gaps in the current policy.</p> <p>AH presented a draft local planning policy structure and described how it has been changed to make the policy clearer.</p> <p>Policy development with the HAC will occur at the January and March HAC meetings for committee input. The HAC endorsed this approach.</p> <p>SJ asked about the Smith Street Structure Plan which he advised had been thrown out by the previous planning Minister. He wants to raise it at Council with a view to discussing it with the Minister.</p> <p>There was a general discussion about how to strengthen policy without devaluing heritage.</p> <p>DW reiterated that the policy rewrite will focus on improving interpretation, providing greater clarity and ensure policy direction is clear to guide decision making through the inclusion of application requirements and decision guidelines. It will ensure the</p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p> <p>Views of the HAC regarding the policy re-write be included in the delegate's report.</p>

<p>built form and heritage considerations in the MSS, Local Policies and Overlays work together with the Heritage Overlay.</p> <p>PB suggested that Smith Street be nominated as a whole precinct for registration with Heritage Victoria. He cited an example in Freemantle where this had been done. IW advised that the revised Heritage Act may allow for that.</p>	<p>AH to investigate these examples.</p>
<p>9. <u>Heritage resources</u></p> <p>HAC members discussed the proposed heritage officer and how to have heritage champions in the organisation and strengthening heritage policy. A report is being prepared for Council's consideration at the next Council Meeting.</p>	
<p>10. <u>Heritage awards</u></p> <p>AH reported on discussions with Boroondara and Ballarat Councils where there are heritage awards and Bendigo where there are no longer heritage awards. AH has also spoken with Yarra's sustainability awards officer to gauge the extent of work involved in award schemes.</p> <p>In summary, the awards highlight the value of heritage in the municipality but it is a very resource intensive operation. Bendigo and Ballarat have been assisted by the National Trust. Yarra would be unable to resource awards within existing capacity as it would require at least 60% of a full time position and more closer to the award ceremony. There is a lot of checking on and following up details.</p> <p>SJ raised concerns that at this point in time the resources were not there to support this and that it would send the wrong message to the community. In terms of heritage priorities he would prefer to see Council spend its limited resources protecting buildings rather than on awards.</p> <p>JA said that awards showcase that the Council values its heritage.</p> <p>AH suggested the matter could be considered as part of the review of HAC. There was broad support for this.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Further consider the heritage awards as part of the review of the HAC.</p>
<p>11. <u>Other issues</u></p> <p><u>Update on Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund (VHRF)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AH advised that Council maintains an annual contribution of \$50,000 which is matched by the VHRF. Grant applications are considered 4 times a year</li> <li>• At the most recent meeting grants totalling approximately \$34,000 were approved for projects within the City of Yarra</li> <li>• Members asked that a link be included in the minutes to show Yarra projects: <a href="http://www.vhrf.org.au/filter/yarra-heritage-restoration-fund/">http://www.vhrf.org.au/filter/yarra-heritage-restoration-fund/</a></li> <li>• One notable project recently completed was the restoration of the PELACO sign. It received a \$50,000 grant through the VHRF</li> <li>• An updated VHRF Strategy is under development</li> </ul> <p><u>Alternative to WIGGIO as a means of communicating</u></p> <p>AH advised that WIGGIO would soon come to an end. Agreed that information will be shared by email in future.</p> <p><u>Update on theatre study</u></p> <p>AH advised that the theatre study would become a planning scheme amendment in the first half of 2017. Internal controls would be proposed but would likely be contested by property owners.</p>	
<p>12. <u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>30 January 2017</p>	

6pm-8pm

Labor Room, Collingwood Town Hall

Dates of HAC meetings for 2017

All meetings 6pm-8pm\_Labor Room, Collingwood Town Hall

- Monday 30 January
- Monday 27 March
- Monday 22 May
- Monday 24 July
- Monday 25 September