

Minutes

Heritage Advisory Committee

Date and Venue:

-Tuesday, 30 January 2018,

-Meeting Room 6, Richmond Town Hall

-Time: 6pm – 8pm

Attendance:

Councillors: Councillor Jackie Fristacky (Chaired the meeting), Cr James Searle

Members: Fiona Bell (FB), Janet Taylor (JT), Ian Wight (IW), Jill Anwyl (JA), Margaret O'Brien (MO'B), Greg Spark (GS), Lucinda Owen (LO), Paul Beekman (PB),

Staff: Ivan Gilbert (IG) - Group Manager, CEO's Office (IG), Richa Swarup (RS) - Sr. Advisor City Heritage CoY

Guests in attendance: Michael Ballock (MB)- Executive Planner- Strategic Projects , CoY), Dr. Belinda Robson (BR)- Sr. Policy Advisor Policy and Research Unit, CoY

Apologies: Cr Stephen Jolly (SJ), Anne Holmes (AH), Angela Zivkovic (AZ), David Langdon(DL), Caitlin Mitropoulos (CM), Laurance Abou Khater (LAK)

diverse

vibrant

exciting

inclusive

<p>1. <u>Declarations of conflicts of interest</u></p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>Nil declared.</i></p>
<p>2. <u>Adoption of previous minutes –25 September 2017</u></p> <p><i>Ian Wight requested that his name be added to the Minutes as an apology.</i></p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That subject to the requested amendment, the Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to and accepted.</i></p>
<p>3. <u>HAC ToR Appointment of new HAC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>IG discussed the new ToR for HAC as adopted by the Council and the process for appointment of a new HAC.</i> • <i>JF noted that the existing members may reapply.</i> • <i>MO'B noted that it would be good to encourage some young and fresh representatives.</i> 	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That IG/RS to inform the existing HAC members when the EoI for the new HAC is advertised.</i></p>
<p>4. <u>Focus of Sr. Heritage Advisor</u></p> <p><i>IG gave a brief introduction noting that a privilege to have appointment of such an officer, it is important to carefully consider and maximise the benefits and focus on points for key achievement “low hanging fruit” issues. Emphasised that the Officer’s role is outline in the Position Description.</i></p> <p><i>RS gave an outline of her position objectives and made a presentation on her role and focus. She also circulated an update on the implementation of the City of Yarra Heritage Strategy 2015-18 and informed that she is currently focusing on the actions which are ongoing or underway.</i></p> <p><i>RS mentioned that following would be her focus in the coming months</i></p>	<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>That IW and JT to provide precinct work done previously to RS.</i> 2. <i>That HAC members to provide their feedback on heritage walk to RS.</i> 3. <i>That HAC members to provide their feedback on the implementation of</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing advice to the councillors, executives, HAC and the community (as necessary) • Preparation of a new Heritage Strategy and implementation of the current strategy • Improving the heritage information base for the community through information sheets and brochures • Digitisation of the Heritage Walks based on the HAC feedback • Documentation of industrial past • Work closely with the Strategic and Statutory Planning Units for appropriate heritage protection and effective policy development • Promote preparation of Conservation Management Plans/Heritage Interpretation reports and strategies for large and significant heritage sites • Planning for budget and resources for promoting heritage • Planning the implementation of Oral History (Yarra Talks) • Promoting Heritage Training in Yarra • Understand and recommend best practice in guiding heritage matters, taking into account good examples from around the world. • Contribute to the design and planning of the City to respect and honour our heritage. <p>General discussion took place on potential tasks/projects which would be considered appropriate and important to investigate and/or pursue.</p> <p><u>On Information Sheets:</u> JF suggested that RS looks into work done previously on information sheets. IW and JT mentioned that there is good precinct wise documentation.</p> <p><u>Heritage Walks:</u> RS informed that Council will initially work toward improving the digital as well as map information for one or two walks and then assess the costs/efforts and time. JT informed that some feedback has already been provided by a few of the HAC members to Amada Haycox previously.</p> <p><u>Implementation of the current Heritage Strategy:</u> It was decided that members can liaise with RS separately on the implementation of the Current Heritage Strategy</p>	<p>Heritage Strategy to RS by email.</p>
<p><u>5. Gas Works Site- Heritage Reports</u></p> <p>MB advised that Development Victoria (DV) has informed the Council that it has lodged an application with the Fast Track Government Land Service (FTGLS) within the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to alter the planning controls over the former Gasworks Site.</p> <p>The proposal at present is generally to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rezone the bulk of the site to a Mixed Use Zone • rezone the Fitzroy depot site to Public Use Zone (Education) • apply a Development Plan Overlay Schedule 16 (DPO16) • retain the existing Heritage Overlay and Design and Development Overlay Schedule 2 (DDO2) <p><u>The process:</u> The State has advised that the rezoning of the land will be processed by the Government Land Standing Advisory Committee (GLSAC) – this process is to be managed by DELWP</p>	<p><u>Actions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed that HAC members to provide any feedback (by end February) to points noted in MB's report in order that if necessary, it may be incorporated in the officers report for the March meeting. 2. Note that HAC members could also make a direct /individual submission during the exhibition process. 3. That MB to provide Development Plan documents to RS when available. 4. JF to provide Miles Lewis

<p><i>The Minister for Planning will be the Planning Authority. This means that Council will have no direct decision making involvement in the rezoning, but will have to opportunity to make a submission to the GLSAC.</i></p> <p><i>The GLSAC Terms of Reference also outline the following process:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) Exhibition – relevant stakeholders, Council and nearby residents affected by the rezoning are notified of the rezoning and a notice is placed in local newspapers. Interested parties have six weeks to make a submission;</i> <i>(b) Public Hearing – the GLSAC conducts a public hearing to ensure all submitters have an opportunity to be heard; and</i> <i>(c) Outcomes – the GLSAC effectively functions as a Panel, reporting on a planning scheme amendment and provides the Minister for Planning with a written report with recommendations.</i> <i>(d) The Minister for Planning makes the decision on the recommendations (note: the Advisory Committee report does not come back to Council).</i> <p><i>Once the GLSAC has reported to the Minister for Planning, the Minister makes a decision on the proposed changes to the Planning Scheme.</i></p> <p><i>Council has been advised the exhibition of the amendment will commence on the 26th of February for 6 weeks.</i></p> <p><i>Council will make a submission to the amendment. This submission will be the subject of an officer report to Council once the formal exhibition of the amendment has commenced. It is likely that report will go to the Council meeting on 20 March, 2018.</i></p> <p><i>MB also informed that this means that there are following opportunities for HAC members to provide their response</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• HAC members can provide their response as a group to the Council either to be included as part of the officer report of 20th March or they can make a presentation to the Council on the day of the Council meeting.</i> <i>• Alternatively, individual members can make a submission directly during the exhibition process.</i> <p><i>MB informed that DV is still finalising the Development Plan some initial documents have been provided to Council for comment.</i></p> <p><i>MB also informed that Development Victoria will also be applying to Heritage Victoria to relocate the Porter shed because the site is contaminated and the Gas and Fuel land is subject to an EPA clean up notice. The remediation will require the removal of the contaminated soil. Under this circumstance the shed cannot remain in its current location. Development Victoria has had preliminary discussions with Heritage Victoria about relocating the shed to Fairfield Park.</i></p> <p><i>GS and IW raised their concerns about shifting the shed and suggested that if it was necessary it should be shifted to a location closer to the existing site. They also recommended Fitzroy Pool site or smith reserve as possible better alternative sites than Fairfield Park which is far removed from the location of the shed.</i></p> <p><i>MB responded that the site is part of the Victoria Heritage register and the issue of relocation of the shed requires a permit from Heritage Victoria, as such the matter is being dealt by Development Victoria with Heritage Victoria in a similar fashion to a planning permit.</i></p> <p><i>JF informed that Miles Lewis has prepared a report portable structures that includes Gas works site. JF agreed to provide the report to MB.</i></p>	<p><i>report to MB</i></p>
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6.Oral History Project – Where to from here

BR reported on the oral history audit project. She informed that the consultant history@work was appointed to undertake the project, with the assistance of Anne Holmes from the HAC. The HAC was also invited to attend a round table to help shape the audit and to provide feedback on the draft report.

The project involved the following tasks:

- *An audit of oral history collections that focus on people, processes or events in some way significant to the City of Yarra. This included sampling (listening to, or reading if only a transcript was available, between 20% and 25% of each collection).*
- *An assessment of the accessibility, content and significance of these collections.*
- *A review of the City of Yarra's Heritage Strategy and Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes.*
- *A short survey of oral history collections in Victorian local government areas.*
- *Recommendations to secure support and sustain the significance of oral history heritage for the City of Yarra, both existing and potential.*

The audit yielded five critical observations:

1. A large proportion of oral history interviews have been conducted without a tangible end product in mind – for the most part their purpose has been to secure the memories and experiences of Yarra residents, more often than not, the older generations.

2. Very few oral history recordings are born digital. Efforts to digitise analogue recordings are underway, but appear to take place in short bursts and will require supportive funding and resources to ensure these projects can be completed.

3. Approximately half of the interviews sampled have been transcribed. Even fewer have been described in a timed summary or interview log, so that access to the interview content is impossible without listening to the whole recording. This is made difficult when so many recordings are analogue only and require (obsolete) equipment that is not readily available onsite.

4. Permission forms setting out conditions of use for the recordings accompanied fewer than half of the recordings. For those without permission forms questions are raised concerning access and use. It may also be prudent to check the validity of permissions sought some twenty, thirty or more years ago.

5. Finally, while Yarra's oral histories demonstrate a remarkably diverse range of life stories, the interviewee is typically a senior citizen, long-time Yarra resident and English speaker.

JT stressed upon the point to catalogue the existing data.

RS informed that she is working with BR and Yarra Libraries for the implementation actions on the report.

Key questions for consideration included:

- *What actions are required to "save" oral history records?*
- *What (if any) is Council's role in storing oral history records?*
- *What might be costs associated with such a program?*
- *What permissions might be required to operate the program?*
- *What other resources would be required?*
- *What might be funding sources for such a program?*
- *Suggestion that there be a "stepped" program, initially to collect, save and secure information which exists.*

Action

That BR/RS to provide further update on the implementation of Oral History Project and cataloguing of the existing records to HAC later this year.

<p>- What are the most suitable methods of storing information?</p> <p>The above items to be included in any future discussions/reports.</p>	
<p><u>8.Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund (VHRF)</u></p> <p>RS gave an update on the functioning of the VHRF and the Yarra Council's contribution thereto. RS updated the HAC members that VHRF is under review as the funds have depleted and if other Councils do not provide regular funding like Yarra and provide an amount towards the administrative costs there is likelihood that the VHRF may be discontinued. VHRF committee along with the National Trust is currently working on a possible suitable model for future and is also advocating to other councils to join.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p>That RS provide a further update to HAC when there is a decision on the Fund/New Model</p>
<p><u>8.Living Heritage Grants Program & early discussion on the budget 2018-2019</u></p> <p>RS reminded HAC members to inform their relevant contacts about the grant program. RS also urged that HAC attend the information sessions and provide feedback for the budget 2018-19</p>	<p><u>Actions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That RS send the details of the grant and budget info sessions to HAC. 2. That HAC provide any feedback on the budget to RS or follow the process.
<p><u>Other Matters</u></p> <p><u>World Heritage Environs Area and two other developments in VCAT.</u> MO' B mentioned that the next VCAT hearing on the application on Salisbury site starts on 12 Feb (for four days). There is a need for Council officers and others to attend. Fitzroy residents are doing their bit to protect the local heritage but consider that and more is required from the Council. She discussed that there is a need to discuss WHEA at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Update on heritage policy</u> RS informed that Amanda Haycox is planning to organise a workshop on Heritage Policy in March or April 2018. JT mentioned that there are two more significant sites, one a Johnston Street and another at Wellington Street and considers there is a need for better planning controls. JT suggested that there is a need for HAC to know the analysis or basis that informs the controls at the development stage not after the controls have been finalised and are being exhibited. JT and a few members suggested that they will like to see more involvement of RS in the development of policies and controls.</p> <p><u>Heritage incentives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MO'B suggested that any large development on heritage sites should have a heritage tax or levy and perhaps there should be incentives like grants etc. for looking after the heritage well. • IW suggested that it would be good to document different types of incentives. • IG suggested that a sub group from within the HAC members can consolidate ideas on incentives and prepare a quick paper. MO'B, IW and GS volunteered to work together. <p><u>Caste Iron Lamps/Posts, Edinburg Gardens</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GS raised the issue about missing caste iron lamps/posts from the Edinburg Gardens. He also suggested that Council should prepare Conservation Management Plans and follow proper processes including information, notice etc. before removing any items of heritage significance (even if it is just for repair) form significant heritage places. 	<p><u>Actions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That RS raise the matter of DDO within the WHEA within the planning department. 2. That RS to acquaint herself with the work being done by the Strategic Planning Unit and discuss with the Strategic Planning Unit in order to present the work to HAC. 3. That IG report back to HAC on the lamps removed from Edinburgh Gardens. 4. RS to work with HAC members and different departments of the Council for the guidelines

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IG advised he follow up within the Council about what happened to the lamps and report back to HAC. • RS suggested she could work with HAC members to prepare guidelines about the process for working with heritage objects during public domain/infrastructure improvement. • 	
<p><u>Call for agenda items for next meeting</u></p> <p>Following items were suggested for discussion in the next HAC meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Yarra's Heritage Strategy 2015-18 • WHEA • Heritage Policy • Heritage Incentives <p>JF suggested that the Committee should have the opportunity to suggest Agenda items before it is presented to the Chair for approval</p>	<p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>That RS include the listed items and any additional items submitted by Members into the draft agenda for the next meeting</p>
<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Date of the next meeting in March to be advised to HAC members.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The next Meeting date for the HAC is:</i></p> <p><i>Date: Thursday 29 March 2018</i></p> <p><i>Time: 6.00 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Richmond Town Hall, Meeting Room 3</i></p>	<p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>That IG advise the next meeting date to HAC.</p>