City of Yarra

Business Advisory Group



Minutes

Meeting No. 2- 2021

Date: Thursday 6 May 2021

UIDVANT

Time: 08.00 - 10.00am

Location: Launchpad, 132 Cremorne St, Cremorne and

Microsoft Teams inclusive

Attendance:

Present Cr Herschel Landes Arthur Keramitsis AK Keramitsis & Co Mark Ryan MR Eureka Coffee/Growers Espresso Mst Schiffer Ms Blick Creative Matthew Kovacs MK Visionstream Kevin Cahya KC Makmur Robert Tickner Paula Glynn PG PixelStorm Jane Stewart JS Sustainability International Victoria Gardens Shopping Centre Trang Du TD Two Square Pegs Apologies Cr Edward Crossland Natasha Luscri David Lawson Geoffrey Bowll Shini Pararajasingham Christopher Brown EC Simon Osborne Joy Saunders Will Anderson EK Simen Osborne SO Syarra Council – Economic Development Varra Council – Economic Development Syarra Council – Economic Development Esther Kennedy EK Varra Council – Economic Development Syarra Council – Economic Development	First Name	Initial	Business Name	
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Felicity Macchion FM Varra Council – Libraries				
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Adrian Murphy	AM	Yarra Council – Aged & Disability Services
Laurice Younge	LY	Yarra Council – Aged & Disability Services
Rupert North	RN	Yarra Council – Youth and Middle Years
Felix Neighbour	FN	Victorian Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Trevor Dean	TD	Victorian Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

		Action/Up date
	Acknowledgement of Country	
	Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today—and to their Elders past, present and future."	
1.	Declaration of conflict of interest	
	No conflicts of interest were declared.	
	Apologies	
2.	Actions arising from previous meeting & adoption of mins	
3.	Presentation from SO on outdoor dining update	
	No questions	
4.	Presentation from JS on COVID-19 Precinct Recovery Grants round 2	
	9 projects were funded in round 1 (all now completed)	
	10 projects will be funded in round 2 (in progress)	
	HL: Lots of projects in Fitzroy/Collingwood area, not many in Richmond like Swan St or Bridge Rd Joy: Bridge Rd have their own money through their special charge. Projects in Bridge Road are not funded out of this fund. There are some projects in the Richmond area this round, including the Burnley Street planter boxes and a project in Victoria Street.	
	HL: Is the special charge a hindrance to Bridge Road? Would like COY to be part of the collaboration SO: Bridge Road special rate when it works it's great. They have significant funding. The traders association needs to get into action. We've stressed to them they need to start spending money and activating the street.	
	MR: How do businesses get involved with these projects? JS: The Fitzroy North project in particular? The organisers have gone through the neighbourhood already. It's up to the organisers to engage local traders. Caitlin is in the process of graphic design etc., you will definitely hear about this.	
	MK: If Bridge Road traders association are not coming to the party and spending their money, can council take this back and manage this themselves? SO: *gives a comprehensive overview of how the special charge works, the recent renewal, 50% needed to opt out, etc. MK: Did the 17 people who chose to opt out do so because they don't want to pay, or because they don't think the traders association is effective?	
	think the traders association is effective? SO: Bit of both HL: During COVID they got rid of the coordinator, they need a coordinator desperately SO: The role has been advertised	
5.	Presentation from KC and FM on Yarra Libraries response to COVID-19	
	HL: Thank you from all of us. Amazing. *applause*. You pivoted and were frontline workers. Your skills made you able to do this.	
	MK: Has your community engagement translated to uptake of traditional library services? KC: Foot traffic is still very low. It's slowly improved. Door count doubled at Bargoonga Nganjin North	

	Fitzroy Library last month. There is still fear in the community of returning to indoor community spaces. Growing slowly.	
	FM: We want to reach people who wouldn't usually access library services. We have a new Library strategy being developed this year. We want to hear your feedback what can we do? What do businesses need?	
	MR: Great presentation	
	KC: We care about our community. People think about libraries differently now.	
	HL: With more people working from home, is this an opportunity for you to connect with more people? FM: We provide digital help training. KC: A mixture of in person and online programming.	
7.	Presentation from AM and LY on Aged & Disability Services	
	HL: Comment about toilets and dignity. Making accessible spaces with good architecture and design	
8.	Presentation from RN on Youth and Middle Years	
9.	Presentation from FN on Jobs Victoria Fund	
	MR: How long for? FN: 2 years	
	TD: This has been done before with low uptake. What is being done this time about addressing	
	attitudes? FN: We're engaging partners through government, inclusive employment	
10.	North Richmond	
	Ran out of time for presentation from EK. More information about this will be circulated via email and a presentation at the next meeting	
11.	Launchpad	
	Ran out of time for a presentation from our hosts at Launchpad	
12.	Closing	
	Herschel: Any agenda items for next meeting? I suggest employment patterns, customer patterns, and mobility – how are businesses going to change over the next years? Should we allocate time for general discussion?	
	MS and RT: These meetings need more two-way interaction. We have been presented to (the presentations were great).	
	HL: How about 1 hour for presentations and 1 hour for discussion	
	HL: The presentations today were fantastic. Well done to Yarra Council officers. Businesses have suffered terribly during COVID. Thank you to all attendees and presenters.	
	PG: Nice to have people in person and presenting.	
	TD: Thank you for having this online and in-person	
	SO: Please send me any venue ideas and agenda items for future meetings.	