

Minutes

Heritage Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, 14.06.2022 (Microsoft Teams Meeting)

Councillors: Cr Bridgid O' Brien (Chair), Cr Anab Mohamud (AM) & Cr Edward Crossland (EC).

Attendance: Alexis Arrowsmith (AAr), Greg Chenhall (GC), Jeffrey Atkinson (JA), Kirsteen Thomson (KT), Malcolm MacDonald (MM), Terence Nott (TN), Ursula Chandler (UC); Ivan Gilbert (IG) - Group Manager, CEO's Office, City of Yarra (CoY), Richa Swarup (RS) - Principal Advisor City Heritage, CoY

Apologies: Ian Wight (IW), Nina Tory-Henderson (NTH), Laura Campbell (LC).

diverse

vibrant

exciting

inclusive

<p>1. <u>Acknowledgement, Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>BoB started the meeting with the Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land and welcomed all attendees. Apologies stated above were noted.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>No specific action required.</i></p>
<p>2. <u>Minutes of the previous HAC meeting 26.04.2022 and actions arising</u></p> <p>The minutes of the HAC meeting of 26.04 2022 were adopted unanimously.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>No specific action required.</i></p>
<p>3. <u>Highlights and reflections from the HAC members</u></p> <p>BoB noted that this is the last meeting of this HAC. She invited each member to provide their reflections. Key reflections by the HAC members are summarised below:</p> <p><i>What aspects the committee members have enjoyed/liked</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with other members as they brought diverse expertise and skill set. • Working on small sub-groups to address specific issues/topics. Examples cited were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Yarra's Heritage Strategy. - Preparation of a response to the Draft World Heritage Management Plan Review Discussion Paper and the Draft Environs Area Strategy Plan. - Response to the Collingwood South DDO • Opportunity to comment on the review of the heritage policy and activity centre DDOs. • Involvement of local HAC members on site visits for advising on specific projects /issues to save the heritage infrastructure and 	<p><u>Actions</u></p> <p><i>That</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RS liaises with Councillors Support Unit about a possible get together of the outgoing HAC members and incoming HAC Members with the Mayor and Councillors. • The Delegate's report presents the suggestions by the HAC for future improvements.

features such as in the Linear Parklands (the old railway reserve), street intersections and heritage lamp posts.

- Contributions by Janet Taylor, Terry Nott and Ian Wight were specially recognised by other members.
- Flexibility in choosing the meetings' venue and especially the online HAC meetings that provided continuity to HAC to contribute during the long Covid19 restrictions.
- Advocacy to save heritage verandas.

HAC was generally pleased that their involvement through specific tasks which has generated a level of awareness among Council staff about care that is required in responding to the heritage aspects.

What aspects the Committee has been disappointed about:

- Lack of Council support in resourcing the implementation of Heritage Strategy (the Strategy).
 - A new heritage department/unit has not been set-up.
 - Funding has not been provided for hiring of heritage trained staff to implement important actions and provide regular advice to the community and internal staff.Their view was that the Strategy is bound to fail without Council's commitment for resources.
- Committee members were also disappointed about the some of the developments being approved.
- Members felt that the HAC advice is being sought as a token. HAC's advice is not discussed or deliberated by the Council. There is no clear sense whether Council sees any value in HAC's advice and how the issues being raised by the HAC are being addressed.
- The Delegate's reports are only noted. No resolutions for actions are made by the Council.
- TN expressed his disappointment about the process of involvement of HAC on some of the key projects of the Council, the timing of seeking advice and time provided to provide their feedback. TN and UC were critical of the process and design outcome for the Brunswick Street Oval new sporting facility and the proposed redevelopment of the existing pavilion.
- TN also mentioned that consultants often do not adequately address the advice from HAC members and the committee is not informed about the reasons why their advice was not considered.

AM clarified that Council notes HAC's advice through the delegate's report. Sometimes the actions may be slower, but the issues are noted.

Suggestions for future

- Council should consider the Heritage Strategy as a turnkey strategy where every action can be completed with required skillset, and expertise.
- In the budget process heritage strategy actions should be appropriately funded.
- More heritage staff is needed through budget provisions or by transfer from other units (such as planning).
- HAC's role can be a more proactive than just advisory. The role should allow the Committee to advocate. This will allow Council to

<p>advocate on relevant matters to Planning Institute Australia or Heritage Council Victoria through the Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to review the Terms of Reference of the Committee so that Council can use the expertise that HAC brings more effectively and there is a value in advice being provided by the committee and advice being received by the Council. • The Governance review should review the Terms of Reference of advisory committees and the process for consultation and how the committees can be more effective. • HAC's advice should be sought at an early stage. • HAC or Principal Adviser City Heritage should be represented in the project control group of key capital works projects of the council such as the Brunswick Street Oval. • There can be more opportunity to engage with the community. • There should be an opportunity for the HAC to meet with the Council periodically, once in two years through dinner or tea. BoB suggested that a friendly farewell to the outgoing members combined with the welcome of the new members could be a good opportunity. The members requested to have an event when the Mayor and Councillors can be present. <p>RS thanked the committee members for their regular participation in the meetings as well as their dedication and interest on the heritage matters. She appreciated the prompt advice and response that she got from the members of this committee. She mentioned that the group brought diverse experience and expertise and worked very well together. She also mentioned that she hopes that many of them will apply to join the next committee.</p>	
<p><u>4. Any other matters</u></p> <p>TN informed that although he had submitted an EoI for renewal of his HAC membership, however, he has decided to not continue the membership due to his prior commitment on other projects.</p> <p>GC informed about the development proposal at Brotherhood of St. Laurence's (BSL), Fitzroy and related heritage matters.</p> <p>GC also emphasised on the need for considering more ideas on funding more staff or deputing staff from other departments for progressing Yarra's Heritage Strategy.</p> <p>BoB informed that discussion on the next budget will be coming soon. Interested members can discuss this with their ward councillors.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>Delegates' report to again raise the issue of budget requirement for staffing and implementation of the Heritage Strategy.</i></p>
<p><u>5. Chair to thank the existing Committee</u></p> <p>Bob thanked all the members for their advice to the Council. She made a special mention that Terry Nott had received Yarra's Community Award on heritage. She also conveyed her special appreciation for Janet Taylor for her contributions to the HAC over the years noting that she had earlier in the year resigned from the committee as a retirement step.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That RS provide HAC's appreciation to Janet Taylor by email.</i></p>
<p>6. Update on the formation of the new committee and next meeting</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p>

<p>RS updated that a good number of Eol applications have been received for formation of a HAC 2022-2026. The Eol will be assessed in coming weeks. A shortlist will be created in July for Council approval in August.</p> <p>The tentative date for the next HAC meeting is 9 August. This date may need to be revised based on when the date of approval of a new HAC 2022-2026.</p>	<p><i>That RS provide an update by email about the future meeting dates.</i></p>
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