

Minutes

Heritage Advisory Committee

Date: Monday, 19.12.2022 (Microsoft Teams Meeting)

Councillors: Cr Bridgid O'Brien (BOB) -Chair, Cr Anab Mohamud (AM)

Attendance: Alexis Arrowsmith (AAr), Graeme Butler (GB), Eleni Courvisanos (EC), Greg Chenhall (GC), Ian Wight (IW), Jeffrey Atkinson (JA), Kirsteen Thomson (KT), Kristianna Scheffel (KS), Malcolm MacDonald (MM), Richa Swarup (RS) - Principal Advisor City Heritage, CoY.

Apologies: Cr Edward Crossland (EC), Leo John Showell (LS), Robert Crawford (RC), Ursula Chandler (UC).

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 Eleni Courvisanos as the new member from the National Trust, in place of Felicity Watson.</p> <p>BOB noted that RS replace Felicity Watson's name in the agenda by Eleni Courvisanos.</p> <p>HAC noted apologies (as stated above).</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That RS reflect the corrections in the agenda prior to placing it online.</i></p>
<p>2. <u>Minutes of the previous HAC meeting 11.10.2022 and actions arising</u></p> <p>Minutes of the HAC meeting of 11.10.2022 were adopted unanimously.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>No specific action needed.</i></p>
<p>3. <u>Cremorne Urban Design and Built-form Framework</u></p> <p>IW mentioned that on 29th November, members of the HAC Subgroup attended a (MS Teams) presentation of the plans which were out for public consultation.</p> <p>HAC welcomed this planning document as a positive planning framework for the area which was considerate of the history of the development of the area and its mix of fine grain residential with commercial and factory developments.</p> <p>Following were HAC's key observations/responses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) HAC supports the recommendations for providing a breathing space as a setting for the significant heritage sites. HAC recommends that Council adopts this approach for local heritage landmarks and significant sites in all the other activity centre DDOs, where the work is in progress. 	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That HAC Delegates' report includes HAC's observations and comments.</i></p>

<p>2) HAC notes that this planning framework is what is the plan for creation of the Cremorne as the Digital Hub. If Yarra City Council wishes to support Victorian Government to achieve its Digital Strategy 2021 – 2026, the creation of the Digital Hub in Cremorne – announced in September 2022, then consideration needs to be given about how best to support this ambition. There needs to be a focussed action plan and an economic or investment attraction strategy along with a planning and urban design framework.</p> <p>3) To retain the character of the area Council will need to ensure good quality architecture and urban design for the new build.</p> <p>HAC also confirmed that points raised through their earlier submission relate to general heritage – built form issues which should be considered for planning of any heritage precincts.</p>	
<p><u>4. Heritage Strategy and Priorities</u></p> <p>GC presented the draft priorities prepared by Heritage Strategy Implementation Subgroup for a discussion with the HAC.</p> <p>Whilst HAC supported all the priority actions presented to them, they viewed that urgent progress is needed on some, which will have highest impact for preserving, enhancing, and promoting Yarra’s significant built and cultural heritage. In this regard, HAC considered following actions to be the top priority for Council funding in 2023-24 and onwards.</p> <p>a) A review and preparation of statements of significance (SoS).</p> <p>This links with other quantifiable targets 1,2,3, 8 and 21 (Actions 1, 2 and 11) of the Heritage Strategy. This can be implemented as a seven-year programme and can be undertaken precinct by precinct. Areas under pressure including activity centres should be reviewed first.</p> <p>This will have highest impact in developing a clearer understanding about individually significant places within a precinct, what is significant about them and why they are different to contributory places. Currently, there are thousands of individually significant places in precincts which do not have statements of significance or citations.</p> <p>b) Implementation of an in-house training program, on a regular basis.</p> <p>This action links with other quantifiable targets 19 (Action 9), 27 (Action 15), 29 (Action 16) and can also support quantifiable targets 33 (Action 19), 39 and 40 (Action 21) of the Heritage Strategy</p> <p>This action will have highest impact in improving heritage response and will support other actions stated above.</p> <p>c) A heritage communication plan is prepared to promote various aspects of Yarra’s heritage.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That the HAC Delegates’ report provides HAC’s advice to the Council.</i></p>

<p>Further, HAC noted the priority for an action from Council’s LGBTIQ+ Strategy for preparation of a “Thematic Heritage Study for places and objects of significance to the LGBTIQ+ community.” This is in addition to the Heritage Strategy actions. RS advised that Council has initiated a project to implement this action.</p> <p>Further, HAC noted the difficulty Council has faced in filling in the Heritage Officer (Indigenous Heritage) position. HAC is concerned that this funding may not be used this year and may lapse if the position is not filled. HAC therefore emphasised that it is important that Council continues the funding for this position in future so that Aboriginal heritage actions can be implemented on priority when a suitable candidate has been found. HAC also discussed that the unused available funds for the position in this year, should be made available to get another heritage officer/consultant on a temporary basis, until the time the Indigenous Heritage officer position is filled, so that the other pending actions of the Heritage Strategy could be progressed which could not be undertaken due to non-availability of resources.</p> <p>Upon considering above matters, HAC recommended the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That GC work with AA and KT to document HAC’s expectations of the “Heritage Communications Plan and its Implementation” so that Communications team can consider including it in their communication strategy/plan. • That Council, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide funding in the budget year 2023-24 to implement priority actions. b) continue the funding for Heritage Officer (Indigenous Heritage) in coming years as an ongoing position. c) allow the unused funds in this year from Heritage Officer (Indigenous Heritage) position for appointing another heritage officer/consultant on a short term- temporary basis, this year and in the coming year, until the position is filled. 	
<p><u>5. Other Matters</u></p> <p><i>Planning proposal assessment process</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA advised that several issues are being noted in the planning proposal assessment process. • GB noted that there are issues with Council’s “Expert Witness” as at times they have not fully supported the Council position. <p>HAC recommended that AA and GB provide a list of issues and examples which can be forwarded to Statutory Planning unit for a response. RS informed that a member from the Statutory Planning team is likely to attend the HAC meeting in early 2023. This could be a time for such clarifications if the issues with examples can be sent to them in advance.</p> <p><i>Draft WHMP exhibition and submission</i></p>	<p><u>Actions</u></p> <p><i>That</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA and GB provide specific issues with examples to RS so that she can send it to the Statutory Planning unit prior to the next HAC meeting. • HAC members provide their comments on the draft WHMP to RS by 15 January 2023.

<p>RS informed the HAC that Heritage Victoria has advertised a draft WHMP. Submissions are due by 17 February 2023. She requested the HAC members to send their comments to her by email by 15 January 2023, so that she can compile them as HAC comments and include it in the Council Briefing report.</p>	
<p><u>6. Future meeting dates</u></p> <p>HAC requested that RS provide future meeting dates for the year 2023 by email.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That RS circulate the meeting dates for 2023 by email.</i></p>