



Minutes

Heritage Advisory Committee

Date: Monday, 19.02.2024

Venue/ Mode: MS Teams

Councillors: - Mayor Edward Crossland (EC) – Chair and Cr Michael Glynatsis (MG)

Attendance: Alexis Arrowsmith (AAr), Eleni Courvisanos (ECo), Graeme Butler (GB), Greg Chenhall (GC), Ian Wight (IW), Jeffrey Atkinson (JA), Kirsteen Thomson (KT), Kristianna Scheffel (KS), Leo John Showell (LS), Malcolm MacDonald (MM), Michael Phillipson (MPh)

Council Officers: Richa Swarup (RS) - Principal Advisor City Heritage.

Apologies: Cr Bridgid O’Brien (BOB), Ursula Chandler (UC), Kate Yunken (KY), Manager City Strategy

diverse

vibrant

exciting

inclusive

<p>1. <u>Acknowledgement, Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>EC started the meeting with the <i>Acknowledgement and Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land</i> and welcomed MPh.</p> <p>MPh introduced himself.</p> <p>HAC noted apologies (as stated above).</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>No action required.</i></p>
<p>2. <u>Minutes of the previous HAC meeting of 20.11.2023 and actions arising</u></p> <p>HAC unanimously adopted the minutes of the previous HAC meeting of 20.11.2023.</p> <p>AA reminded about an outstanding action from an earlier meeting which requires an action about a Communication Plan for better community outreach.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That,</i></p> <p><i>HAC members provide examples of the buildings and aspects they have liked to LS or RS.</i></p> <p><i>RS pursue the matter of better community outreach with the communications unit.</i></p>

3. <u>Heritage highlights (2023 -2024) by HAC members</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>HAC members provided highlights on heritage issues and aspects from their suburbs.</p> <p>GB: The higher scale of buildings within heritage precincts and sites such as the Thomas Embling Hospital.</p> <p>GC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some of the heritage sites are coming up for sale in Fitzroy which includes 1-9 Gertrude Street in the World Heritage Environs Area. ○ Melbourne Flower and Garden Show licence to use the Carlton Gardens is up for review. ○ A community group in Fitzroy is researching on the Office of Housing towers in Fitzroy to propose to Heritage Victoria its potential listing on the Victorian Heritage register. <p>MM: Richmond Power Station proposal for redevelopment Slade Knitwear Sign in Cremorne.</p> <p>JA: Concerns about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Graffiti on old/ heritage signs poses a risk to the historical signs. ○ Old cast iron gas lamp post portion which has not been reinstated at the corner of Scotchmer or Pigdon and Nicholson streets. ○ The state of Nicholson Street shop verandah. Previous investigations for a council project/grant to restore those have indicated that that this would be very expensive, especially due to the location of underground services. <p>AA: Community concerns about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opening of Walmer Street Bridge; and ○ Land behind Victoria Garden Shopping Centre. <p>KT: Overall scale, presentation, and urban design of area around Swan Street and Bridge Road which is destroying the Character of the heritage streetscape.</p> <p>IW: A good decision from the Tribunal, which refused a proposed 8 story development on the prominent former Cancer Council site at 1-23 Rathdown Street situated in the World Heritage Environs Area. The decision had the strong support of the Melbourne City Council, a large number of individual local residents, the Carlton Residents Association and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria'</p> <p>LS: Appreciated the tree planting, shrubbery, weeding along Merri Creek which helps the landscape values as well as protects biodiversity.</p> <p>EC: The National Trust is focussing on how to support local heritage. The Trust have written a letter to the Minister for planning about the recent planning scheme changes related to the 2nd dwelling.</p> <p>Mph: 207 Lennox Street and Goodwood Street corner is a good example for a case study on how to protect and restore heritage.</p> <p>Members noted the above observations.</p>	<p><i>No specific action was suggested by HAC.</i></p>

<p>4. <u>Heritage plaque request</u></p> <p>RS informed that there is a growing interest within the Yarra community for installation of heritage plaques on significant heritage properties in Yarra. Recently a community member requested that possibilities of the plaques on old industrial buildings should be explored to promote Yarra's significant industrial past. Requests are also being made by the community members to install plaques on Victorian Heritage Registered places taking advantage of the Blue Plaque Scheme of the Heritage Council of Victoria.</p> <p>HAC discussed about how various types of plaques have performed over the years and the issues about the lack of maintenance, renewal or replacement. HAC recommended that RS investigate,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibility of installation of the Blue Plaques on Council heritage assets that are on the VHR. - Feasibility of preparing a standard plaque design and guidelines about its installation, maintenance, renewal, and replacement. 	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That,</i></p> <p><i>RS further investigate the matter on the lines suggested by the HAC and present her findings to the group in a later meeting.</i></p>
<p>5. <u>General updates</u></p> <p>RS provided an update on the approval of Amendment C269Yara.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>No further action was suggested by HAC.</i></p>
<p>6. <u>Any other matter</u></p> <p>Following matters were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forensic centre development in the heritage listed Yarra Bend Park and other nearby developments: GB raised concerns about large scale developments within the site. He was concerned that on sites like this where Council has only limited influence it could be difficult to achieve appropriate scale of development and protect the heritage character of the area. This may be more so with recent changes to the planning provisions by the State. • Housing Commission tower redevelopment: HAC indicated its concern about the possible demolition and redevelopment of the Housing Commission tower sites. HAC was of the view that Council should work with the other neighbouring Councils and analyse the social, environmental, and other impacts, if the towers are to be demolished the sites are to be redeveloped. They also suggested that councils should then write a letter as a combined response to inform the Minister for Planning about various, social, environmental, and economic impacts of such a proposal. <p>HAC members also offered to provide their assistance, if needed to analyse the matter in depth.</p> <p>ECo informed that City of Melbourne is already working towards an approach to retrofit the towers located within their Council area.</p> <p>KT offered to share UK examples.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That,</i></p> <p><i>Officers investigate the matter internally about the possibility of working with the other, Inner-City Councils to prepare a combined response to the Minister on the matter of Housing Commission's Towers redevelopment.</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HAC was also concerned about a number of recent changes to the planning scheme and their impacts on the scale and size of development. <p>ECo informed that the National Trust has recently written a letter to the Minister regarding the impacts of the planning scheme changes that allow for a second dwelling and offered to share it as a reference, should Council decide to write to the Minister against the process or the impacts of the changes to various Planning provisions such as CI 53.22, CI 53.23 etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage Festival and Open House Melbourne: RS provided an update on the timing of the two heritage events and that she is working with other departments of the Council and the local history societies to identify the best approach to participate in these events. 	
<p>7. <u>Meeting dates and agenda item</u></p> <p>RS informed that next HAC Meeting will be held on 10 April 2024 and requested that members send their the agenda items at least a month in advance.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>HAC members forward the agenda items for the next meeting to RS. .</i>