

Yarra Environment Advisory Committee

Minutes – 6 May 2021, 5:30-7:00pm



Online Meeting

Attendees: Andrew Vance, Paul O’Shea, Miranda Sharp, Chris Williams, Lucy Derum, Michael Oke, Lisa Coffa

Apologies: Chris Currie Cr Gabrielle di Vietri (Mayor), Geoffrey Golden, Gary Shadforth, Jenny Backholer, Adeline Stuart-Watt, Katherine Morgan,

Chair: Cr Amanda Stone

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country, pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to Elders past and present

2. Review of previous minutes and actions, and review of this agenda - any ‘Other Business Items to add?’

Minutes Accepted

Actions outstanding:

ACTION: Chris and Craig to develop a TOR, a land tenure map and explore collaborative grant opportunities to deliver community-based reinstatement projects across boundaries. Update YEAC on progress as appropriate.

Update: Action is underway, but not ready to report back to YEAC at this stage.

3. Yarra Food Network and Urban Agriculture initiatives (Lucy)

Lucy provided an overview of Yarra Food Network, and the emergency food relief sector with a focus on initiatives with a food systems/food security focus.

Lucy also facilitated feedback from YEAC on how urban agriculture can best support a food systems focus in the sector.

Note:

- Yarra Libraries played a strong role and could continue to play a strong role
- Yarra looking to transition from emergency response to food systems approach as part of a ‘Sustainable and regenerative Local Food system’ focus. Need to address the systemic causes to move away from Emergency relief. Food security is just one element. Engaging with circular economy principles.
- COVID saw double the demand for planter box’s

ACTION: Lucy to share slides with the group

Lucy (and Yarra) were congratulated for an amazing response to this complex and difficult issue. Working in collaboration and has come so far. Need to coordinate efforts and focus on where we overlap.

What’s next eg. Community Grocer type model, taking another look at things that may have seemed too difficult previously (pre-COVID)? How can youth be involved? Reach out to youth networks?

Note that professionally managed growing spaces can provide significant food outcomes in the inner city, and still have a massive community engagement (eg. Fareshare grew over 3000kg food in Yarra).

Suggestion to ensure that the COVID local food response should be documented given the immense task at hand and fantastic outcomes generated.

Also, Miranda Sharp: Provided an update on markets in St Heliers St precinct, and potential site. Potential for a 'street market policy' to provide guidance for future markets. So many co benefits – passing of neighbours, conversations, etc

4. Annual Budget 2021/22 and Green New Deal (Michael)

Yarra's Draft Budget 2021/22 has been [released](#). This includes many actions that have a sustainability and environment focus.

Officers will provide a summary of some of these actions with general discussion from YEAC, as well as how YEAC members can respond.

Amanda also reflected on the Draft Budget 21/22 in the context of the Yarra's Green New Deal.

ACTION: Moke to share budget slides with the group

5. UN climate change conference (COP 26, Glasgow Nov 2021) and UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP 15) (Amanda) 6:35pm

Amanda updated on these two important international conferences to be held in 2021, and local activities planned around supporting these.

It was noted that COP 26 is really important!! There is a goal for everyone to commit to Net Zero by 2050. Big move by local government for strong advocacy to federal government to adopt this target, for example the *Race to Zero* – cities and local governments signing up. There is also the ALGA Conference in June where Australian Local Governments can advocate up.

There is also the UN Biodiversity Conference which is very important

ACTION: Suggested good read: [Economics of Biodiversity!!](#)

6. Active Consultations: (see: *Your Say Yarra* <https://www.yoursayyarra.com.au/>) 6:45pm

- Draft Budget 2021/22 - <https://yoursayyarra.com.au/budget202122>
- Revitalising Swan Street - <https://yoursayyarra.com.au/swanstreet>
- Two larger pocket parks for Cremorne - <https://yoursayyarra.com.au/cremorneparks>
- A new bike lane for Park Street, Fitzroy North - <https://yoursayyarra.com.au/parkstreet>
- Council Vision and Council Plan

7. Other Business

There was a shout out to Sam Green and the great work she and the team did to host the first Yarra climate youth meeting at the Collingwood Childrens' Farm.

8. Future Agenda Items to add?

- Update on progress of Yarra Rehabilitators at next meeting
- Update on collaboration between Melbourne Girls and ACF

Next Meeting: [8 July 2021](#) – hopefully face-to-face!