

Yarra Environment Advisory Committee

Minutes – Thur 19 May 2022, 6:00-7:30pm



RICHMOND TOWN HALL: Meeting Room 3

Attendees: Chris Williams, Chris Currie, Jenny Backholer, Andrew Vance, Miranda Sharp, Cr Sophie Wade, Kieran Dickson, Lisa Coffa, Michael Oke

Apologies: Sam Green Cr Amanda Stone, Adeline Stuart-Watt, Geoffrey Golden, Craig Lupton, Katherine Morgan, Paul O’Shea, Gary Shadforth

Chair: Cr Sophie Wade

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, review of this agenda and other business

- Update on YEAC Recruitment (Michael Oke)

A reminder that this meeting will be last of this current YEAC Group as recruitment is underway for a new group for the next 2 years.

45 Nominations were received in for the new YEAC – which is a big increase on other years.

The next steps are to narrow down to 16 candidates who are then confirmed by Councillors at a Council Meeting.

A very big thanks to all current YEAC members for their contributions!!

3. Consultation for the Yarra Circular Economy Strategy (Lisa Coffa)

Discussed circular economy and feedback from the committee on the current actions was provided as input.

4. Yarra riparian revegetation projects / Collingwood Children’s Farm issues and updates (Various)

Chris Williams: update YEAC on CCF new design and creation of a new community asset (garden).

- Consultation/Engagement has begun and this will inform a design brief which will go to the landscape architects that will work toward to a future garden design
- **ACTION:** Chris Williams seeking an update- what is the future location of the ‘golden worm’?

Chris Currie: Update on progress of Yarra Rehabilitators, collaboration between Melbourne Girls and ACF Yarra Rehabilitators

- They are currently trying to rationalise their approach which includes working closer with the Yarra river keeper.

Andrew Vance: Provided an update on recent work between Melbourne Girls and Wurrundjeri Woi Wurrung (NARRAP team) where they made a shield and prototype of a signage project.

5. General Updates (Michael Oke)

- *Update on Sustainability items in the Draft Council Budget and Process*

- *Update on Zero Carbon Developments* - Council is proposing changes to Yarra's planning scheme to ensure future developments reduce their impacts on the environment. The proposed changes to the Yarra Planning Scheme will be progressed in conjunction with a group of 30 Victorian councils as part of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and represent a significant step towards delivering zero carbon developments into the future.

Under the proposed changes, new developments would be required to:

- produce net zero carbon emissions
- be powered by renewable energy and avoid the use of gas,
- support electric vehicle charging
- protect and enhance greening and biodiversity
- be more resilient to our changing climate
- provide a healthier, more comfortable environment for the future community.

Council will work with CASBE to advocate to the Victorian Planning Minister to facilitate and implement these proposed changes.

- *Update on the Yarra Energy Foundation Community Battery Launch to occur on 5 June*

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

- Draft Yarra Libraries Strategy (<https://yoursayyarra.com.au/nextchapter>)
- Draft Asset Plan & Policy (<https://yoursayyarra.com.au/draft-asset-plan-2022-2032>) **20 May**
 - Key strategic planning document that shows how Council manages the assets that it is responsible for
- Transport Strategy (<https://yoursayyarra.com.au/movingforward>) **closed**

7. Standing Item: Are there any emerging issues of concern or opportunities from the group that Council should be aware of?

- Nill

8. Future Agenda Items to add?

- Nill

9. Close (8:00 pm)