

Minutes

Heritage Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, 10.05.2021 (Microsoft Teams Meeting)

Councillors: Cr. Bridgid O'Brien (BOB)- Chair

Attendance: Alexis Arrowsmith (AAR), Greg Chenhall (GC), Ian Wight (IW), Janet Taylor (JT), Jeffrey Atkinson (JA), Kirsteen Thomson (KT), Laura Campbell (LC), Malcolm MacDonald (MM), Nina Tory-Henderson (NTH) Terence Nott (TN), Ursula Chandler (UC), Ivan Gilbert (IG) - Group Manager, CEO's Office, Richa Swarup (RS) - Sr. Advisor City Heritage, CoY.

Apologies: None

diverse

vibrant

exciting

inclusive

<p>1. <u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>BOB welcomed Nina Tory-Henderson as a new young member of Yarra's HAC. Members introduced themselves.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Confirming the minutes of the previous HAC meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the HAC meeting of 09.03.2021 were adopted unanimously.</p>	<p><u>Actions</u></p> <p><i>No specific action needed.</i></p>
<p>3. <u>Actions arising from the previous meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar panels on heritage buildings. RS informed that a link to the guidelines was provided to the HAC members. TN noted that the guidelines on solar panel and heritage overlays are easy to understand. • Clarification on the Role of the Heritage Advisory Committee. It was discussed that since the response was sent to the HAC members close to the HAC meeting HAC would need more time to respond. • World Heritage Management Plan –RS informed that Heritage Victoria is in the process of finalising a draft Strategy Plan report by June-July 2021 which will then go on public exhibition in subsequent months. Work is also underway for the First Nations cultural heritage report and the masterplans. <p>As these items were either recently circulated or a report is pending the committee deferred the discussion on these to the next meeting.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That listed items are discussed by HAC in the next meeting .</i></p>
<p>4. <u>Examples of heritage streetscape (typical conditions needing standard response)</u></p> <p>Yarra's Roads Material Policy was circulated to the HAC members for their background understanding.</p> <p>RS presented a number of examples of before and after works of typical heritage infrastructure on roads which led to a discussion on the need for a standard implementation approach across Yarra for their appropriate conservation in future. She informed that a separate workshop session between the HAC members and YCC's traffic and road</p>	<p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That RS organises the workshop with the traffic and road engineers of the Council.</i> • <i>That IG/RS finds out about the decision to remove the</i>

<p>engineers will be organised and requested that the members collect good and bad examples for the workshop and send it to her prior to the workshop.</p> <p>Members raised following issues and questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why are the bluestones being removed from the kerb and channels? 2. Is the existing Roads Material Policy being appropriately followed in practice by various departments of the Council? 3. What happens when the policy is ignored? 4. Is sawn bluestone being overused (JT's view was that in some location it is not required)? <p>JA was concerned that the recent Richardson and Canning Street intersection upgrade works have removed bluestone pitchers from channels even after engineers had agreed to follow the approach that the stones would be retained where they are and would remain buried underneath the new kerb extensions. HAC requested that there is a need to know why such a decision was made. IG suggested that he would understand the matter about such a decision and report back to HAC in the next meeting.</p> <p>TN and KT acknowledged that other countries such as, Germany, Italy and UK have been able to save cobble stone laneways and such other heritage infrastructure. There were reflections on European cities that have managed to preserve heritage and the question is how to find the right balance in Yarra.</p> <p>KT also pointed out that we are now in 21st Century, people move much differently than in early days whilst there is a need that works respond to the current day universal access, safety and sustainability the authenticity of the pace must be considered. Whilst in some areas the heritage infrastructure can be protected and retained in other areas conservation principles could follow an adaptation approach. There should be an area wise thinking and the conservation approach should be well considered and clearly defined.</p> <p>There was a discussion that Sawn Bluestone in traditional laneways should be avoided due to loses in permeability. An example of a heritage laneway was discussed by the committee. HAC was of the view that developer conditions need to include laneway preservation to Yarra standards.</p> <p>MM further noted that the original construction of laneways of 19th Century were often raised by town landfill of the past, so can provide important historical/ information and artefacts. HAC suggested that this information should be referred to appropriate staff.</p>	<p><i>bluestones from the channel in the Canning and Richardson street intersection upgrade and report back to the HAC.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That RS notes to include the matters related to laneways in the agenda for the forthcoming workshop with the traffic engineers.</i>
<p>5. <u>Heritage Strategy Budget</u></p> <p>GC presented that the Council had adopted Yarra's Heritage Strategy in November 2019 and had agreed to provide more resources to form a heritage department to manage City of Yarra's significant heritage.</p> <p>Two positions were requested last year in the budget, but it was noted that due to the pressing need at that time to respond to Covid19 situation, these positions were deferred.</p> <p>He acknowledged that one position for an Aboriginal Heritage Officer is</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That HAC Delegate report includes HAC's recommendation to the Council for resourcing of a heritage on an urgent basis.</i>

<p>under consideration in the forthcoming budget but he emphasised that to start with there is a need for at least two more senior heritage officer position this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to implement heritage training on a regular basis as well as another; and - to implement actions coming out of the framework for best practice management of Council's own heritage assets. <p>He further emphasised that more staffing resources are required to implement Council's Heritage Strategy. He asked following questions in this regard;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question to RS besides indigenous officer position which position is critical? <p>RS responded that there is a need for following officers to implement heritage strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heritage officer focussed towards training and promotion of heritage. 2. One senior heritage officer for implementation of the framework for best practice management of Council's own heritage assets which has been completed this year. 3. One heritage projects officer to implement other projects listed in the heritage strategy. 4. A Heritage advisor to provide advice to the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question to IG- How many statutory planners are there in the council and there are how many heritage advisers? <p>It was discussed that Yarra only has one Heritage Officer yet 25 – 30 Statutory Planning staff. Heritage advice is regularly sourced externally. GC noted that more than 60% of Yarra is covered by heritage overlays hence there is a need for heritage trained officers in the Council. The committee was also of the view that there is a need to have more trained heritage staff/advisers in the Council rather than employing outside consultants on contracts for projects/work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question to councillors: How can extra budget be provided for implementation of heritage strategy actions. <p>BOB responded that Council's draft budget 2021-22 is already under exhibition and is open to community members to make a submission. Also, members of the public can meet with their Ward councillors about specific issues. Council will consider all matters before deciding the budget for the year 2021-22.</p> <p>The committee concluded that the Delegate's report inform Council of HAC's recommendation to adequately resource and fund the heritage department on an urgent basis.</p> <p>It was also discussed that other funding streams could also be pursued such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Victoria heritage advisors funding. • Dept. of Premier and Cabinet's funding for heritage resources for Avenues of honour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>RS explores external funding sources and existing other models of heritage management.</i>
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<p>It may be possible for Yarra to lobby Heritage Victoria to re-introduce funding and it may be useful for Yarra to follow what Ballarat municipality is doing.</p>	
<p>6. <u>VHRF criteria for Strategic Projects</u></p> <p>RS presented the City of Melbourne's VHRF funding criteria (for general stream and strategic projects).</p> <p>She also recommended that City of Yarra's strategic project stream under VHRF could be like that of City of Melbourne.</p> <p>JA suggested that restoration of Dolls house in Collingwood could be a good candidate for such a grant. This can be pursued with the school if they are interested.</p> <p>TN suggested the need to explore restoration of one or two shops along Nicholson Street.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That RS prepares a criterion for strategic projects funding.</i>
<p>7. <u>Updates</u></p> <p>Following updates were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Austral theatre 3D Photography has been completed which can be viewed through the following link sent to the HAC Members earlier. https://captur3d.io/view/city-of-yarra/austral-theatre • That a launch of the <i>Portable Buildings of the 19th Century</i> was held on 15 April 2021 at the Singapore cottages at Sackville Street, Collingwood. This was attended by TN, JA and RS. The nomination proposal includes a few buildings in the City of Yarra, among others, for their listing in the National Heritage Register. • State of Heritage Review. JA noted that it is an excellent report that also provides a table at the end about how many heritage advisers are there in each Council. • Future interim controls and permanent DDOs: RS informed that an email has been circulated to the HAC that provides a programme for processing of the future interim and permanent heritage controls. • A new Victorian Planning Provisions (clause 52.31) has been included in the planning scheme which provide exemption for works by or on behalf of Council for up to an estimated cost of \$10million (with some exceptions). 52.31 [NO CONTENT] (delwp.vic.gov.au) 	<p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That RS forwards the web link to the HAC members.</i>
<p>8. <u>Other matters</u></p> <p>HAC was informed that RS has been selected as a member of the Victorian Heritage Council's Local Government Specialist Committee and that she would be pursuing an opportunity for organising a Local Government Heritage Forum in Yarra City Council.</p> <p>HAC supported holding of such a forum in Yarra.</p>	<p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That RS continues to pursue the opportunity to hold a forum in Yarra.</i>

9. Dates for forward meetings

RS confirmed following dates for the future meetings:

- Tuesday 13 July
- Tuesday 14 September

She informed that she will confirm the meeting date for November meeting by email.

Action

That RS confirms the meeting dates by email.