



Minutes RAP Advisory Committee

14 December
2022

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 14 December 2022
Time	5:00pm – 6:30pm
Venue	Hybrid options – Microsoft Teams or Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Peter Dimarelos
Minutes	Zali Mifsud

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region’s history.”

Inclusive Banyule Statement

“Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.”

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Maddi Miller	Chair Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Uncle Charles Pakana	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Tom Conley	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Wally Johnson	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Cr. Peter Dimarelos	Banyule City Council Councillor
Kath Bracket	Banyule Council Director Community Wellbeing
Cr Peter Castaldo	Banyule Council Mayor
Con Matsamakias	RAP Advisory Committee Member
Shelley Ware	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Catherine Bradley	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Sue Harris	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Zali Mifsud	Banyule Council First Nations Lead
Kristen Munro	Banyule Council Barrbunin Beek Coordinator
Cheree Hunter	Banyule City Council
Owen Butler	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Michael Geary	Banyule Community Health Service Representative
Shane Grigg	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member

Items

1. Introduction 5:00pm – 5:05pm

- Acknowledgement of traditional custodians
- Inclusive Banyule Statement
- Welcome to members
- Apologies
- Housekeeping

2. Confirmation of Minutes and Actions from previous meeting 5:05pm – 5:15pm

Banyule Officer reported on the status of Actions from previous minutes.

Action	Outcome or Update	Status
Action 1: Establish a volunteer working group from members of the RAP Advisory Committee to work with Council and Marketing and Communication to establish a comprehensive and consistent communication plan.	Update: Due to Blair commencing long service leave this is being postponed until early 2023	Ongoing
Action 2: Banyule Council's representation at the next DEWLP Indigenous naming workshop	Update: Complete as there are no longer workshops	Complete
Action 3: Council Officer to identify to Council in a report the RAP Advisory Committee recommendation to develop an Aboriginal Action Plan using the Victorian Aboriginal Government Strategy as the new strategic way forward for reconciliation.	Update: Council report is being tabled at the 05 February 2023 Council meeting	Ongoing
Action 4: New Strategy sub-working group to meet with Community Wellbeing Director to discuss potential concerns surrounding the new strategic proposal.	Update: No longer required due to the entire nature of the Councillor briefing session being positive	Complete
Action 5: Emma Joyce and the Enterprise and Local Jobs Team to provide a draft project plan for consultation with the RAP Advisory Committee. Council Officer to send draft project plan to committee for feedback.	Update: Complete	Complete
Action 6: RAP Advisory Committee to consider issues or matters of mutual concern for collaboration with the Inclusive Banyule Committee.	Update: Continuous Action	Ongoing
Action 7: RAP and Barrbunin Beek to look at culturally appropriate opportunities to partner with Inclusive Banyule Committee.	Update: Continuous Action	Ongoing

3. First Year Annual RAP Report Questions 5:15pm – 5:40pm

- Council Officer, Zali Mifsud to present responses to First Year Annual RAP Responses

Discussion

Zali identified that the first year annual RAP report questions response was sent in early November. She acknowledged that there are outstanding questions to be answered however due to the lack of information available that was the best response possible for the committee. It was highlighted that no committee members sent through prior questions to speak through therefore no tabled discussion is required for the meeting.

Tom and Uncle Charles showcased their appreciation to respond to the questions in lieu of the lack of information available and the extensive time it had been on the agenda as an action.

Zali identified that the final report for the Innovate RAP is being tabled next year therefore she will be co-designing the report with the committee early next year to ensure that there is transparency in the response.

Action

None

4. Future Waiving of rates for AHV tenants 5:40pm – 5:50pm

- Uncle Charles provide context

Discussion

Uncle Charles provided update that Darebin Council has just developed and signed an MOU with Aboriginal Housing Victoria through a Council report. MOU is a 10-year commitment between Council and AHV to reduce Aboriginal homelessness by 10% over the 10-year period. One-way Darebin is addressing this removal all AHV rates in the municipality. Uncle Charles identified that this goal that Darebin has committed to is something Banyule should aspire to achieve as well.

Uncle Owen identified that Darebin are the first Council ever to sign an MOU with AHV. As well as Darebin are currently looking into purchasing greater housing stock in their municipality to free up properties for occupation for First Nations.

Kath identified that there are two processes to undertake with tabling the recommendations. The first is for the committee to gain further information independently to get ahead of what is required from an AHV perspective. The second option is for the committee to submit a recommendation without the research and Council undertake the research required to table a report.

Uncle Charles suggested AHV be invited to the next RAP committee meeting to discuss the topic in favour.

Mover: Uncle Charles

Seconder: Maddi Miller

Action

Council Officer to send Darebin Council Report and MOU to committee.

Council Officer to send AHV data to committee surrounding how many AHV houses Banyule Council has in the municipality.

Council Officer to invite AHV representative to next RAP Advisory meeting.

5. Plaque Commission for First Nations service personnel 5:50pm – 6:00pm

- Uncle Charles to provide context

Discussion

Uncle Charles attended the Remembrance Day at the Repat Hospital and was moved by the commitment the Repat has with First Nations servicemen and women. Repat has had several plaques installed recognising First Nations service men and women. Therefore, suggested the Council invest in a plaque to recognise the local First Nations service men and women in time for next Remembrance Day.

Tom endorsed the idea as the RSL on Bell Street has not Council inclusion to identify any service men and women. It is a notion that both the State and Federal government have begun committing to as well.

Uncle Charles identified the liaison officer, Michael Bell who could support Council in identifying the names of service men and women who fought in many different wars.

Shelley extended the idea of including the service men and women in the frontier wars as well as they are forgotten soldiers of that time of colonisation. Shelley identified that the wording on the plaque would be generalised to “the forgotten soldiers and warriors of the frontier wars” or something of similar.

Whole committee showcased support to invest in the plaque.

Cath identified that there is currently a mosaic at the Austin to showcase the Gundjitrara warriors however there needs to be more significant work to be done. Additionally, Rob, the liaison officer is very supportive of Council investing in the plaque and is able to support the committee through navigating conversations and relationships with the RSL.

Sue shared that she recently had experience in the Western District of Victoria that the storytelling process of the warriors and soldiers is an important part of the education and learning.

Discussion around if the plaque can not be implemented by ANZAC Day 2023, Council can identify their commitment to implementing the plaque if not completed by that day.

Tom reconfirmed that the sub-working group would not be liaising with the RSL initially. This will be decided upon with Rob from the Austin in discussions with the sub-working group.

Mover: Cathy

Secunder: Tom

Action

Sub-working group including Uncle Owen, Tom and Shelley to meet with the Repat hospital and then report back to RAP committee on discussions on how to progress the plaque.

6. Sorry Day Protocols Update 6:05pm – 6:10pm

- Councillor Officer, Zali Mifsud to provide update of Sorry Day Flag Protocols

Discussion

Zali highlighted that there was an agenda item mistake and informed the committee the report to table the two strategic ways forward for Reconciliation in Banyule is now going to Council in February. This was due to process delays of taking up the committee's recommendation to undergo a new way forward.

Zali identified that Council's, Executive Management Team, endorsed the recommendation to amend the "Flying of Flags" policy to allow for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags to be flown at half-mast on National Sorry Day.

Kath explained that the Executive team was able to make such decision as it is an administrative decision for Council as additional flag policies are not State and Federal guided.

Any changes to the flags policy in relationship to other significant dates such as Jan 26 will have to be tabled as a Councillor report.

Action

None

7. General Business 6:10pm – 6:25pm

- Call for any general business items

Discussion

Tom requested clarification on Council's current stance on Jan 26 including if they hold Citizenship awards on the day.

Walley informed the committee that the Uniting Church is producing information on the Sunday before Jan 26 to inform the community surrounding what it means to celebrate Australia Day on Jan 26.

Mayor identified that the Citizenship ceremonies hosted on Jan 26 does not mention "Australia Day" at that event. Banyule does not host any event to celebrate Australia Day currently. The 26th citizenship ceremony does not have "Australia day" written on any of the printed material or advertising

Kath highlighted that the Federal Government is currently decision making on if Council's having to host citizenship ceremonies on that specific date moving forward.

Zali mentioned learning from Geelong City Council's 6-month review and community consultation to provide a recommendation to Council surrounding what to do on Jan 26. Uncle Charles has led the comms of that consultation therefore there is great expertise on the RAP committee to table this discussion moving forward.

Uncle Charles provided an update that he is conducting a "Welcome to Community" as the Citizenship ceremony hosted on Jan 26 to educate new citizens of First Nations peoples and culture.

Action

Councillor Officer to check and confirm that there is no use of "Australia Day" on Jan 26, Citizenship ceremony and broader Council communications.

Discussion

Confirmation of meeting dates for next year include:

1. January Planning Day – to plan strategic discussions to not miss opportunities
2. February
3. April
4. June
5. September
6. November
7. December

Peter highlighted that the RAP Advisory Committee has the highest attendance of all Council Advisory committees.

Whole committee endorsed changing the meeting time to 5:30pm-7pm in 2023.

Action

None

Discussion

Zali raised that Shaping Banyule is currently doing a review and have highlighted an opportunity for the Banyule Banner on the platform to be a First Nations artwork to make the platform more culturally safe.

The communications team requested endorsement from the committee that this is an appropriate way forward and Council Officer, First Nations Lead will be a part of the process to ensure it is being culturally appropriate.

Uncle Charles applauded the communication team for raising the request with the RAP Advisory committee.

Maddi raised that recent Shaping Banyule surveys have no opportunity to say First Nation inclusions is a priority. Maddi requested that we table a discussion at a committee meeting surrounding if it is appropriate to always go to the general public surrounding art opportunities or if it could just be consulted with the RAP committee.

Cheree shared that the Creative Banyule strategy is about to undergo consultation and a key theme of the strategy is to elevate First Nations culture.

Action

None

Discussion

Zali raised that the artist from the 2022 NRW art exhibition at ILCH would like to develop an additional exhibition for NRW 2023. Steph Neoh requested that this be raised and then endorsed by the RAP Advisory committee.

Maddi identified that the artist must consult with Wurundjeri as well if they are a non TO for the area.

Tom requested information surrounding if post exhibition Council purchase the artworks that have been developed for the Banyule community. Kath identified that there is a Council acquisition policy and budget to purchase artwork.

Action

Council Officer to organise for Hannes from Arts & Culture to discuss the exhibition and the acquisition of art.

Discussion

Zali informed the committee that Council on 05 December became the third Council in Victoria to commit to formally adopting the Uluru Statement in full.

The RAP Advisory committee will now advise on how to best approach the 2023 Referendum and all of the tangible actions required in the commitment from Council.

Mayor Castaldo highlighted that Council are ready to make significant decisions now with guidance from the committee in the Reconciliation space. He additionally highlighted that his own personal learning has recently increased, this seen through his inclusion of the commitment to the Uluru Statement in conducting Acknowledgment of Countries.

Cr Nealy spoke to the commitment only being the first step in a long journey of learning and understanding.

Uncle Charles acknowledged Reconciliation Banyule's ongoing advocacy to Council to make such brave decisions and commitments to the community.

Uncle Owen shared that he made statement of Councils commitment to the Uluru Statement at the Inclusive Banyule meeting. This then led to an action that Inclusive Banyule will be sharing a statement congratulating the Council of making the courageous decision.

Action

None

Discussion

Tom raised that the current term of the Advisory committee is until June of 2023 however Inclusive Banyule are proposing to Council to change this to November 2023 to align with the Mayor term.

The RAP Advisory committee supports the notion to extend the committees term to align with the Mayoral term.

Action

None

Discussion

Cr Dimarelos explained that Banyule Council voted no to a public holiday proposal during NAIDOC week at a recent MAV meeting as Council had no internal policy stance on the request.

Uncle Charles showed support for this decision as it was not brought to the RAP committee.

Action

None

8 Close and date of next meeting 6:25pm – 6:30pm

- Confirm Actions arising
- Close meeting
- Next meeting: TBC via email