



Minutes Reconciliation Action Plan Committee

8 September 2021

RAP Advisory Members Present

Uncle Charles Pakana, Uncle Owen Butler, Shelly Ware, Shane Grigg, Maddie Miller, Julio Estorninho, Sue Harris, Tom Conley. Helen Pereira

Councillors

Cr Peter Dimarelos

Council Staff

Kath Brackett, Theonie Tacticos, Les Chessells (Contact Officer)

Apologies

Mayor Cr Rick Garotti, Catherine Bradley, Banyule Community Health

Meeting met quorum requirements

CHAIR: Cr Peter Dimarelos

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians and Diversity Statement

We acknowledge this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people and we pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the Banyule area and have been an integral part of the region's history.

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.

2. Committee member meetings

This is the first assembly of the Banyule City Council RAP Advisory Committee.

3. Housekeeping for online meetings

- Recording the meeting for minute taking purposes – permission granted
- Please use mute when not talking
- Comments welcome through the chat function
- Use 'raise hand' function if you wish to speak

4. Introductions and new committee member acknowledgement**Group**

- Cr Peter Dimarelos introduce himself
- Each Committee member introduced themselves quickly (as this was done during induction)

The Committee members are residents of Banyule with varying experiences and backgrounds i.e. from Journalism, educators, media, Aboriginal specific researchers, facilitators, project development work, previous experience in developing and advising of Reconciliation Plans (with different organisations such as Carlton FC and government organisations). Also, involvement in other external groups such as Schools, Lions Club, Toast Master and liaison positions within Fire Rescue Victoria. Members of Banyule Reconciliation also represented. Three of the members sit on the Barrbunin Beek Gathering Place Committee (Chair, Deputy Chair and Member positions).

- Banyule City Council staff introduced themselves and explain their role and involvement in the Committee

5. RAP Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Contact Officer

There was a recap of the purpose and processes of the Advisory Committee which had been discussed at the induction session and included in the Committee Welcome Pack and terms of reference.

- What is good governance
- Confidentiality
- Code of contact
- Structure of meetings and call for agenda items
- Meeting dates for 2021 – 2022
- Discussion re: alternate Chair i.e. selection, responsibilities, eligibility (Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander person) – provide an opportunity for the group to decide on an agreed process of selecting alternate chair. Three options i.e. rotating chair, annual year or for the full term. Selection must include a backup person is if Co-Chair is no longer on committee, unavailable or unexplained absence.

Discussed

The Committee members discussed the option of have a yearly Community representative as the Alternating Chair. This result in discussion of not having an alternate Chair but a yearly Co-Chair, who with the Chair (Cr Peter Dimarelos) will alternate “meeting to meeting” the Chairing responsibilities. I.e. the next meeting Chair will be the Co-Chair.

It was agreed the Co-Chair responsibilities are the same as the Chair responsibilities i.e. calling for agenda items, shaping agenda, meeting with Chair and Council staff as per terms of reference. As the Committee is of two year duration there be consideration of gender balance within the Co-Chair role.

Action: Interested members to email Les with their own self-nomination by 18th of October 2021 (date added in for administration purposes)

Action: A PD for Co-Chair of RAP Advisory Group be developed by 18th of October for circulation to the membership for comment (date added in for administration purposes)

Discussion – Re remuneration for the Co-Chair role to acknowledge the extra work and responsibilities to be taken on. Suggestions that a recommendation be made that an extra fee be paid to reflect the consultative work of the Co-Chair role and responsibilities.

Action: The Contact officer prepare a report for Council consideration regarding the RAP Advisory Committee recommendation for additional remuneration for the position of Co-Chair in recognition of the additional workload and responsibility of this role.

Contact officer advised at the next round of Barrbunin Beek Governance training (Post COVID restrictions – To Be Advised) that an invite will be extended to support Committee members if required.

6. General Discussion**Contact Officer**

- What are some of the assets/positive aspects of Banyule's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?
- What has Banyule done well in the past to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?
- What do you think at the biggest issues facing Banyule's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?
- Where are the gaps/needs that Council can improve on to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?
- What is your vision for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of Banyule?
- Where are our Advocacy opportunities?

Discussion from above included the following:

- In some parts of the municipality there is not enough to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (this includes programs, services, and signage). There is a feeling of not being represented.
- Celebrate and promote the rich and beautiful culture of the area,
- Engagement should not just be for Reconciliation and NAIDOC weeks, it must go beyond that.

7. RAP – Action review process**Council Officer**

Discussed

- Committee's role in overseeing the current plan
- Explain the RAP tracker document and how it is used
- Communities and partnership identification
- Review of timeframes for action
- RAP Advisory sitting fee/ reimbursement payment processes

Discussion:

Comments from the Committee included

- RAP tracker enables the tracking and monitor the plan in real time.
- Accountability – keeping Council accountable to its commitments
- Actions are not just about 'ticking boxes' but must be meaningful.
- Enables the contribution of members.

Advised the nominated sitting fee is \$60 per meeting for Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander members only.

Action: Contact officer to arrange payment for eligible members.

8. Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee**Kath Brackett**

- A new committee which will have stewardship of Council's Inclusive Banyule framework
 - Advised that nominations also sought from the Multicultural Committee, Disability and Inclusion Committee, LGBTIQ+ Committee, and Age-Friendly City Committee
-

- Meetings held quarterly, on Fridays, during the day

Discussed

Representation sought from the RAP Committee. The Committee recommended that those interested persons self-nominate. Consult with members if there are more than two. This is to enable discussion around how the nomination will be determined.

Action: Interested members advised to email Contact officer to nominate for the above committee as soon as possible.

9. Communication and updates

Contact Officer

Officers

- Information sharing outside of meetings – monthly communication email from Contact Officer with relevant information, events which can be shared with respective communities.
- A Microsoft Teams channel is also being set up for each committee.
- Draft Council Plan 2021-25 and draft Financial Plan 2021-31 Council Plan are ready to go out for public exhibition. Public exhibition of these plans ends on 07 September 2021. More information will be emailed out.
- Barrbunin Beek Update –
 - Banyule City Council to now act as the auspice, following request from Barrbunin Beek Committee
 - Coordinator position being advertised,
 - Oversight of the Barrbunin Beek premises comes back to Council.

10. Other business

Group

- Nil

Meeting close

Next meeting: Wednesday 10th of November 2021 5pm to 6.30pm

Venue to be confirmed