



Minutes RAP Advisory Committee

12 April 2023

Meeting details

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| Date of meeting | Wednesday, 12 April 2023 |
| Time | 5:30pm – 7:00pm |
| Venue | Hybrid options – Microsoft Teams or Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place |
| Chair/Facilitator | Cr Peter Dimeralos |
| Minutes | Kristen Munro / 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 |
|----------------------|---|
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Nicole Maslin | Banyule City Council |
| Rian Branthwaite | Aboriginal Housing Victoria |
| Andrea Levey | Aboriginal Housing Victoria |
| Uncle Owen Butler | Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member |
| Cr Elizabeth Nealy | Banyule City Council Councillor |
| Georgie Meyer | Banyule Council |
| Jo Southwell | Banyule Community Health |

Apologies

| Name | Affiliation/Organisation |
|-------------------|--|
| Cr Peter Castaldo | Banyule Council Mayor |
| Con Matsamakias | RAP Advisory Committee Member |
| Maddi Miller | Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member |
| Kath Brackett | Banyule Council Director Community Wellbeing |
| Shane Grigg | Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member |

Items

1. Introduction 5:30pm – 5:35pm

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

2. Confirmation of Minutes and Actions from previous meeting 5:35pm – 5:45pm

- Confirmation of minutes
- Action arising

| 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: Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Action 2: 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: April 17 meeting | Complete |
| Action 3: 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. | Update: Met with Repat – there is potential opportunity to do it there or elsewhere due to constraints. | Ongoing |
| Action 4: Council Officer to organise for Hannes from Arts & Culture to discuss the exhibition and the acquisition of art. | Update: Attending in the June Meeting | Complete |
| Action 5: Council Officer to arrange a sub-working group consistent of Uncle Charles and Shelley to discuss Uluru Statement from the Heart communications plan | Update: Ongoing meetings are occurring with the first community engagement to occur May 4 | Ongoing |

3. AHV Discussion 5:45pm – 6:10pm

- AHV Director, Rian to present process surrounding Darebin Council MOU

Discussion

Rian – Director of AHV

Andrea – New to AHV as a Policy Officer supporting the liaison with local governments and AHV opportunities. Darebin Council has committed to an MOU with AHV with three different components. AHV is the only Aboriginal owned housing support organisation. Darebin's MOU was to support 86 housing and AHV widely have approximately 4000 people they support with 6000 still waiting for housing support.

Presentation will be included in the minute's attachment for further information. Presentation includes breakdown of three commitments, why partner, statistics and explanation of the initial action plan.

Tom questioned the support being just from a residential perspective or if there is opportunity for discussion with Council's Local Laws team around parking. Zali confirmed this discussion is just for residential support.

Uncle Charles raised the idea that community have historically not met the tenant's needs of the residence. Rian confirmed that there is a commitment of AHV to ensure tenants are being supported and is always happy for people to contact him.

Tom asked who the coaching program is facilitated by, and Rian identified that Melbourne University are the major partner of the program. Tom identified Doctor.

Jo asked what the appetite for a partnership with AHV in Banyule would be? Cr Dimarelos identified that the recommendations that the RAP Committee proposes are usually well endorsed by the Council group however this conversation is focused on finances so has a different theme.

Rian shared that the MOU took a lengthy time with Darebin Council however Banyule will have an established process to follow.

Uncle Charles questioned if AHV have made a commitment to do this with all Councils in Victoria.

Andrea identified that AHV are currently going out to all local governments with AHV housing proposing the idea of an MOU with the content held within the presentation.

Cr Dimarelos asked who owns the AHV properties and if there is something that Council commits to then there will be a major focus on transparency of where the money is being allocated within the partnership.

Uncle Charles suggested a sub-working group to investigate the opportunity to have a MOU with AHV. Rian suggested to contact Uncle Stu surrounding their process and AHV will do whatever required to participate.

Action

Council Officer to send AHV presentation to the committee.

Council Officer to establish a sub-working group consistent of Shelley and Uncle Charles to investigate the MOU with AHV.

Council Officer to share Rian and Andrea's contact details to the committee.

4. Roseanna Library Discussion 6:10pm – 6:25pm

- Council Officer, Nicole Maslin to present on Rosanna Library

Discussion

Nicole is managing the Rosanna Library redevelopment. There is a temporary library in place while the development is taking place.

Part of the partnership with Woolworths is they are building a three-story library next to the new facility.

The library is going to include a MCH area and toy library so families can go to one place for many needs.

Nicole raised that there has been community consultation and part of that is understanding what opportunity the new library presents to showcase First Nations people, history and culture.

The library is going to be fitted out in April 2024 therefore there is an opportunity for insights.

Nicole shared the design vision for the project as well as a break down of the three stories. Including the opportunity for dual naming, naming of the building and mural. With the mural specifically, Nicole requested the committee to send any themes they would like identified in the EOI for the artists.

Zali identified that the committee has a focus of a theme for 2023 of "Caring for Country" therefore that could be of value for the EOI. As well ensuring that the artist comes and speaks to the committee as part of their consultation for developing the artwork.

Jo requested to know if there is the opportunity for other services to meet clients in the space? Nicole identified that there is going to be consulting rooms that external services can book.

Sue expressed her experience with the consultation surrounding ILCH that it was noted that there was great opportunity for input but then however was told there wasn't any time which has led to the minimal First Nations presence at ILCH.

Shelley shared her experience at ILCH being culturally poor from a First Nations perspective. As well as raised the idea of the murals messaging being extended through the whole building. As well as the material of the fabric having a First Nations artwork.

Uncle Charles also identified how he felt the experience at ILCH and its development and found it insulting.

Tom asked Nicole who they are getting consultation support for this project from a cultural lens and identified he could support if needed.

Cathy asked if the furnishing has been established yet and Tom shared that supplier nation would be the best place for that support.

Action

Council Officer to share the presentation to the committee.

5. National Reconciliation Week / Sorry Day 6:25pm – 6:40pm

- Council Officer, Zali Mifsud to discuss NRW activities and Sorry Day event

Discussion

Zali shared the array of events occurring for National Sorry Day and NRW including:

25 May, 6:00pm at ILCH: Uncle Ron exhibition open

26 May, 1p -2pm at Malahang Reserve to lower the flags: Healing Ceremony with Aunty Di Kerr

29 May, 10am at 1 Flintoff: Flag Raising for staff

30 May, 7:30am at The Centre Ivanhoe: Reconciliation Victoria Awards

31 May, 12:30pm – 1:45pm at Barrbunin Beek: Community organisations BBQ

3 June, 10am - 1pm at Barrbunin Beek: NRW Family Fun Day

Reconciliation Victoria has invited Council to host its first ever NRW Awards. Councillors will have a table available for attendance and local organisations will be able to purchase a table. Following the breakfast there will be a whole day at ILCH for Reconciliation activities including a Reconciliation painting workshop, exhibition walk, weaving of hearts in screen and a story time session.

Uncle Charles identified that Shelley is moderating a referendum yarn at ILCH on the 1st of June as well.

Zali is working with the website team to develop a NRW website page on the Council website where all the events can be listed.

Zali asked Kristen if there is any support that the committee can help with for the community events during NRW.

Kristen identified that local schools are copying the initiative to weave the heart into their school fences in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Cr Dimeralos raised that the Northern part of Banyule will have to come down to the south to engage in the NRW week opportunities. Zali explained that Barrbunin Beek needs to be the face for the community therefore the events for this year are operating out of there to amplify its status. Cr Dimeralos questioned if we can bring the Northern community down to the events such as buses.

Cr Dimeralos also queried about cross collaboration with Darebin and Whittlesea Council's. Zali explained that every Council has its own interest in these significant weeks therefore there isn't any cross-council collaboration however there is now locally a formalised approach for events between Banyule and its local organisations.

Tom wondered what the capacity was for the space at Barrbunin Beek. The space has capacity of 100 people just in the building however that was prior to the additional space being handed to Barrbunin Beek. The First Nations Unit is working with the Council, Arts and Culture team for event management advice.

Jo shared that the events that are being run will be promoted through BCH and gave advice about some contingency plans for the weather.

Action

Council Officer to put tentative holds in committee and Councillors calendars for events.

Council Officer to send a calendar of events for NRW.

Councillor Officer to send out the volunteer opportunities that the committee can opt in for to support.

6. Citizenship Ceremony Change 6:40pm – 6:50pm

- Council Officer, Zali Mifsud to request committee consider approach to change citizenship ceremony on Jan 26

Discussion

The Banyule Council governance team requested the committee's consideration of reviewing and changing the citizenship ceremony on Jan 26 moving forward.

This request has come after there was a change federally that allowed local government organisations to determine if they would host a citizenship ceremony on that date or not. Historically it was mandatory for councils to host one on Jan 26.

Uncle Charles shared that he would like to move the motion to support the change for the governance team to investigate an alternative date for the citizenship ceremony. He has previously hosted a welcome to community at the Jan 26 citizenship ceremony and this year the governance team took action to provide those partaking in the ceremony to have the aboriginal flag gifted to them as well. Therefore, there was a 50/50 split of the Australian flag and Aboriginal flag at the ceremony.

Cr Dimeralos highlighted it is great to see other Council teams taking leadership such as the Governance team in the reconciliation space.

Action

Council Officer to thank the Governance team for their leadership on this topic.

Recommendation

The RAP Advisory Committee recommends that Banyule City Council remove the Citizenship Ceremony hosted on Jan 26 moving forward and that Council investigate an alternative date during that week.

7. General Business 6:50pm – 6:55pm

- Call for any general business items
- First Nations Grants – Zali to present

Discussion

Tom raised this as an additional business item.

Zali has shared she has now met with all of Council's major grant holders and is currently investigating what is the best process to change that process.

Council doesn't have one system or process for grants and there isn't a structure that allows all of them to be changed through one decision. However, all of the Officers that Zali has spoken to has been excited by the opportunity to make grants more accessible for First Nations peoples.

Tom questioned if Council has given the First Nations Unit a budget for their own grant pool. Zali identified that best opportunity for the change is to add value to the current grant pools which will make the grants more accessible to First Nations people.

Therefore different approach that Council's take in the space and Banyule will be investigating how to strengthen the current grants before moving into their own designated First Nations grant.

Tom raised that the focus has shifted to self-determination in the reconciliation space therefore it is important for money to be put into First Nation businesses to be able to achieve their goals.

Zali identified that amending the current grant process to make it more accessible for First Nation people will be the first step in the right direction and therefore when that shows success, in following years there can be an investigation into a whole First Nations grant pool.

Action

- Plaque update – Shelley Update

Discussion

The sub-working group met at the Repat around implementing the plaque.

Rob from the Austin was excited by the idea for a plaque and other additional elements of the project. There was a conversation about who is funding the project and it was identified that this would purely be a Council funded project.

Zali identified that some of the committees' ideas for the project have been confined to what the Repat is willing to support.

Cathy asked if Rob has gone to the Repats, Closing the Gap committee to request if there is any funding support. Cathy encourage Zali to reach out to see if that has occurred as she believes there will be funding there.

Cr Dimeralos questioned if we have investigated an Arts & Culture grant. In which Zali identified that currently the action was just to investigate the opportunity at the Repat and the sub-working group have also seen an idea in implementing this in one of Council's other sites that are of significance.

Uncle Charles confirmed that the committee will be a part of the decision making if the project was to move from the Repat.

Cr Dimeralos raised the idea of having the project implemented at the Repat and at a site that Banyule manages directly.

Uncle Charles highlighted that the Repat is priority due to its significance in the space in supporting returned servicemen.

Action

- Other Council committee request – Zali to present

Discussion

Zali raised that all of the population Advisory committees that support Council have a socialisation engagement opportunity such as the last one that was held at ILCH.

The next social event has been discussed and everyone would like it to be hosted at Barrbunin Beek to have a yarning circle about the upcoming referendum.

There is a third social event to be hosted at the end of the year which the committee will be empowered to have an opinion on what will be.

Action

Council Officer to inform Sherryn Prinzi Coordinator Community Impact, that they would welcome the next social event at Barrbunin Beek.

- Lantern Festival – Shelley to present

Discussion

Shelley identified that the Lantern Festival was a missed opportunity to educate the community about some of the animal's of significance to the Wurundjeri people such as the eagle. Shelley encouraged us to work with the festival operators to have a First Nations element.

Zali then shared that there was other community feedback that the Lantern Festival was a missed opportunity to showcase First Nations culture and the Arts & Culture team has noted this learning for all Council events moving forward.

Action

8. Close and date of next meeting 6:55pm – 7:00pm

- Confirm Actions arising
- Close meeting
- Next meeting: 14 June