



Minutes Banyule LGBTIQ+ Committee

10 August 2023

Meeting details

Date of meeting Thursday, 10 August 2023

Time 5.30 - 7.30pm

Venue Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, Community meeting room 2

Chair/Facilitator Cr Peter Castaldo

Minutes Sherryn Prinzi

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 Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region’s history.”

Diversity 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	Pronouns	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Peter Castaldo	He/Him	Committee Chair
Richard Peterson	He/Him	Community Member
Lara and Kat Hunter	She/Her She/Her	Community Member
Nathan S		Community Member
Fleassy Malay	They/them/she/her	Mother Tongue Poetry
David Landis-Morse	He/Him	Community Member
Ilias Katis	He/they	Community Member
Morganne Blackburn	He/Him	Community Member
Deb Anthony	Deb/She/They	Clinical psychologist and community member- pansexual

Guests

Attendee name	Pronouns	Affiliation/Organisation
Alison Noble	She/her	Alphabet Soup
Emma Butterworth	She/her	Banyule City Council

Council officers

Attendee name	Pronouns	Affiliation/Organisation
Jo Wilson	She/her	Manager Resilient and Connected Communities
Sherryn Prinzi	She/her	Coordinator Community Impact
Liz Harvey	She/her	Community and Social Planner

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Alison Champion	Committee Co-chair
Paul Bryne-Moroney	Community member
Michelle McNamara	Transgender Vic; GLBTIQ Multicultural Council
Tommy Christopoulos	Banyule Community Health Service
Lucie Kervin	Community member
Will Delaney	Community member
Jet Hayes	Community member
Lucie Kervin	Community member

Items

1. Introduction 5.30-5.40pm

- Cr Castaldo read acknowledgements - Acknowledgement of traditional custodians and Diversity Statement.
- Cr Castaldo noted the resignation of Sage Moorhen and welcomed Deb Anthony as a new committee member. All members welcomed and introduced.
- LGBTIQ+ is the agreed acronym of the committee.
- Council to research ACE connection to committee through previous minutes.

Action

The Committee recommends Council uses LGBTIQ+ as the adopted acronym when referring to this community, and the consistent use of this in all Council documentation.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Agenda Item	Action Arising	Progress
Sherryn to share Emma's contact details with Committee and members are invited to reach out directly to Emma if wanting to be involved in research surveys.	Email included in previous minutes and sent in email 26 June Emma.Joyce@banyule.vic.gov.au	Complete

Sherryn to send Tom Winter's contact details with the Committee.	TWinter@acon.org.au Sent in email 26 June	Complete
Council to consider permanent installation of rainbow on Greensborough Walk	Project considered a temporary community art project and at this point will not be considered for permanent installation.	Complete
Xenia to reach out to Paul prior to next meeting to discuss opportunity for Intersex inclusion in the Queer memorial feasibility project.	New officer taking responsibility for this project.	In progress

Action

Action 1: Sherryn to contact David to discuss options for installation of permanent Rainbow Walk in Banyule.

3. Standing Agenda Items

3.1 Banyule Housing Strategy Consultation

Speaker was Emma Butterworth, Senior Strategic Planner, Banyule City Council

Banyule is preparing a new Housing Strategy and seeks feedback from the committee to inform its development. The Committee have previously provided information on Social and Affordable housing concerns including:

- Young people and queer identifying folk continue to return to unsafe housing because there are no alternative safe places to go.
- Connection to community are the best pillars to maintain stable housing.
- Trans Housing Melbourne - guarantee of safe housing- community creating own solutions to housing.
- Assumptions need to be ironed out about how the issue impacts this community.
- Housing stigmatised.
- Need to advocate for solutions for this community.
- Council needs to form a relationship with Haven Home Safe.
- Vincent Care have a specialised program to support the community.
- LGBTIQ+ communities suffer greater rates of FV, therefore more likely to require housing.

Building on this information, Council seeks to engage in a broader discussion on housing and neighbourhood character in Banyule. Committee received detailed briefing notes to prepare for the meeting.

Council is required to update the housing and neighbourhood character strategy every 10-15 years. Council is expecting 7000 extra households - lone person and couple family households are the primary areas expected to grow over the life of the next strategy.

Affordability was a key issue raised by community. For very low-moderate income ranges, there are no affordable properties in Banyule to buy or rent, and opportunities for the moderate income range is limited. 63% of low-moderate income households are spending more than 30% on mortgage or weekly rent (might be up to \$139k per household). This category is most impacted by affordability. In terms of housing stock in Banyule, single dwelling and high rise is well provisioned. Medium density housing is lacking in Banyule. Council believes if we increase the supply of medium density housing, we can start to address affordability and demand.

The discussion paper has aggregated information into three pillars:

- Driving housing for all
- Elevating good design
- Valuing preferred neighbourhood character

Discussion

Committee want to know the categorisation of what moderate income is.

Committee remind Council to apply an intersectional lens to the strategy and discussion.

Emma announced the adoption of an interim Social and Affordable Housing Strategy to support advocacy for more affordable housing through strategic partnerships.

Emma posed clarifying question: Housing can be unsafe for the community - how do we increase safety in this neighbourhood?

- Having other LGBTIQ+ community members there for support.
- Residents knowing safety is a community priority, within the values of the community, a co-created vision.
- Difficult to navigate the system to be placed in co-housing, the process was becoming a barrier, on the flip side there are empty apartments to fill, but system/ layers of bureaucracy not working (Common Equity Housing/ Vic Housing).
- What can Council do for all communities? Can put design conditions on private housing developments through planning scheme amendments. Other options include advocacy, action can be implemented through Council business units such as through Neighbourhood Character amendments, partnerships, educating planners and developers. In public realm, Council is developing a new strategy. Information is in the discussion paper- aim of discussions with community is pulling out what is important.
- Properties with garden space/ green space is beneficial for mental health - mental health an issue for this community.
- Close access to public transport important for this community - planning around connectivity.
- Finding accessible housing a challenge. Emma spoke about universal and accessible design built into design principles, need to be cognisant that disability presents on a spectrum.
- Supporting people to live in place through accommodating whole of life needs.
- Conditions of existing housing stock - not built for the climate- mould and cost of heating.
- Committee advises of the need to educate developers, agents, landlords and community on legislation, needs and rights to ensure people are welcomed into a community and feel safe. Need to make sure the social understanding is in place, the rest becomes easier.
- Gender neutral and accessible toilets in communities.
- Choice is limited so take what you get, if neighbours or community are homophobic, safety is not present.
- There is no emergency accommodation space in the state for people with disability with hoist for people experiencing housing issues.
- Environmental sustainability should be a key consideration.
- Partners to consider include Nightingale Housing.

Action

Action 2: Sherryn to link Emma to Fleassy to discuss co-housing principles.

Action 3: Sherryn to advocate to DFFH and Office for Disability for the need for emergency accommodation for people with disability experiencing family violence.

Action 4: Emma to provide definition of medium income range for committee.

Action 5: Committee members encourage to complete Housing Strategy survey on Shaping Banyule. Sherryn to provide link in minutes. <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/HNC>

3.2 Technology based creative arts project (20 minutes)

Committee member Nathan presented a technology-based creative engagement proposal for 12-20 year olds. The project aims to teach children and young people skills to produced digital creative arts pieces that can be presented in virtual format and gallery spaces. Through developing skills and providing an opportunity to anonymously present their pieces publicly, LGBTIQ+ children and young people can build identity and confidence in a safe environment.

Discussion

Committee commended Nathan for the concept and encouraged Nathan to apply for a Banyule Community Grant to fund the project.

Noted that this project is a great way to engage children living in rainbow families.

Action

Action 5: Sherryn to link Nathan to Steph Neoh and Emerson Zandegu.

Action 6: Sherryn to send Nathan link to Banyule Community Grants.

Action 7: Sherryn to share Nathan's contact details with Committee and members are encouraged to make contact to offer support.

3.3 LGBTIQA+ Inclusion in Sport (20 minutes)

Following the recommendation to Council from the previous meeting, Deb Anthony, a local community member and clinical psychologist, shared insights with the committee on how to empower local sporting clubs to understand the inclusion needs of trans children and discussed the positive impacts of uplifting practices.

Deb raised the fact that there are multiple reasons why young people and people don't participate in local sporting opportunities. Noted that we need to look at how clubs build a culture of inclusion. Noted some of the clubs are a hostile environment for adults and kids and that trans children will need additional supports to participate in mainstream sporting opportunities.

Discussion

Council received the recommendation from the last LGBTIQA+ Committee meeting on Monday 7th, and Council will be working with clubs in a planned and considered fashion. The Recreation and Leisure Team are preparing a report to Council on how the recommendation might be actioned.

The Committee agreed that this subject should be a standard agenda item. To create tangible next steps the Committee discussed the need for safer spaces within clubs – parents, coaches, officials need education.

What are the first steps to create change?

- Need to undertake further research on why people do and do not participate in local sports in Banyule.
- Engendered Fitness, Queer Sporting Alliance - partnerships to bring more safe sporting experiences to change.
- Build education programs for sporting clubs.
- Find the allies within sporting clubs to raise visibility, including members being out and proud in clubs, who feel comfortable doing so. Without creating an onus on the LGBTIQA+ community. Invite club officials and medics to participate in training like Active Bystander training.
- Need to focus on safety for children.
- Build Queer space for all sports to come together - normalise within sports.
- Noting that there are Queer sports happening outside the region, consider inviting Queer sports groups to use our spaces. Prioritizing marginalised groups for use of Council's sporting facilities.
- Address toxic masculinity and sexism.
- Speak to 10-20 local people with lived experience and ask what they want and what they need for the inclusion.
- Training for clubs - rights and responsibility.
- Kat commented on waiver needed to be signed by volunteers in her club – aim was to seek commitment to look after everyone under any circumstance.

Action

Action 8: Schedule LGBTIQA+ Inclusion in Sport as a regular agenda item to continue the conversation.

Action 9: Consider ways to attract sports for Queers to the community.

4. Updates from Council

4.1 Year 2 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan (30 minutes)

Council fully implemented 21 of the 26 Year 1 Inclusive Banyule Action Plan, which included 26 inclusion actions, and continues to implement the outstanding 5. The committee reviewed the proposed 11 new actions specifically related to LGBTIQ+ inclusion.

Discussion

General support for implementation of all 11 actions, and the Committee thanks Council for committing to address safe spaces to meet for the LGBTIQ+ communities. Noting that parents of gender diverse children have few opportunities for social interaction, it was agreed that the first tangible step is to create a safe space, then pilot the LGBTIQ+ social group for Older Adults to test the space. Then, over the next 12 months, consider what else is needed and the way to invite use by other groups.

Committee considered the number of meetings per year (6) and was curious whether this was sufficient to drive progress. It was agreed that convening working groups to progress discussions between meetings was the best strategy.

Committee discussed Older Adults Rainbow Tick accreditation and potential expansion of tick to other Council service areas and is willing to provide support.

Action

Action 10: Council to present Year 1 Inclusive Banyule Plan action outcomes to Council on 28 August and notes the support from the LGBTIQ+ committee for Year 2 actions.

Action 11: Council to organise Committee working groups to address Events and Celebrations; Inclusion in Sport and Memorial in the North projects and invite members to opt in to participate outside of scheduled committee meetings.

Action 12: Sherryn and Liz to bring back information from the Older Adults Rainbow Tick program about the process and resources required to maintain accreditation.

4.2 Days of Significance events 2023-24

Committee noted that there is room for improvement in planning and delivering LGBTIQ+ specific events. Because of the attention on people who identify as non-binary and gender diverse, and in light of the Year 2 commitment to elevate awareness and understanding of diversity, the committee propose not minimising the focus on traditional events, rather elevate the focus on other days of significance.

Committee noted the budget and resource constraints of Council and agreed to work proactively with Council to inform the delivery of days of significance events throughout the committee term.

Action

Action 13: Events and celebrations to be listed as a standard agenda item.

Action 14: Sherryn to inform Committee of budget allocated to LGBTIQ+ events.

4.3 Extension of Committee Term and Honorariums

Councillor Castaldo informed the Committee of Council's decision to extend the current committee term to 20 September 2024, in line with Council's general elections. Members will be invited to opt in to extend their term. Vacancies created will be filled through an EOI process.

Cr Castaldo informed the Committee of Council's decision to offer community members on Banyule's committees a gift to acknowledge their time and contributions. Cr Castaldo noted that members can select from options as recommended by members.

Discussion

Committee noted the need to ensure balanced representation across the LGBTIQ+ range if recruitment is to occur, noting the absence of the letter A representation.

Action

Action 14: Sherryn to contact all sitting members to invite extension of membership. Should member agree to extend, Sherryn will invite members to select one of the gift options, which are to be given at end of Committee term and if 60% participation is reached.

5. Other Business

No other updates noted.

6. Close and date of next meeting

5 October 2023, ILCH.

Action

Action 14: Fleassy to share information on the Fringe show on 5 October at 7.30pm.