



Minutes RAP Advisory Committee

15 November 2023

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 15 November 2023
Time	5:30pm – 7:00pm
Venue	Barrbunin Beek
Chair/Facilitator	Cr. Elizabeth Nealy
Minutes	Blair Colwell

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
Wally Johnson	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Catherine Bradley	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Sue Harris	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Maddi Miller	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Jo Southwell	Banyule Community Health
Kath Brackett	Banyule Council
Zali Mifsud	Banyule Council
Georgie Meyer	Banyule Council
Blair Colwell	Banyule Council
Cr. Peter Castaldo	Banyule Council Councillors
Cr. Elizabeth Nealy	Banyule Council Councillor
Paty Galan	Banyule Council

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Tom Conley	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: 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: Wording for the plaque is to be confirmed and reported back on, working through budget.	Ongoing
Action 2: Council Officer to arrange a sub- working group consistent of Uncle Charles and Shelley to discuss Uluru Statement from the Heart communications plan.	Update: Referendum conversations complete, meeting to work on what's next to be held.	Ongoing
Action 3: Council Officer to send links to shaping Banyule platform.	Update: Complete	Complete
Action 4: Council Officer to investigate a formal relationship with Reconciliation Victoria.	Update: Ongoing	Ongoing
Action 5: Council Officer to investigate committee name change.	Update: Ongoing – will go up with the new strategy	Ongoing

Discussion

Action 1; We are now working with some draft wording. We are now in discussion in regard to the funding.

Action 2; All of our referendum conversations are complete, officers will be having a meeting next week or the week after to discuss what next.

Action 3: Complete

Action 4: Uncle Charles met with representatives of Reconciliation Victoria, Nicole Finlay and Alex McKay, to investigate ways in which we could recommend to Banyule Council to promote state wide Reconciliation.

A proposed motion; That Council facilitate a meeting between key representatives from Council and Reconciliation Victoria before 29 Feb 2024. The goal of that meeting will be to explore ways in which Banyule City Council can further support the state-wide work of Reconciliation Victoria.

Mover: Uncle Charles

Seconder: Cr Nealy

Unanimously Supported

Action 5: Change of name for this group would need to go before Council. It is proposed that in parallel with the new strategy a recommendation will be made to change the name.

Action

Council Officer to facilitate a meeting between key representatives from Banyule and Reconciliation Victoria before 29 February 2024.

3. Public Realm Strategy Consultation 5:45pm – 6:05pm

- Paty Galan to present, Public Realm Strategy

Discussion

Background and Context of the Public Realm Strategy Consultation.

The Strategy is the overarching strategic plan that established the 10 year vision, and key principles.

Structure, Urban Space, Open Space, Transport, Links.

Examples of open space we have parks, natural environment.

Examples of Urban Space, community activity centre.

Discussion Prompts:

What First Nations' Values would you like to see in Banyule's Public Realm?

How would First Nations' Values be incorporated in designing public spaces?

Jo Southwell: BCH Reconciliation Action Plan looked into the original families in the areas. Two really great reports which would be in Councils' archives, where a private provider wanted to introduce a tree top walk around Banyule Flats however community activism prevented this.

Paty: Consultation for the Strategy will be live on the 21 February 2024.

Uncle Charles; Raised concerns that he wasn't sure how this would look like in practical terms.

Maddie: Is it in reverse? Shouldn't the whole document be underpinned by First Nations values?

Cr Nealy: In response Cr Nealy outlined the underlying Strategy is about trying to bring multiple policy areas and directories together hence there is some complication of why it seems the values haven't come first or used as the starting off point. There is an attempt to bring the various policy realms together and have a First Nations lens through all these policy areas.

Maddie: Shared experiences of working on the green line project from the north of the Birrarung down to MCG. In terms of what First Nations values should be represented, are stories at the centre and what stories people want told? Starting off with creation stories then moving on to contemporary stories. It should also incorporate to respect our Elders, important to care for community, important to care for country and the environment. Recognise the importance of community spaces like Barrbunin Beek.

Cr Castaldo: Do we have an opportunity to consider that?

Zali shared that story telling and caring for country came out strongly as basic and fundamental principles with consultation to date with the Traditional Owners of the land.

Cr Castaldo identified it is a different language as we may have said looking after the environment in the past not Caring for Country.

Sue shared it is a much more fundamental way of thinking. Reflected on when ILCH was being designed the First Nations' part was an add on decoration. A few names were all we could fit in as we were too late in the conversation. We need to see design principles be embedded in design not as an afterthought.

Uncle Charles: Expressed concern, identified that its important to state that at the end of tonight's meeting has further consultation with key community members. This is in response to all the key policy areas this will be covering.

Kath identified that we probably need to clarify the process for doing that, however there is a good opportunity to engage widely with community. As long as we truly do engage with community we can move forward.

Uncle Charles suggested that Uncle Owen, Shelly Wear should be included in the consultation.

Kath clarified the process when reports go through Council they are just drafts, when it goes through Council Councillors could make a recommendation that we should engage in that deeper consultation.

Action

Council Officer to organise meeting with Paty for further consultation.

Uncle Charles to post to Barrbunin Beek committee for consultation opportunities.

Council Officer to share BCH report to committee.

4. Reconciliation beyond Referendum 6:05pm – 6:15pm

- Zali Mifsud to lead discussion

Discussion

Zali has been having discussions with Uncle Charles, Shelly, and Banyule Communications team about what is next after the Referendum.

We want to engage with this forum in terms of what are the priorities areas? We will also continue with the Coms Sub Working Group on the what next.

Wally shared that he believes Yoorrook and First People Assembly/ Treaty are priority areas. We need to take a coordinated approach and have continuous engagement. Do we want to hold 5 events over the year or so and have specific themes?

Cath shared personal view of the thing that came out of it was the appalling racism and ignorance (through the Referendum discussion). People didn't recognise the connection to reconciliation and justice. Continue the truth telling. Importance of promoting the positive stories. Mistruths or laissez faire attitude to the referendum. Lack of basic understanding.

Sue said we need to clarify who is doing what locally and who is doing what more broadly and what the main tasks are. We focused on events and those already in the know and it was hard to reach those uninformed people. They weren't interested in changing their mind it was polarising. Its nice to have good events, but it wasn't having much effect. How do we reach those that we can change? How do we meet the fringes and bring them in, or what is the form people are willing to engage with? Is public realm possibly part of the solution? Is sporting communities' part of the solution?

Wally identified that the door knocking; produced good contact with people however used a lot of resources. It was exciting to have one to one conversation with the middle ground and they listened. Are there learnings there around door knocking?

Cr Castaldo identified that Voice is directly related to Uluru Statement from the Heart and we should continue to see the remaining parts of Truth and Treaty as guiding principles in which we continue to move forward.

Zali shared as treaty moves forward that will continue to take on more importance and when Yoorrook brings down its findings what will Council's role or response be?

The principle of the voice, in terms of self-determination, can be an underpinning?

Jo identified the framework is already there and getting that message back out, there is a pool of volunteers and community members in Jaga Jaga. I wanted to congratulate Council on the leadership in this space. We need to make sure what is happening at the local level and ensure it is in step with Yoorrook and the state level. Continue to make Aboriginal culture visible and embedded in Council.

Sue shared that she thinks we are going to have to include an awareness of when it feels abrasive to part of the community. The fact that the referendum was defeated which has unleashed the abrasive element. How do we avoid the pain and hurt to the community? We don't want that here. We need to find ways of addressing that.

Uncle Charles identified that we need to learn from what has happened. There will be hard conversations, this Council did better than most metropolitan communities. What are the parts of the community which was begging for information, and we didn't get it to them? Highlighting the multicultural communities as examples. We need to be brave in doing that. Yes, it needs to be balanced and safe but un-comfortability comes with difficult conversations. It is easy to stay safe. Sit down with Glen the new Banyule Communications Coordinator about a comprehensive communications strategy.

Cr Castaldo stated that the Banyule Banner is the place where we can highlight that 60% of the vote was yes?

Uncle Charles agreed we should be using the Banner however need to be outside the box. Yes we should have regular stories but we need to start educating about treaty. When we see Yoorrook findings come down it will be challenging. I am not putting it all on Council.

Sue shared that local Reconciliation groups are talking to each other all the time since.

Cath shared we should have something in that article about the percentage, but we should also have ways that people could get involved and continue the movement. Build cultural awareness.

Action

5. Self-Determination Strategy Update 6:15pm-6:25pm

- Zali Mifsud to lead discussion

Discussion

Zali:
Internal consultation with Jason Mifsud presenting to SMT which has inspired several managers.
On the 6 of December presenting to EMT.
We have a survey opening on the 14th of December gaging staff's current awareness of self-determination.
Into February continuing our external consultation inclusive of Wurundjeri's Executive Team.
In February first RAP meeting which you will meet our consultant asking Banyule RAP Committee members to do some dreaming.
The following session and dedicated workshop will be breaking down dreaming.
We will also engage with Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place Committee in Workshop.
We will also invite stakeholders such as libraries, Montmorency First Nations Allies, Jaka Jaka for Yes, Reconciliation Banyule and other groups.
On the 1st April draft we will go back to core committees and groups to run through it.
We will go through internal Council process.
Public consultation in May.
Then back to those core groups before finally going for approval through Council.

Are there any other groups which have been missed?
Neighbourhood houses?

Kath shared that we want this done by August as we want it before the next Council elections.

How will the survey work?
Sent out the QR code and Ipad for consultations.
Pushed on Social Media.

Action

Council Officer to share community engagement plan to the committee.

6. General Business 6:35pm – 6:55pm

- Call for any general business items:
 - December Christmas celebration: Zali

Discussion

Zali identified that the next meeting will be a celebration where we go through our shared achievements and will be a joint meeting with the Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place Committee.

Georgie shared the Banyule "On Paper" Exhibition called Nhalinggu Bagung is on display at ILCH. The name was selected in consultation with Wurundjeri Land Council. This years theme was Reconciliation. There is an article in the Banner about the winners that Georgie encourages everyone to read.

The Winner was P23 Rochelle Patten and Katie Howard.
Second Place was Brian Robinson Space Invaders.

Banyule Council will be acquiring several pieces. It is customary to acquire first place however this year Brian Robinson piece has been included.

Other pieces acquired are;

P12 Vargina Keft

P 28 Corban Clause Williams

P 18 Juanit McLauchlan

P 15 Bruno Leti

Meetings closed 6:55

Action

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

- Confirm Actions arising
- Close meeting
- Next meeting: 13 December