



MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

4 MAY 2022



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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL
HELD 4 MAY 2022 IN PORT MELBOURNE TOWN HALL**

The meeting opened at 6:30pm.

PRESENT

Cr Pearl (Chairperson), Cr Baxter, Cr Bond, Cr Clark, Cr Copsey, Cr Crawford, Cr Cunsolo, Cr Martin, Cr Sirakoff.

IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Tony Keenan, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion, Kylie Bennetts, General Manager City Growth and Development, Claire Stevens General Manager Governance and Organisational Capability, Lachlan Johnson Acting General Manager Customer Operations and Infrastructure, Brian Tee, Executive Manager City Planning and Sustainability, Thomas Mason, Head Major Transport Projects - Domain Precinct, Lauren Bialkower, Manager City Growth and Culture, Adele Denison, Head of Arts, Festivals and Events, Kirsty Pearce Head of Governance, Merryn Shaw, Council Meetings Officer, Emily Williams, Council Business Officer.

The City of Port Phillip respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

1. APOLOGIES

Nil.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOVED Crs Bond/Martin

That the following minutes be confirmed:

- Minutes of the Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council held on 6 April 2022
- Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council held on 27 April 2022

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.



PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The Mayor advised the meeting that Star Health has awarded Council in recognition of its contribution to the vaccination of the residents of the City of Port Phillip. The Mayor then referred to Tony Keenan, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion who advised that the City of Port Phillip is very fortunate to have fantastic community infrastructure as well as great buildings and technology, that many Councils have invested in overtime. This has served us incredibly well through the pandemic, enabling Council to get food to people very quickly and through Port Phillip Zero, able to rough sleepers housed.

This award is particularly a proud achievement, throughout the height of the pandemic, Council worked with Star Health and the local public health network to support our residents to get access to local testing and vaccination sites with a particular focus on vulnerable residents. For example, Council supported Star Health to set up temporary vaccination sites at Council-owned facilities including the Port Melbourne Town Hall and Betty Day Community Centre. In partnership with Council and other community groups, Star Health also led a program of mobile testing and vaccination at public housing, community housing and rooming house sites to support the most vulnerable in our community. The City of Port Phillip was able to avoid some of the things that happened at some of the other larger public housing sites, this was through the great effort of Star Health, City of Port Phillip and its community.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUBMISSIONS

Public questions are summarised below. The submissions were made verbally and can be listened to in full on our website: <http://webcast.portphillip.vic.gov.au/archive.php>

Public Question Time:

- **Bill Phelan:** Why Build a BMX pump track and put asphalt in precious green space in Garden City Reserve?

Tony Keenan, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion advised that the proposal to build a BMX pump track in Garden City Reserve is a result of a very large community petition. The Council has requested officers to explore possible sites. Council's Have Your Say consultation page is currently receiving feedback. A report will be scheduled for a future Council meeting with the findings of the consultation.

Peter Smith, Chief Executive Officer further added that Council officers are carrying out the work as directed by Council and invited Mr Phelan to contact him directly if there are any concerns with Council officer actions.

- **Tom Ashton:** The Victorian community requires leadership around rubbish removal from our streets, beaches, car parks and parks. We also need ongoing education of our entire population, and particularly of our younger members. Would our Councillors consider the suggestion that we can be the community to take the lead by facilitating Clean up the City of Port Phillip Clean up days?

Lachlan Johnson Acting General Manager Customer Operations and Infrastructure advised that Council is currently consulting on its draft Budget including the draft Don't Waste It strategy which is Council's integrated approach to managing waste and litter across the City. The City of Port Phillip, like many other inner city councils across Victoria struggles with issues around public litter and waste. Mr Ashton's question tonight will be taken as a submission to the draft strategy and a response will be provided at the end of June when the strategy is considered by Council for adoption.

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- **Louise Hird:** Further consultant reports have been uploaded to the Have Your Say website relating to Council's proposal to sell three early learning centres. These consultant reports include access reports, building condition reports, rental assessment reports, geotechnical reports, property risk assessments plus many more. Can council please explain how these reports will be used to assist Councillors in reaching a decision in relation to the future of these three centres? Further, can Council please explain how much has been spent in obtaining the various reports and where did this funding come from?

Tony Keenan, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion advised that a number of the reports have been completed at the request of the community centres and through the consultation process. In terms of Council using these reports, depending on what next steps Council wishes to take, these may be relevant in assisting Council to make a decision. In terms of how much these reports cost, Mr Keenan took the question on notice but advised that funding came from the property budget.

- **Simon Rashleigh:** As part of Council's proposal to sell three early learning centres, one of the viable alternatives to sale currently being assessed is to fully renovate 17 Eildon Road to address non-compliance with building codes and improve accessibility. Could council detail the functional deficiencies that could never be overcome at 17 Eildon Road without a complete rebuild? What exactly does a modern built for purpose facility have that a fully refurbished 17 Eildon Road never could?

Tony Keenan, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion advised that Mr Rashleigh attended the consultation with the Committee of Management where this question was responded to in detail, but for the benefit of the community Mr Keenan outlined the broad list of things that could not be achieved in a renovated heritage building. An all abilities play area could not be achieved due to lack of space at that Centre. It would be very difficult to fit in meeting rooms, etc for interview rooms that would be included in a modern built for purpose facility. It would also be very difficult to get an outcome where you had passive surveillance of children at all times.

- **Helen Halliday:** Has the Council spent the \$740,000 it allocated for tree planting in the budget and can Council provide information by neighbourhood of where this money has been spent? Given the acknowledged imbalance in spending across the neighbourhoods identified in last year's budget, what steps will be taken to address this issue in the projected budget for 2022-23. What steps have been taken to fulfill Council's resolution from 8 December to identify properties for acquisition in South Melbourne, Balaclava and St Kilda East? Can Council officers advise why it has not considered the green line as a priority project? How can the small projects agreed in advance be brought forward to start immediately as a matter of priority, separating those for trial against those for action.

Tony Keenan, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion took the questions on notice but advised that in relation to the green line project, this involves discussions with VicTrack for Council to be able to commence.

- **Alex Darton:** In relation to the ceasing of the maintenance agreement with VicRoads and the City of Port Phillip for the up keep of median strips on Brighton Road - How does a survey of 0.002% of the residents of the City of Port Phillip break with 150 years of local tradition and seal the fate/potential death of the remaining trees lining the main road that runs through our City? Could the Council reverse this decision and instead see the \$94 a year from VicRoads as a subsidy towards their duty of care to us their residents rather than the cost they previously attached to it?

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Lachlan Johnson Acting General Manager Customer Operations and Infrastructure advised that when Council originally consulted on ceasing the maintenance agreement with VicRoads there was some targeted consultation carried out on Council's Have Your Say page, which resulted in 56% of feedback supporting the cease. In addition, there was also engagement carried out through the Council plan and budget process including any change or proposed change to service levels were put out to the community and submissions were invited before Council made a decision. The decision of Council in that budget was to cease subsidising the maintenance of VicRoads work. Council was receiving around \$100,000 a year from VicRoads and as outlined at the time, it was costing the rate payers of Port Phillip hundreds of thousands of dollars more than that to deliver the service that was contracted to us by VicRoads. Council resolved as part of the budget process to cease that subsidiary and therefore to stop providing that service under agreement. It is the prerogative of Council, if Council wanted to re-enter into that agreement it could do so, providing that both VicRoads and the Department of Transport were willing to re-enter into a similar arrangement in the future, Mr Johnson further advised Mr Darton is welcome to submit a submission to the budget for 2022-23 to make a recommendation to Council to do so.

Councillor Crawford clarified with Mr Darton that he was referring to the trees on the median strip on Brighton Road and not the nature strips on the side of the roads of which Mr Darton confirmed this was correct.

- **Rowena Fitzgerald:** At the Council Meeting held on 2 March, Council moved a motion to adjust the timeframe of the proposed sale of Eildon Road Childcare and Kindergarten. The motion included a request from Councillors for “the CEO to bring back options for support for the centres during this process such as (but not limited to) a reduction in maintenance levies”. Has the CEO provided Councillors with a list of options for additional support for each of the affected three childcare centres, and if so, can those options be shared with the centres?

Tony Keenan, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion advised that this is being worked through and we are assessing the impacts on enrolments at the Centres and then we will bring an option to Council.

- **Rachael Scotland:** Given the complex nature of the challenges faced and the elongated nature of the consultation process, it has become clear that council will require still more time to consider the multitude of viable alternatives, delaying the decision further. Although the Avenue Children's Centre will remain open until 2026 regardless of the outcome of the process, its lease is due to expire at the end of 2022. Eildon Road and Elwood Children's Centres similarly have leases due to expire at the end of this year. When will Council be providing clarity on lease arrangements with the Centres? We request that Council provide a further 12 month lease to the end of 2023 at a minimum for all centres immediately.

Tony Keenan, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion advised that it is Council's intention to make sure that appropriate leases are in place for all centres prior to any existing leases ending. Council officers will follow up with each of the centres individually on the timeline for leases being renewed to provide certainty for all involved. The length of the lease will depend on decisions made by Council in the coming months.



Council Report Submissions:

Item 7.1 Petition Response - Loss of Car Parking on Park Street

- Joe Leong
- Dr Peter Bone
- Davinder Bedi

Item 9.1 Positive Ageing Policy - Draft Policy Objectives

- Coralie Ling
- Freda Erlich

Item 9.2 Acceptance of the Older Persons Advisory Committee Annual Report 2021

- Coralie Ling
- Freda Erlich

Item 9.3 Adventure Playgrounds Extended Opening Hours Trial Findings

- Katrina Findlay

5 COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

- **Councillor Cunsolo:** Raised concerns in relation to the St Kilda Road Junction intersection where the bike lane, particularly heading north is very dangerous. Can Council officers advise if there has been any further discussions with the Department of Transport (DoT) in the past 6-12 months?

Brian Tee, Executive Manager City Planning and Sustainability advised that Council did seek to include the St Kilda Junction part of the bike corridor as part of the pop up bike lane proposal. It was outside of the scope due to the complexity and did not meet the requirements for a pop up bike lane. More broadly, this is a dangerous intersection and Council has advocated for some time for a dedicated bike corridor. Approximately two years ago saw the death of a cyclist. The government roughly four years ago, committed to the St Kilda Road bike safety corridor, but there were some delays in terms of the design and delivery. In yesterday's state budget \$817,000 was allocated within the next financial year to design the St Kilda Road bike safety corridor, an additional \$3 million was added - the total budget of that project is around \$28 million. Council meets regularly with the DoT and in our next meeting we will seek to understand their proposed design process. The St Kilda Road bike corridor is a long corridor and even with the additional funding it is unlikely to complete the whole corridor. Council will continue to advocate to make sure that the junction is included in both the design and the subsequent delivery.

6 SEALING SCHEDULE

Nil.



7 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

7.1 Petition Response - Loss of Car Parking on Park Street

A Petition containing 12 signatures, was received from residents of Park Street, and presented to a Council Meeting on 2 March 2022

MOVED Crs Martin/Copsey

That Council:

1. Notes the previous Council decision to proceed to detailed design and construction of the Park Street Streetscape Improvement Project, including this portion of Park Street on 2 March 2022.
2. Notes that Council officers will proceed with the delivery of the Temporary Bike Lane between Moray Street and Kings Way in line with the timing of the Department of Transport's Pop-up Bike Lane program.
3. Thanks the signatories of the petition lodged with Council which led to design changes that improved the outcome for the whole community.
4. Requests Council officers notify the head representative of the petition of Council's decision.

The Mayor took the vote under DIVISION.

FOR: Crs Baxter, Crawford, Cunsolo, Bond, Copsey and Martin

AGAINST: Crs Sirakoff, Pearl and Clark

The MOTION was CARRIED.

8. PRESENTATION OF CEO REPORT

Nil.

9. INCLUSIVE PORT PHILLIP

9.1 Positive Ageing Policy - draft policy objectives

Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Council and the community with the outcomes of the Positive Ageing community consultation and draft key policy objectives for the Positive Ageing Policy.

MOVED Crs Martin/Crawford

That Council:

- 3.1 Note the activities undertaken to inform the development of Council's Positive Ageing Policy to date and planned next steps.
- 3.2 Endorse the proposed policy objectives for Council's Positive Ageing Policy as follows:
 - 3.2.1 Goal 1: Accessible, affordable, and quality support services are available locally and at home as people age and needs change



- 3.2.2 Goal 2: Effective communication and education enables people to maintain health and wellbeing and know about available services and activities
- 3.2.3 Goal 3: Respect and value of the contribution of older people from all genders, backgrounds, identities and abilities and the importance of intergenerational connections
- 3.2.4 Goal 4: Well-designed public spaces, events, activities and campaigns promote independence, social interaction, health and wellbeing, and digital literacy
- 3.2.5 Goal 5: Safe, secure, and stable housing enable people to remain in their communities as they age
- 3.2.6 Goal 6: Affordable, safe and reliable transport options enable independent movement and connection to friends, family and services

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

9.2 Acceptance of the Older Persons Advisory Committee Annual Report 2021

Purpose

- 1.1 To present to Council the Older Persons Advisory Committee Annual Report 2021. Refer to Attachment 1 Older Persons Advisory Committee 2021 Annual Report.
- 1.2 To seek endorsement for the Older Persons Advisory Committee to co-opt a new member on to the Committee until the end of the term of the current membership.

MOVED Crs Martin/Crawford

That Council:

- 3.1 Receives and acknowledges the Older Persons Advisory Committee (OPAC) Annual Report 2021 and thanks the Committee for their work and achievements.
- 3.2 Endorses the OPAC to co-opt a new member, Vasileios Tsialtas, on to the Committee until the end of the term of the current membership.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

9.3 Adventure Playgrounds Extended Opening Hours Trial Findings

Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on the consultation and engagement findings from the Adventure Playground Extended Opening Hours Trial, conducted between 26 September 2021 and 30 January 2022.
- 1.2 To outline the planned actions to be taken in light of the consultation and engagement findings.
- 1.3 To outline the planned actions to be taken in light of the current end of life condition of equipment at Skinners and the planned upgrades for both Skinners and St Kilda as budgeted for in the 10-year financial plan.



MOVED Crs Martin/Bond

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the findings of the Adventure Playground Extended Open Hours Trial.
- 3.2 Recognises that the Skinners Reserve and St Kilda Adventure Playgrounds are much loved, respected, and valued community resources.
- 3.3 Notes that immediate work has commenced on addressing safety issues at Skinners Playground and that the trampolines that had to be removed from both playgrounds for safety reasons will shortly be replaced.
- 3.4 Notes that the draft budget 2022-23 includes an allocation of \$300,000 for rectification work at Skinners in 2022-23.
- 3.5 Reaffirms Council's Commitment to the Adventure Playgrounds, as noted in the Council Plan and 10-year financial plan that allocates \$3,445 million to invest in upgrading the Adventure Playgrounds at St Kilda and Skinners Reserve.
- 3.6 Adopts the following vision and design principles to frame and guide the upgrades, program review and consultation for the Playground upgrades.
- 3.7 The CoPP vision for Adventure Playgrounds is that they provide safe and welcoming spaces that honour diversity, build resilience and creativity, provide social connections, and encourage all children and families to maximise their development outcomes.
- 3.8 Endorses the following CoPP design principles to guide the consultation and planning for the upgrades. Adventure Playgrounds will:
 - 3.8.1 Facilitate risky (but safe) play
 - 3.8.2 Be accessible, safe and welcoming for all: meeting DDA compliance and CEPTED best practice
 - 3.8.3 Provide a connection to nature and the natural environment
 - 3.8.4 Place children and young people at the heart of design
 - 3.8.5 Provide a unique aesthetic that recognises the past and is delivered for the future
- 3.9 Directs officers to commence consultation and engagement over 2022/23 on the planned upgrades informed by the above vision and principles, with a particular focus on hearing from children and young people.
- 3.10 Directs officers to also review the operations and program models for the Adventure Playgrounds over 2022 /23 to:
 - 3.10.1 Ensure programs and operations best deliver on the above vision for Adventure Playgrounds.
 - 3.10.2 Identify strategies and opportunities to increase the use of and participation at the Adventure Programs which considers the feedback from stakeholders regarding the extended opening hours trial.
- 3.11 Notes that the planned upgrades will cause disruptions and commits to relocate services to alternative facilities wherever possible for the duration of upgrade works.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.



10. LIVEABLE PORT PHILLIP

Nil.

11. SUSTAINABLE PORT PHILLIP

Nil.

12. VIBRANT PORT PHILLIP

12.1 St Kilda Festival 2022/23

Purpose

1.1 To present Councillors with a recommendation regarding the 2023 St Kilda Festival.

The following question was taken on notice during discussion of the item:

Councillor Clark: The 2020 St Kilda Festival brought an economic benefit of \$34 million to St Kilda. Can officers provide a breakdown of what made up the largest contributions?

Adele Denison, Head of Arts, Festivals and Events advised that \$22 million of the \$34 million came from interstate spending, in terms of what categories the money was spent, the question was taken on notice to provide further detail.

MOVED Crs Bond/Copsey

That Council:

- 3.1 Subject to budget being allocated through the 2022/23 Council Plan and Budget for the St Kilda Festival, endorses a two-day weekend format for the 2023 St Kilda Festival, comprising:
 - a) A First Peoples music and cultural event on South Beach Reserve on Saturday 11 February 2023.
 - b) A return to “St Kilda Festival Sunday” on Sunday 12 February 2023, including music and cultural activation of Acland Street, Fitzroy Street, The Esplanade and key parts of the foreshore and open space within central St Kilda.
 - c) A weekend-long family friendly activation in O’Donnell Gardens.
- 3.2 Requests that officers explore complementary programs including live music programs through venue partnerships in the lead up to the Festival weekend, and third-party use of the main stage or other Festival venues in advance of the Festival.
- 3.3 Resolves to continue advocacy for increased State Government support for the St Kilda Festival, including direct funding, promotional support, and in-kind support through delivery partners including Public Transport Victoria and Victoria Police.
- 3.4 Requests officers to ensure public safety remains the highest priority for Festival delivery, including any relevant changes to public health settings as a result of the ongoing response to COVID-19.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.



13. WELL GOVERNED PORT PHILLIP

13.1 Records of Informal Meetings of Council

Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this item is to report to Council written records of Informal Meetings of Councillors at the City of Port Phillip as required by the Governance rules

MOVED Crs Pearl/Copsey

That Council

- 2.1 Receives and notes the written records of Informal Meetings of Council (attached) as required by the Governance Rules.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED unanimously.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

15. REPORTS BY COUNCILLOR DELEGATES

Nil.

16. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

17. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.09pm.

Confirmed: 18 May 2022

Chairperson _____