

Recreation Trails Advisory Committee Minutes



Date: Thursday 14 June 2018
Time 6.30pm – 8.00pm
Venue: Manna Gum 1 & 2, Civic Centre – Greensborough
Chair: Cr John Dumaresq
Minute taker: Jo Massoud

Order of business

1. Welcome

Attendance – Cr John Dumaresq (chair), Andrew Bakos, Stephanie Langton, Jo Massoud and Nathan Roberts Rex Niven, Cath Giles, Kay Cruse, Jamie Sharp, Stephen Hadley, Jan Davies and Vince Bagusauskas

Apologies – Cr Karen Egan, Cr Peter Perkins, Mathew Turnley, Neil Hordern and Damien Barber

2. Conflict of interest and Assembly of Councillor form

Completed following meeting by Jo Massoud.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

- These minutes were presented at the March Council meeting for ratification. All Committee meeting minutes need to be ratified at Ordinary Council meeting before they are circulated to the Committee.
- Moved: Rex Niven
- Seconded: Andrew Bakos

4. Business arising

- Aqueduct Trail – Information included section 5c (below)
- Cherry Tree Road – Information included in section 6 (below)
- Panton Hill Bushland Reserve signage update – Information included in section 7 (below)

- RTAC position – advertised and no suitable applicants so position will remain vacant until we readvertise later this year.

ACTION: Officers to advertise in the local magazine, newspaper, social media and through service providers

- DCT to Main Yarra Trail change in surface – Faye Williams, Regional Officer, is currently on leave. Officers will be meeting with Faye in July so will raise this at the meeting. Committee should lobby Environment Minister

5. Regional Trails update

a) Northern Regional Trails Strategy

- In advocacy phase to secure as much funding for the region
- Funding was received for DCT as part of this advocacy work.

b) Diamond Creek Trail

- The cost of the Trail project is estimated at \$11 million, consisting of \$4 million for land acquisition and compensation and \$7 million for trail construction.
- The State Government has announced the 2018-19 Victorian Budget includes an investment of \$4 million towards the construction of the extension of the Diamond Creek Trail.
- Officers are continuing to explore further grant opportunities with both State and Federal Government to assist in meeting the project budget shortfall of \$3 million. Officers are expected to submit a funding application when the Building Better Regions Fund becomes available.
- Advocating for additional funding has been with the collaborative support of Trailblazers Inc. The committee has had many meetings and corresponded with both parties, State and Federal members and State Government Ministers.
- With the assistance of Trailblazers Inc. an advocacy strategy and communications plan has been prepared for the purposes of obtaining further broader community support for the Trail's extension.
- Project timelines
 - June – December 2018: undertake the acquisition and associated compensation process to acquire privately owned land.
 - February – May 2019: subject to securing the necessary funding, commence preliminary works, fence of trail corridor and complete detailed design.
 - March – May 2019: complete remaining technical studies and reports.
 - May – August 2019: tender process for bridges and boardwalks and construction of trail.
 - September 2019 – Late 2020: Constructions

c) Aqueduct Trail

- Officers met with Cath Giles to understand history of the southern vs northern alignment of the trail
- Northern alignment, as per the Recreation Trails Strategy, along Ridge Road is being discussed with Melbourne Water through the masterplanning process for Christmas Hills.

ACTION: Officers to send possible dates in July for group to complete site visit of the current proposed trail alignment

- Melbourne Water has now sent through their ownership and access map which will be overlaid with Council's ownership map in the coming weeks.

ACTION: Officers to seek confirmation of boundaries from the Titles office

- There is an indicative \$8,000 in the 2018/19 budget to assist in the planning for the Aqueduct Trail (around Sugarloaf), officers will continue to work with Melbourne Water and Yarra Ranges to develop a preferred alignments and experiences. This is important to connect to the Warburton Trail

d) Green Wedge Trail

- At this stage there is no further planning work being completed for this Trail.

6. Local Links – Cherry Tree Road

- Council owns a parcel of land adjacent to 290 Cherry Tree Road but property team are currently confirming whether there is a formal lease with the adjacent property owner.

ACTION: Officers to follow up with property team to confirm prior to next meeting

- Planning permit has been approved and contractors are back on site.
- Unsealed trail will be finished by end of June with property crossings being completed throughout July.
- TAC funding acquittal will be completed in July along with final audit.

7. Pantan Hill Bushland Reserve User update

- Works Update - weed control, rabbit control, threatened orchid reintroduction program
- Trail assessment report feedback - Although this report was discussed soon after its completion there was renewed interest in it recently from an external community member. The following points were discussed:
 - Report provides a benchmark to monitor the resilience of bushland trails over time to see if there are any particular trends in their deterioration.

- It is very difficult, scientifically, to distinguish the impacts of specific trail use as opposed to general erosion by water.
- The report indicates sections/ characteristics of trail that are more likely to erode, mainly due to slope and water movement, which can inform a maintenance program.
- Maintenance is reactionary at this time however council needs to allocate budget to maintain potential trail erosion hot spots, thereby making trails sustainable into the longer term for all users.
- Biodiversity On Ground Action grant project – update on threatened species monitoring program with volunteers, discussion about chainsaw hollows for habitat
- Interpretation Concept Plan implementation –need to get buy in and embed the interpretation concept project into the right places in the organisation, need to resource project manager, budget carried forward

ACTION: Officers to follow up on the difference in approach between PHBRs and RTAC as there should be consistency between both

8. Working groups - report back

- Over March and April 2018 two RTAC working groups met to progress development of our trail inventory and classifications of our trails
- Trail management - undertook and discussed justification for trail classification .

Review of Trails Strategy existing classification system as Regional, Local & Cultural; Review of Trails Strategy existing Recreation Trail Experience Based Matrix: Bushland Trail, Bridle Trail, Rural Road Trail, Roadside Trail, On-road Cycling Trail and Off-road Trail and Use of existing standards to help classify our trails, such as: Australian Walking Track grading Standards, Mountain biking system (IMBA Australia Trail Difficulty Rating System) and Horse trail classification.

ACTION: Classifications to be brought up to the next RTAC meeting for consideration by the entire group prior to a Council resolution

- Trail mapping – undertook a review of existing trail network. Group understand the constraints and issues within Council current mapping system and available data. Land ownership issues were discussed and officers will address once mapping and ownership is known.

A mapping resource will be developed in the short term.

ACTION: Trail inventory list to be brought up at the next RTAC meeting for consideration by the entire group

ACTION: Officers to review trail inventory list on GIS to identify which trails (or portion of trails) are in Council ownership and which are not. Agreements will need to be entered into by Melbourne water, VicRoads, Parks Vic etc.

9. Local links priority 2018-19

- Deferred to August as a waiting on Council budget adoption later in June.

ACTION: Officers to circulate current list of priorities for members to consider

10. Volunteer induction

- Advisory committee members are deemed volunteers and it is a legislative requirement to undertake this
- All RTAC members must agree and adhere to terms and conditions included in Terms of Reference, rights and responsibilities and volunteer induction
- Committee confirmed that the preference is to hold the induction an hour prior to the next committee meeting

ACTION: Officers to confirm with Jane Lawson and book room

ACTION: Officers to send out registration information so members can complete pre reading

- ToR of RTAC will be updated to include this

11. Any other business

- Nillumbik Shire Council, Green Wedge Management Plan – Consultation closing 13 July 2018.

ACTION: Information and link to be circulated

- Manningham Council, Westerfold Paddle Sport Plan – Stage 2 community consultation for a Regional Paddle Sport Centre, closing 20 June 2018.

ACTION: Information and link to be circulated

- Yarra Ranges Shire, Warburton Mountain Bike Destination – community consultation for alignment, closing end June 2018.

ACTION: Information and link to be circulated

- State Government, Pick My Project Funding – Applications close 24 June 2018. Potential projects were discussed including Flat Rock Road and sealing of Canldebark, Parks Vic land.

ACTION: Information and link to be circulated

- Melbourne Water, Yarra Strategic Plan – Flyer on consultation provided to each member
- Rogder road sealing – cost for road sealing was higher than expected. Tenderer will be re-approached to provide a better cost, if this cant be achieved then need to re-declare the scheme, which will re-open the process of submissions and objections. With regards to the trail, we have submitted the planning application to clear vegetation along the high side of the road, creating space for horses, pedestrians, etc. This is still currently being assessed

ACTION: Officers to follow up the outcome of the planning application

- Artist Trails

ACTION – follow up maintenance and Council’s approach

- Melbourne Water, Christmas Hills – Officers have met with Parks Victoria to discuss this possible trails through Warrandyte-Kinglake Conservation Reserve and they raised issues with horses – further investigation will need to be undertaken. Potentially widen road reserve to have the allowance for future paths/trails

12. Next Meeting

- 23 August 2018 - Council offices, Manna Gum 1 & 2
 - Volunteer Induction will be held from 5.30pm – 6.30pm in Candlebark 1 & 2