

# Recreation Trails Advisory Committee Minutes

---



**Date:** Thursday 22 February 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), Rex Niven, Andrew Bakos, Cath Giles, Kay Cruse, Jamie Sharp, Stephen Hadley, Jan Davies, Vince Bagusauskas, Jo Massoud and Nathan Roberts

Apologies - Stephanie Langton, Mathew Turnley, Damien Barber, Cr Karen Egan, Cr Peter Perkins and Adrian Cully

### 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 January 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: Jan Davies

### 4. Business arising

- Aqueduct Trail - Officers have met with Yarra Ranges to understand the timing of their network expansion which will connect into the Aqueduct. Further meetings will be required

**ACTION:** Officers to undertake further investigations internally

**ACTION:** Officer to discuss with Cath Giles to understand some history

- An indicative budget allocation has been made to undertake further investigation in 2018/19
- All members have now been allocated to working groups which will be discussed later in the meeting .
- Road Sealing Program, Rodger Road, Panton Hill – A trail will be created along the top of the embankment to allow horses to travel safely. This option was the preferred option from 5 possible solutions.

## **5. Regional Trails update**

### **a) Northern Regional Trails Strategy**

- a. Advocacy maps are being developed with the 2 highest priorities for Nillumbik: Diamond Creek Trail and Aqueduct Trail (DC end)
- b. Digital mapping will form part of the NRT network however there is extensive work required from officers. This will be discussed in the mapping sub committee
- c. North East Link advocacy has commenced for trail connections through Banyule and Nillumbik (connecting to the Aqueduct Trail and Diamond Creek Trail).

### **b) Diamond Creek Trail**

- a. Acquiring the 19.5 hectares of land is proposed to commence in April 2018
- b. On 14 December 2017, approved Amendment C108 was gazetted, completing the statutory process to apply a Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO4) to parts of the 12 affected properties to be acquired by Council and insert an incorporated document titled Diamond Creek Trail Extension (Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge) - Incorporated Document October 2017 which provides planning approval for construction and use of the Trail (subject to a range of conditions being fulfilled).
- c. The cost of the project is estimated at \$11 million, consisting of \$4 million for land acquisition and compensation and \$7 million for trail construction.
- d. In late 2017, Council was notified of having been unsuccessful in securing a State Government Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF) grant
- e. Other external funding opportunities include:
  - i. Proposed Active Transport Infrastructure Fund (State): VicRoads is preparing a business case for consideration in the 2018 State budget to improve walking and cycling infrastructure and reduce short trips in private vehicles. Officers provided information on the Diamond Creek Trail extension.

- ii. Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund (State): The fund seeks to grow and realise the potential of regional Victoria's visitor economy. The grant program is currently closed.
  - iii. Community Sporting Infrastructure Fund (State): The program delivers increased physical activity participation through infrastructure. The maximum grant Council could secure is \$650,000 in the Major Facilities category. Officers anticipate the 2019-2020 funding round will open in coming months.
  - iv. City Deal (Federal): The northern region councils have submitted a proposal to deliver on priorities including transport, jobs and business growth and resilient communities. The proposal includes implementation of the Northern Region Trails Strategy, of which the Diamond Creek trail extension has been ranked Nillumbik's highest priority.
  - v. The upcoming state and federal elections provides further opportunities for Council to advocate for the necessary external funds.
- f.** Landowners will be shortly offered individual information sessions with an independent legal expert regarding the land compensation and acquisition processes, owners' rights under the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986 (the Act) and to legal and valuer representation. These sessions are proposed to commence in March 2018.
- g.** An advocacy strategy and communications plan has been prepared for the purposes of obtaining further broader community support for the Trail's extension and securing \$5 million in Government funding towards the project. Advocacy group Trailblazers, established in 2013 to advocate for the Trail's extension, has assisted Council officers in the preparation of this Strategy
- h. Timelines**
- i. Subject to securing the necessary external funding and additional Council contributions, the Trail could be delivered by mid-2020
  - ii. February 2018: commence implementation of communications plan and funding advocacy strategy, and complete further onsite environmental studies to satisfy the conditions of the incorporated plan.
  - iii. April to December 2018: Undertake the acquisition and associated compensation process to acquire land.
  - iv. By mid-2019: Complete remaining technical studies and reports including further survey and subdivision planning work, flora and fauna studies, offset strategy, Environmental Management Plan, asset management and maintenance plans and possible Cultural Heritage Management Plan.
  - v. By mid-2020: complete construction.

### **c) Aqueduct Trail**

- a. Northern alignment through Christmas Hills is progressing through Melbourne Water.

ACTION: Officers to commence discussions with Parks Victoria to discuss connections and their use of the land being handed over.

- b. Meeting was held onsite with Melbourne Water on 23 January 2018 to understand the significance of the southern alignment and potential constrains.
- c. Alignment and options were discussed but it was concluding that additional work on ownership will need to be completed.

ACTION: Officers to work with GIS team and Melbourne Water to investigate land ownership

- d. 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.

### **d) Green Wedge Trail**

- At this stage there is no further planning work being completed for this Trail.
- Cath Giles raised the issue with alignment – this will be deferred for discussion through the trail mapping sub committee.

## **6. Local Links – Cherry Tree Road**

- Planning permit for section near 300 Cherry Tree Road is currently in process – once this is public and if there are no issues this section will be completed in April
- Remaining trail will be completed in March.
- Post construction audit will need to take place to meet funding requirements.
- Suggestion made to survey the fenceline of the property as this may encroach on the road reserve.

ACTION: Officers to arrange survey of fenceline

## **7. Panton Hill Bushland Reserve User update**

- Group is having issues with signage approvals for Panton Hill Firefighters Memorial Park

ACTION: Officers will follow up with Brad to understand issues

- Group is working with local residents to educate them on the environmental benefits of the reserve system.

## **8. Workshop – Future Trail Planning**

- Deferred due to meeting running over schedule

## **9. Trail Management Plan working groups**

- Each group will need a leader to schedule meetings with the assistance of officers – this person can self nominate but can only lead 1 group
  - a. Trail mapping – confirm current trail alignments and trail information (width, finishes, type of experience ect)
  - b. Trails Management Plan – establish an inspection regime and maintenance standards
  - c. Signage and Code of Conduct –Advisory and directional signs and information/ interpretive signs including a code of conduct. Example is ‘Common sense, courtesy and goodwill’ as a simple tagline
  - d. Promotion - Understand what third party website promote our trails and how to attract new people to the trails network within Nillumbik

## **10. Any other business**

- Officers have made a decision to not proceed with the Bicycle Network’s Super Tuesday and Super Sunday counts for 2018. Officers are currently exploring the alternative data capture methods including Strava and counters. More information will be provided at the next meeting
- Westerfolds Paddle Sport Centre consultation - Stage 1 consultation for Westerfolds Paddle Sports Plan due to commence in March for 4 weeks. All members will receive details for consultation shortly
- ‘Person with a disability or advocate’ position will be advertised from Wednesday 28 February to Friday 23 March through Council’s website, social media, RTAC committee (past and present) and target groups

**ACTION:** RTAC members will be advised via email once the position is advertised

- Change in surface from Eltham Lower Park (bridge over the Yarra) to Main Yarra Trail, sealed to unsealed

**ACTION:** Officers to investigate signage to advise trail users of the change in surface

- What is Councils position on the signage throughout the Artist Trails at Wingrove Park, Rotary Park and Research Park?

**ACTION:** Officers to raise this with the Mayor

## **11. Next Meeting**

- Thursday 24 May 2018, Council offices - Manna Gum 1 & 2