

St Kilda Skate Park Community Reference Group Minutes Meeting 6 20th May 2009

In Attendance: Cr Serge Thomann; Cr John Middleton; Michael Mulcahy; David Myer; Hunter Tye; Ann Birrell; Ingrid Baring; Michael Markham; Richard Simon; Geoff Oulton; Renton Millar ; Anita Lange

Apologies: Lisa Rodwell

1. Review Summary Table of Suitable Sites and Outstanding Issues

AL explained the background to the summary table. AB had asked for a summary table at the previous meeting with a list of outstanding issues. As well, some preliminary comments/issues have been received from key stakeholders and these were included where relevant and where received.

DM raised a concern about the comments from the Seabaths management and their issues as their original advice provided some positive comments that were not included in their subsequent advice.

It was noted that the positive comments about why the sites are considered suitable are included in Richard' Simon's report and are recorded in the minutes of the discussion at the CRG meetings.

It was noted that comments from Leading Senior Constable Mark James, of Victoria Police, Crime Prevention Officer for the region, had not yet been included though Constable James had accompanied Anita Lange on a site visit of a number of sites and will be providing some comments on the various sites. AL briefed the Group on the preliminary impressions of Constable James about the various sites.

It was agreed to delete the last column in the table, add in the comments from Constable James once received and change the title of the third column to "preliminary advice from stakeholders on sites".

The table was discussed in general as the Group felt that they did not have time to comment on the summary table. Therefore, the Group was unable to sign off on the summary table.

M Markham said the summary table is a document that lists the suitable sites and the problems that need to be solved.

GO suggested that this table be recast as what the advice is from other stakeholders and add a disclaimer that it is based on preliminary discussion with stakeholders and is not necessarily based on the views of the CRG.

AB asked where Group member's voices are heard. AB does not feel that the dissenting view is heard. AB said the report should not be referred to as the 'skate park reference group report' as it was not our report.

Go said members have 2 roles –one as a member of the Group and one as an individual outside of the Group.

As a member of the Group, members have provided advice through the process. As individuals, members can make individual submissions to the Council at the Strategy and Policy Review Committee on the 1st June.

The minutes have attempted to record dissent and the range of views expressed. RS advised that he has heard the comments of the Group.

An option for the Group is to record that the summary table is an unendorsed summary of the issues.

RS suggested that the additional advice from DSE and the police might be outside the TORs of the Group.

AB raised concerns about the process and why we have not received the comments of the DSE and Parks Vic earlier. GO explained that this was because they did brief the Group early on about their view of the sites' suitability. Furthermore, DSE had offered to provide advice once the Group had a shorter list of sites that were being considered.

The Group agreed that there was not unanimity of agreement with the stakeholders' preliminary comments but that these comments should still be reported to the Council as part of the Council report of the 1st June.

The Group felt that there was not enough time to properly review the documents, as these documents were not provided early enough for proper review.

2. Review Final report - Review Richard Simon's draft Study Report

RS explained how the draft study report has been put together. He reviewed all the information, included some of the comments from the Group, and concluded that some sites are suitable for a skate park and that there are some sites which are unsuitable to build a skate park in the time frame desired by the CRG and the Council.

GO suggested to add to the report that it has been informed by the advice of the Group but does not represent the views of the Group.

The majority agreed that the Marina Reserve site is the preferred site and that this is in agreement with RS report.

Re the Fitzroy Street site, there was a mixed view about the suitability of Fitzroy Street site and an agreement that it was unlikely to be able to deliver a skate park to the community.

The Group noted that RS's report is the report of RS as the Independent Assessor and it reflects some of the views of the Group but does not reflect the work or the thinking of the Group in its entirety. One would need to refer to the minutes to understand the Group's thinking and views.

AB said that the criteria were too subjective and it was not appropriate to include subjective views in the report. AB said that if people found the criteria too subjective to reach any consensus within a reasonable range, it was probably because they were not properly articulated. AB said that there was no place for subjective views in a professional report.

3. Confirm Minutes Of Previous Meetings:

a. Meeting of the 21st April

Agreed to change the reference to 'Group' to 'Majority'.

b. Meeting of the 5th May

A number of changes were agreed and the Group confirmed the Minutes.

The process of editing the minutes was discussed.

4. St Kilda Skate Park Community Reference Group Process Evaluation Survey

It was agreed to defer the evaluation of the process until after the 1st June meeting and for members to do the survey after this date and the evaluation to be included in the 22nd June report to the Council.

5. Other business:

a. Outline of Council meeting process

GO outlined the meeting process for the Strategy and Policy Review Committee.

There will be a report by the Executive Officer, which includes the minutes of the Group, and Richard Simon's report.

GO advised that members can make their own submission and address the meeting if they wish.

The Committee will form a recommendation for the Council to consider 3 weeks later.

The Council may ask for further information prior to their making a decision.

JM advised that the Council at its meeting on the 22nd June could reject, adopt or amend the recommendation of the Committee.

b. Discussion paper on skate parks – benefits, myths and facts

M Mulcahy has started compiling a discussion paper and will circulate it to other members of the Group and aim to report it to the Council directly at a later date.

c. Post St Kilda Skate Park Community Reference Group – opportunities for further involvement by Group Members

To be considered.

d. Other matters:

The Group thanked RS and the council officers for their work.