



**STRATEGY AND POLICY
REVIEW COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

2 MARCH 2009

**MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY AND POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE
OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 2 MARCH, 2009 IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ST KILDA TOWN HALL**

The meeting opened at 6.01 pm.

PRESENT

Cr. O'Connor (Chairperson), Cr. Bolitho, Cr. Klepner, Cr. Middleton, Cr. Powning, Cr. Thomann, Cr. Touzeau.

IN ATTENDANCE

Darrell Treloar CEO (Interim), Sally Calder Executive Director, Organisation Systems & Support, Geoff Oulton Executive Director Community Development & Planning, David Yeouart Executive Director Community Assets & Services, David Filmlter Chief Financial Officer, Sam Hewett Manager Asset Services, Paul Smith Manager Environment & Renewal, Cathy Henderson Manager Governance and Risk Management, Liddy Clark Acting Manager Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Claude Baxter Manager South Manager Market, Stefan Mitrik Coordinator Traffic, Transport and Parking, David Graffen Property Coordinator, Toulia Kotsabouikis Property Adviser.

Council pays its respects to the people and elders, past and present, of Yalukit Wilam and the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge and uphold their relationship to this land.

1. APOLOGIES

Nil.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MOVED Crs Powning/Thomann

That the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Review Committee held on 2 February, 2009 be confirmed.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Ms Julianne Bell asked the following questions:-

1. Can Council advise what it regards as a sustainable number of possums in the Catani Gardens, how is this number determined and on what basis are those individual animals deemed as surplus selected for destruction? Why does Council think possum numbers need controlling since they managed not to over populate the Gardens in the past 50 years and have maintained sustainable numbers by themselves?
2. Under Council's management plan who removes possums from the Catani Gardens for destruction? Are they licensed animal handlers and/or licensed pest exterminators and/or are veterinarians employed?

Ms Jill Quirk asked the following questions:-

1. The previous Council's justification for the possum management plan was an erroneous and ridiculous belief that possums were "eating palm fronds" and so damaging the trees. Why is this program being continued, given that possums have been completely excluded from all palms since November 2007?
2. Promises were made by successful council candidates prior to the last election that the metal possum exclusion bands, which disfigure and degrade Victoria's most significant Canary Island Palm avenues, would be removed. Will the council now agree to remove these redundant fittings and return the heritage listed palms to their natural state?

The questions were taken on notice and referred to David Yeouart Executive Director Community Assets and Services.

Cr Bolitho requested a Councillor briefing on this issue as it is clearly still a matter of community sensitivity.

Mr Adrian Jackson asked the following questions:-

1. In relation to rates; my rates for this year went up \$800 from the previous year. I want to know your plans for rate increases or decreases or are they to remain the same? If they're to increase, what will they be spent on and why? If they're to decrease or remain the same, what changes will you be making? Will you be reducing staff numbers?

The Mayor responded that rates increase according to the value of the individual property, not as an across the board percentage. This is in accordance with the MAV system and thus Council only took a small increase in total rate revenue last year. The 4 year Council Plan which is currently being worked on, will be completed and submitted to the Minister for Local Government by 30th June 2009 and will include the Strategic Resource Plan which includes the proposed rate income figure as well as proposed expenditure.

2. Referring to an article in the local media regarding a kerbside trading review, why is the Council spokesperson making comments about the possible outcomes of the review and will Council speak to the officer involved?

The Mayor responded that the Council has not made any decisions regarding the review, which is still in progress.

3. Is Council going to look at the issue of referring to “European Settlement” rather than a “British Settlement” in Australia in council publications, as this, in his opinion, is not historically accurate?

The Mayor advised that Council will keep the issue in mind.

5. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

Nil.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

The order of business was as follows:

6.1 POLICY AND PLANNING

A1 – CITY OF PORT PHILLIP NETWORK OPERATION PLAN

A2 – LUNA PARK INTERCHANGE RENEWAL

6.2 GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

A3 – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/PANDEMIC PLANNING REPORT

A4 - PROPOSED DISCONTINUANCE AND SALE OF RIGHT OF WAY –
REAR OF 132 & 134 HEATH STREET, PORT MELBOURNE

A5 – CONSTRUCTION OF A CAFÉ AT SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET

A1 CITY OF PORT PHILLIP NETWORK OPERATION PLAN

Purpose

To update Council on the progress to date on the development of the City of Port Phillip Network Operating Plan.

To seek consideration of the draft City of Port Phillip Road Use Hierarchy Map.

MOVED Crs Klepner/Middleton

That the Strategy and Policy Review Committee recommend that Council:

1. Reaffirm its support for the Sustainable Transport Framework, as shown in Attachment 4, and has applied this framework in considering the proposed "Road Use Hierarchy" and will continue to apply that framework to its decision making on all roads within the municipality
2. Subject to point 1, endorse the Road Use Hierarchy Map for the City of Port Phillip shown as Attachment 3 in this report.
3. Note the development of the Network Operation Plan for the City of Port Phillip.
4. Seek greater on-road space allocation for cyclists on the Beach Road in the Network Operating Plan.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

A2 LUNA PARK INTERCHANGE RENEWAL

Purpose

Update the council on progress on the Luna Park Interchange Renewal, namely the community engagement process.

Seek in-principle support for the functional and urban design direction.

The following speakers made a verbal submission in relation to this item:

Adrian Jackson

Is the Interchange being moved to be brought in line with the Triangle development site?

The Mayor responded that the interchange is being moved to improve pedestrian, commuter, cyclist and driver safety.

Teresa Warren

Will there be toilets put in at the new interchange and will there be better lighting installed in O'Donnell Gardens?

Geoff Oulton Executive Director Community Development and Planning responded that there are public toilets already located in Shakespeare Grove, close to where the interchange will be so no additional toilets will be provided. With regard to lighting in O'Donnell Gardens, there is no provision in this plan to expand lighting in the gardens as it is outside the scope of this proposal.

Will there be more litter bins installed along the route?

Geoff Oulton Executive Director Community Development and Planning responded that litter bins are proposed and will be installed at the stops.

Could there be a ban on right hand turns into Acland Street?

Geoff Oulton Executive Director Community Development and Planning responded that the right hand turn into Acland Street will not be banned but reconfigured in a safer manner and that is part of the issue that the works are trying to address.

MOVED Crs Klepner/Thomann

That the Strategy and Policy Review Committee recommend that Council resolves:

1. To note the progress of the Luna Park Interchange Renewal project.
2. To provide in-principle support for the functional and urban design direction for the Luna Park Interchange space.
3. To consider the further development and implementation for the Luna Park Interchange space as part of the 2009/10 capital works budget process, generally in accordance with plan LD-04 (Partial Plan), and also including all pedestrian crossing points provided for in the plan LD-02 (Landscape Plan Complete).

4. That officers ensure the design of the platform stops adjacent to Luna Park meet the same standard and finish as those recently constructed in Fitzroy Street and that the stop and any advertising are sited to minimise any impact on view lines to the "Mr Moon" facade of Luna Park.
5. That officers, in ensuring the design adequately caters for cyclists, investigate the potential for a right hand turn for cyclists from Carlisle Street into Acland Street and that Bicycle Victoria be consulted.
6. That a detailed design of the interchange be provided to council for consideration prior to its finalisation for construction.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

A3 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/PANDEMIC PLANNING UPDATE

Purpose

This report seeks to update Council on the progress of Emergency Management and Pandemic Planning as well as outlining Emergency Management activities undertaken in 2008.

MOVED Crs Thomann/Touzeau

That the Strategy and Policy Review Committee recommend that Council resolve to:

1. Receive the report and note the Emergency Management activities undertaken in 2008.
2. Note that the Influenza Pandemic Plan will be reported to Council when fully developed and fully operational.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

A4 PROPOSED DISCONTINUANCE AND SALE OF RIGHT OF WAY NO. R2421 AT THE REAR OF 132 & 134 HEATH ST, PORT MELBOURNE.

The following speaker made a verbal submission in relation to this item:

Mr Kim Tram (objector).

Mr Tram maintained that the purpose of the right of way was to provide public access to surrounding properties (for emergency vehicles) and urged Council not to sell the laneway but to reopen it, as it would be an inconvenience to other residences and businesses that may utilize it in the future.

Purpose

This report is to finalise the discontinuance and sale of a section of Right of Way No. R2421 at the rear of 132 & 134 Heath St, Port Melbourne in accordance with statutory procedures set out in the Local Government Act 1989. As a result of a public notice, one submission has been received. Council can now consider the submission and hear any supporting material before making a decision complete the procedures and finalise the matter.

MOVED Crs Klepner/Powning

That the Strategy and Policy Review Committee recommend that Council:

1. Being of the opinion that the road at the rear of 132 & 134 Heath St, Port Melbourne as shown on the plan attached to this report is not reasonably required as a road for public use -
 - discontinues the road;
 - directs that a notice be published in the Government Gazette;
 - directs that the land from the road be sold to the abutting owner of 134 Heath St, Port Melbourne;
 - directs that the discontinuance and sale will not affect any right, power or interest held by service authorities in connection with assets under the control of the authority in or near the road;
 - authorises the use of the Common Seal of the Port Phillip City Council to be affixed to the Transfer of Land.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

A5 CONSTRUCTION OF A CAFÉ AT SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET

Purpose

The Cecil Street precinct of South Melbourne Market (SMM) requires funding for the construction of a café that will effectively become the strip's flagship and the Market's major frontage on its busiest corner.

MOVED Crs Middleton/Klepner

That the Strategy and Policy Review Committee recommend that Council:

Proceed with the evaluation of tenders for the construction of a café in stalls 101-103 of South Melbourne Market (located on the corner of York and Cecil Streets, South Melbourne) and that Council refers the project for consideration to the 2009-2010 Capital Program.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Nil.

**9. REPORTS BY DELEGATES (COUNCILLOR) APPOINTED TO
OTHER BODIES**

Nil.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

11. PRESENTATION OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

11.1 POLICY AND PLANNING

Nil.

11.2 GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

Nil.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Confirmed: 6 April 2009

Chairperson: _____