

Blue Mountains Heritage Advisory Committee: Minutes

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| Date: | Thursday, 3 September 2020 | Time: | 1:00pm to 2:51pm |
| Location: | Virtual meeting via Zoom | | |
| Chair: | Kim Barrett (Councillor Van der Kley opened the meeting but asked Kim Barrett to Chair in order to run the Zoom meeting. This meeting was held via Zoom due to the Covid-19 situation) | Deputy Chair: | Councillor Kerry Brown |
| Present: | <u>Committee Members:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Chris Van der Kley • David Payne • Elizabeth Burgess • Elizabeth Saxton • Jan Koperberg • Juliana Swatko • Rod Stowe • Ross Ingram • Suzanne Mitchell | Observers: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Barrett, BMCC Manager City Planning • Sara Reilly, BMCC Senior Heritage Planner • Senthil Kasiannan, BMCC Heritage Planner • Christo Aitken, BMCC Heritage Advisor • Rachelle Schubert, BMCC Cultural Heritage Officer |
| Apologies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Kerry Brown • Kevin Smith • John Low • Ron Powell • Ruth Longdin | | |
| TRIM File: | F05752 – 20/195632 | | |

| Speaker | Comments | Actions: |
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| Item 1 – Meeting Commencement | | |
| Chair | Cr Van der Kley opened the meeting at 1.00pm. | |

| Speaker | Comments | Actions: |
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| Item 2 – Acknowledgement of Country | | |
| Item 3 – Welcome and Apologies | | |
| Chair | Apologies were accepted from Cr Brown, Kevin Smith, John Low, Ron Powell and Ruth Longdin. | |
| Item 4 – Pulpit Hill Working Group | | |
| Chair | <p>The Heritage Advisory Committee endorsed the establishment of a sub-committee working group to communicate with Transport for NSW on Pulpit Hill in the context of the Great Western Highway upgrade project.</p> <p>The Heritage Advisory Committee discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The composition of the working group including Elizabeth Burgess, Rod Stowe, Ruth Longdin and Suzanne Mitchell. The purpose of the working group, and draft structure to the proposed letter to TfNSW. Ross Ingram queried whether the Committee should be involved in discussing heritage issues concerning the whole of the upgrade rather than focusing solely on Pulpit Hill. Cr Van der Kley advised that TfNSW had briefed Council on the Blackheath section, and suggested that the Committee would not need to be involved until TfNSW confirmed their proposals. Suzanne Mitchell noted the significance of Pulpit Hill in its entirety and queried whether TfNSW had an alternative option to avoid the hill altogether. Suzanne Mitchell also queried the movement of stones near the graves at Pulpit Hill, and Kim Barrett advised that whilst Council was aware of the issue, it appeared to be a member of the public who is moving them. | |
| Item 5 – HAC Annual Report | | |
| Rachelle Schubert | <p>Rachelle Schubert sought feedback on the key activities proposed for inclusion in the Heritage Advisory Committee Annual Report 2019/20.</p> <p>The Heritage Advisory Committee supported the Annual Report as discussed, subject to the following additional inclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the cancellation of the Heritage Forum for 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19, the Committee is aiming to re-schedule the event for May 2021 to coincide with BMACHO's Blue Mountains History Conference in Lithgow and the National Trust's Heritage Festival. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: Elizabeth Burgess to forward the letter received concerning Woodford Memorial Park footbridge. ACTION: Jan Kopberberg to email BMACHO members requesting a list of time capsules, etc that they are aware of, for inclusion in the memorial inventory. |

| Speaker | Comments | Actions: |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy undertaken by the Committee particularly on matters involving State agencies, including Pulpit Hill and the Woodford Memorial Park Footbridge. • The involvement of the Committee in the Heritage Review process. • As a key focus for this financial year, Committee plans to design a program of work that would look at developing inventories for memorials, plaques and memorial tree plantings. This project may be expanded to include time capsules, bus shelters and public art, however the intention is that the Committee would seek to involve local historical societies and the community more broadly in this project. <p>The Heritage Advisory Committee also discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Burgess noted the receipt of a letter from TfNSW regarding its intention to undertake community consultation mid-September on the proposed removal of Woodford Memorial Park Footbridge. • Broader engagement with local historical societies generally and methods for accessing their wealth of knowledge. • Elizabeth Burgess suggested making Conservation Management Plans more readily available to the broader public, and noted that the work undertaken on Woodford Reserve had proved to be an incredible resource for university students and those doing research projects. • Rod Stowe noted that any inventory should also include photographs and GIS locations. • Juliana Swatko suggested that there be a space on Council's website for people to lodge information. • Sara Reilly noted the benefit in the inclusion of bus shelters in the inventory project, particularly given that some are in danger of being removed and that cataloguing them could inform a strategy for preserving them. • Juliana Swatko suggested the potential relocation of bus shelters to reserves for use as public seating. • The Committee supported the proposed extension to the current terms of Committee membership given the postponement of the local government elections until 2021. • Suzanne Mitchell suggested documenting the range of areas and skills required for the Committee to operate well, and that appointments to the Committee should ensure a balance across those areas and skills. • Rod Stowe proposed that the balancing of skills be addressed as part of the next review of the Committee's Terms of Reference. | <p>3. ACTION: Heritage team to discuss the inventory project with Council's Cultural and Community Services directorate.</p> |

| Speaker | Comments | Actions: |
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| Item 6 – Heritage Strategy | | |
| Rachelle Schubert and Kim Barrett | <p>Kim Barrett and Rachelle Schubert provided an update on the Heritage Strategy review, including the proposed draft timeline, and challenges and opportunities with undertaking community consultation given social distancing restrictions.</p> <p>The Heritage Advisory Committee discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Van der Kley suggested that an information pack be developed for Committee members to distribute to their network. • Elizabeth Burgess noted the importance of capturing local knowledge given that research is a key component in protecting heritage, and suggested that the engagement of local knowledge custodians could be improved to enrich heritage management throughout the City. • Elizabeth Burgess suggested that the great value of research should be better acknowledged, and that opportunities should be created for people to engage more with the local community. • Suzanne Mitchell noted the importance of ensuring a multi-disciplinary approach to research to prevent gaps. • Kim Barrett confirmed the inclusion of an action in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement that requires a comprehensive thematic history of the Blue Mountains be undertaken. • General consensus that the strategy needs to be actionable to ensure it does not just look good on paper. <p>General comments during the workshop session on the Heritage Strategy included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should reflect a more active response to documenting information, particularly historical and visual information, and making that more readily accessible. ○ Research plays a key role in the ongoing process of heritage management; as society's perception of what is valuable evolves over time, investigation is required to ensure understanding of what is significant and that it is being conserved. ○ Transparency to the community as to why items are being preserved. ○ Objectives should emphasise the importance of research; an action could focus on the channel of communication between the Committee and the repositories of local information. ○ Whilst there are vast amounts of information not on the web, a focus could be on | <p>4. ACTION: Information pack on heritage strategy to be developed for Committee to distribute to their network.</p> |

| Speaker | Comments | Actions: |
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| | <p>creating an interest for that knowledge, as well as the education component.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to the key threat of development pressures. Connecting and reinforcing a solid network for advocacy to collaborate and share resources. Opportunity for Committee to provide input on appropriate uses when Council reviews its Asset Works Program. Work with asset managers to allow for knowledge sharing and skills transfer. Supporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a safe repository for natural disasters. Connections with the Elton Report and incentivisation for maintaining heritage. Promoting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creativity as an important aspect of heritage interpretation and corresponding actions; particularly the use of technology to create innovative outcomes. Opportunities for school group tours, more events and open days to share information and resources; all components working together to support tourism. Importance of education to promote understanding, particularly within a constantly changing community. | |
| Item 11 – Next Meeting Date & Items | | |
| Chair | The next meeting currently scheduled for Thursday, 5 November 2020. | |
| Item 12 – Meeting Closure | | |
| Chair | Meeting closed at 2:51pm. | |