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Minutes – General Meeting
6:15 pm Wednesday, 7 February 2024
By Zoom and in person
Chair: Cr Bernadette Thomas;

1. Welcome and introduction

The meeting commenced with an acknowledgement of country.

Present:

Cr Tom Melican	City of Banyule
Chris Phiniefs	City of Bayside
James Golub	City of Bayside
Khan Nguyen	City of Boroondara
Isuru Thilakaratne	City of Frankston
Cr Jane Karlake	City of Glen Eira
Augustus Brown	City of Hobsons Bay
Bivish Ghimire	City of Hobsons Bay
Tim de Ruijter	City of Hume
Alex Reid	City of Kingston
Cr Anna Chen	City of Manningham
Emma Steele	City of Manningham
Cr Bernadette Thomas	City of Maribyrnong
Peter White	City of Maribyrnong
Richard Smithers	City of Melbourne
Shieda Roskankhah	City of Melton
Cr Bob Turner	City of Melton
Simon Stainsby	City of Merri-Bek
Cr Mark Riley	City of Merri-Bek
Ross Evans	City of Monash
Sandra Worsnop	City of Monash
Cr Sam Byrne	City of Moonee Valley
Damir Agic	City of Moonee Valley

Cr Antonella Celi	Shire of Mornington Peninsula
Cr Despi O'Connor	Shire of Mornington Peninsula
Cr Richard Stockman	Shire of Nillumbik
Lawrence Seyers	Shire of Nillumbik
Karen Roache	City of Port Phillip
Cr Polly Morgan	City of Stonnington
Douglas Rowland	City of Stonnington
Cr Amanda McNeill	City of Whitehorse
Melissa Falkenberg	City of Wyndham
Russell Tricker	City of Whittlesea
Cr Sophie Wade	City of Yarra
Philip Mallis	City of Yarra
Associates	
David Stosser	PBA Associates
Angela Hernandez	Movement and Place
Cana Kuyucak	MAV
Guest	
Mr David Mephram	Re-Thinking Parking
MTF	
Jane Waldock	MTF
Greg Day	MTF

Apologies

Councillors	Officers
Cr Julie Williams – Darebin	Melissa Falkenberg – Wyndham
Cr Jim Magee – Glen Eira	Denise Castro – DTP
Lord Mayor Sally Capp – Melbourne	Chris Hui – Whitehorse
Cr Jenny Barrera – Wyndham	Kathy Lazanas – PBA
Cr Mark Di Pasquale – Banyule	Elias Lebbos – Travellers Aid
Cr Pamela Sutton – Stonnington	Laura – Movement and Place
	Geoff Oulton – MAV

New delegates were warmly welcomed by the chair.

2. Executive Elections for 2024

The Executive elections for 2024 were held. The following people were elected uncontested.

Chair – Cr Bernadette Thomas

Deputy Chair – Cr Victor Franco

Secretary – Ms Melissa Falkenberg
Treasurer – Mr Ross Evans
General positions: Cr Anna Chen and Cr Richard Stockman.

3. Acceptance of Minutes of December 2023 meeting

The minutes from the 6 December 2023 meeting were adopted.

Moved: Mr Ross Evans

Seconded: Cr Amanda McNeill CARRIED.

4. Presentation: Mr David Mepham – Rethinking Parking

Mr Mepham spoke about his research and experiences in rethinking parking in the Australian context. David has looked at many approaches taken by councils across Australia, including Melbourne, and noted that results varied considerably. He noted that many stakeholders have deeply entrenched views, and consider parking to be an entitlement. He talked about the need to move from ideas to outcomes, and that this meant you could be described as crazy or courageous!

David talked about the 5 perspectives to consider when you unpack parking issues:

- Place – If we gave drivers all the parking they wanted, the destination would not be worth visiting.
- Politics – Parking is intensely territorial, emotional, and prone to populism, and this is a barrier to strategic and sustainable parking reform.
- Policy – Parking tends to be focused on the ‘me, here and now’ needs of the driver at the expense of bigger picture and longer term policy objectives.
- Price – Subsidised parking exists behind opaque pricing mechanisms. In contrast, a transparent accounting of costs is a vehicle for strategic parking reform.
- Professional practice – Parking is a significant land-use issue, located at the juncture of transport and urban planning and design. Improving urban parking outcomes requires an integrated and collaborative planning process.

David encouraged people to look 50 years into the future to move from personal wants to the big picture of the places we wish to live in.

Questions from members drew out the value of developing and using a dashboard to demonstrate the true cost of parking; the benefit of putting a \$ value on benefits of assets such as open space and footpaths; the costs that parking adds in the affordable housing discussion; and how important accessibility is especially when public transport does not provide access.

5. Strategic Transport Advocacy

5.1 Ambassador Roles

No Ambassador reports were provided this month.

5.2 – Strategic Advocacy

The group discussed the existing Strategic Plan, and where the focus could be for 2024. It was agreed that buses, and accessibility on public transport remained important topics. This information will be used by the executive to plan the year’s events.

6. Council Information Sharing

Yarra

Mr Mallis informed the group of Yarra’s “New Deal” Cycling plan that aims to improve the safety, connectivity, and accessibility on Yarra’s street and path network for people on bikes over the next ten years. Yarra is also updating its Active Transport projects, and working on the tram stop upgrades along Gertrude Street (Route 86). Cr Wade also noted that Yarra actively celebrates its projects and that this was well received by the community.

Bayside

Mr Phinief spoke about Bayside’s Integrated Transport Strategy, the Suburban Rail Link infrastructure projects, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure projects, the implementation of lower speed limits around some schools; and EV charging.

Reports from Banyule and Boroondara were deferred to March.

7. Regular Reports

7.1 Treasurer’s report

The September and October Treasurer reports were presented.

Invoices approved in December 2023 and January 2024:

- Yarra Bookkeeping - Inv 1789 – Dec bookkeeping \$ 242.00 (inc GST)
- Yarra Bookkeeping - Inv 1817 – Jan bookkeeping \$ 242.00 (inc GST)
- JW Urban Inv 202307 – Expenses \$ 323.97 (inc GST)
- JW Urban Invoice 202401 - Secretariat Nov-Dec \$ 5942.72 (inc GST)
- Annual BAS \$ 90.00 (inc GST)

MOTION: That the 5 invoices approved for payment in December 2023 and January 2024 be noted.

Proposed: Mr Ross Evans

Seconded: Cr Mark Riley

The motion was: CARRIED

7.2 Upcoming events of interest

- Better Buses event 28 February see emails.

7.3 Future seminar discussion

A discussion was held concerning possible seminar topics for 2024.

Subjects proposed included:

- End of trip facilities for E scooters and E Bikes
- E vehicles
- Parking policy issues (as raised by Mr Mepham)
- PT span of hours and frequency

There was general support for an additional seminar to be conducted in this financial year.

7.4 MAV

Ms Cana Kuyucak provided an update on MAV transport matters.

- The Local Streets Program which provides \$2m per council continues – aiming to build capability and capacity in councils.
- The School Crossing reference group commenced meetings in Dec 2023.
- MAV and Vic Health are planning two walking and cycling webinars: Councillors in March; officers in April
- MAV is also running a forum on EV charging issues
- Noted that applications for Heart Foundation grants of up to \$50k will close on 1 March
- A workshop is being planned with VicRoads on the topic of construction vehicles and community safety.

8. Correspondence

Nil

9. Up Coming Meeting Topics

March – Metro Trains

10. General Business

Nil

11. Meeting closed 7:54 pm