

MINUTES

KALAMUNDA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GENERAL MEETING

6PM THURSDAY 16 January 2020

OPERATIONS CENTRE BOARDROOM

10 Raymond Rd Walliston

1.0 OPENING OF MEETING

The Director of Asset Services opened the meeting at 6pm. The CEO tendered her apologies

2.0 INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS – All

All members of the new Kalamunda Environmental Advisory Committee introduced themselves, speaking to their backgrounds and what they hope to bring to the Committee.

3.0 PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOLS

As per the agenda:

- Role of Community Representatives, Deputy Community Representatives and Chair.
- Period of appointment and adding items to the Agenda.
- The Terms of Reference for the Kalamunda Environmental Advisory Committee will be discussed.

The Director of Asset Services went through the City's governance presentation, pointing out the responsibilities of members of KEAC, and the function of KEAC. The central responsibility for KEAC and its members is to provide advice to Council on environmental matters.

The City's Code of Conduct, and the governance presentation will be provided to members via email.

4.0 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

The elections of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson were undertaken by the Director of Asset Services.

There was one nomination for the Chairperson role of the Kalamunda Environmental Advisory Committee, being Kevin Goss.

Kevin Goss was elected unopposed.

There were two nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson, Victoria Laurie and Peter Forrest. Peter Forrest withdrew his nomination in favour of Victoria Laurie, and there being no other nominations:

Victoria Laurie was elected unopposed to the role of Deputy Chairperson.

Kevin Goss acknowledged the work that has been undertaken by Mark Schilling as the previous Deputy Chairperson and thanked him for his contribution in that position. He noted that the Committee will need to work together as a team, with all contributions valued, acknowledging that this is a larger group. The Chairperson role in KEAC is one of facilitation, rather than traditional chairing of the meeting, until resolutions are required. Discussion is to be inclusive, independent thoughts and debate are welcome, while respecting others and helping to move the meeting along.

The Chairperson reminded members that the purpose of KEAC is to provide expert advice on environment matters relating to the City of Kalamunda; that KEAC's impact will depend on the competence and strength of that advice. KEAC is free to initiate advice and members are free to initiate discussion items by placing them on the agenda. When KEAC resolves to put recommendations to Council, they are accompanied by a supporting paper from staff and Council is obliged to consider those recommendations.

5.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES – Chair

Attendance

Committee Members

Kevin Goss	Presiding Member
Victoria Laurie	Deputy Presiding Member (arrived 6:25pm)
Rupert Duckworth	Community Representative
Mark Schilling	Community Representative
Peter Forrest	Community Representative
Holly Bradley	Community Representative
Cara Sheppard	Community Representative
Maria Kelly	Community Representative
Cr Janelle Sewell	Council Delegate
Cr Brooke O'Donnell	Council Delegate

Staff

Brett Jackson	Director Asset Services (Departed at 6:32pm)
Dallas Lynch	Coordinator Natural Areas
Rod Strang	Manager Parks & Environmental Services

Brett Byfield KEAC Support Officer

Apologies
Cr Kathy Ritchie Council Delegate

7.0 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

7.1 Disclosure of Financial and Proximity Interests:

- a) Members must disclose the nature of their interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting. (Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995*)
- b) Employees must disclose the nature of their interest in reports or advice when giving the report or advice to the meeting. (Section 5.7 of the *Local Government Act 1995*)

Mark Schilling declared a proximity interest relating to Forrestfield North, as he is an employee of Perth Airport

7.2 Disclosure of Interest Affecting Impartiality

- a) Members and staff must disclose their interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting in respect of which the member or employee has given or will give advice.**

Cr Janelle Sewell declared an Interest affecting Impartiality, as her employer is the Leader of the Legislative Assembly and her job is in the local Member's office.,

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Peter Forrest relating to proposed Yule Brook Regional Park.

9.0 INTRODUCTION AND PROGRESS ON KEY ITEMS FROM LAST KEAC TERM

9.1 Local Environment Strategy Background

City Officer to present progress of the implementation of LES. The document is available from the City website for prior reading.

Discussion

KEAC had a significant role in the development of the Local Environment Strategy. It was developed to avoid jargon, to be an educational tool in casual settings. Stephen Castledine provided artwork for the LES. The LES is drawn from meticulous work completed by Staff, involving a number of workshops, surveys, and advice.

While engaging the Kalamunda community, and speaking of the positives in environmental management, a significant part of the LES is the commitments in the document's latter pages, that are actionable by the City and KEAC.

Members offered several suggestions to better promote the LES:

- a Facebook campaign advertising the LES, piece by piece.
- Advertise in chunks through the City's social media page.
- A portion of Community News pages is devoted to a part of LES.
- A presentation to Councillors.

It was also suggested that reporting live on the actions of the LES could be completed through the City's GIS.

Action

KEAC is highly satisfied with the LES document, and the contribution of Victoria Laurie and staff on the development of the document. Members agreed that Victoria Laurie, Maria Kelly and Cr Janelle Sewell will liaise with the Manager of Public and Customer Relations for LES' promotion and to propose a communications strategy to strategically disseminate the document.

9.2 Environmental Landuse Planning Strategy (ELUPS)

A City Planning Officer was not available to speak to ELUPS. The Coordinator Natural Areas and the Chairperson of KEAC provided a brief history of ELUPS, its passing through Council, and what it represented. The Local Biodiversity Strategy review forms part of the actions of ELUPS.

The Local Biodiversity Strategy 2008 was one of the first biodiversity strategies created through WALGA. Its review is now occurring, with identifying actions from the document, and whether they were completed.

The proposed plan is for a draft revised Local Biodiversity Strategy to be presented to Council in June 2020. The review will include frameworks and instruments for implementing the strategy and recommend changes to improve implementation.

The Biodiversity Strategy is an important document for staff working in Parks, on Fire Prevention and Environmental Staff, as it provides a mechanism to protect and prioritise reserves. For fire prevention staff for example, it ensures that fire prevention crews are aware of rare vegetation that is to be preserved and worked around.

Reserves are currently being assessed as part of the Biodiversity Strategy review, with 80 reserves already assessed. The review focuses on Council managed

properties, however there is an aspect of reviewing the biodiversity on private properties, in terms of what percentage of the quality biodiversity within the City is on privately owned land.

It was noted that there is the potential for conflict between fire prevention and preservation of biodiversity, and this would need to be carefully managed.

As part of the review, a Biodiversity Strategy Working Group would be formed.

Action

Holly Bradley was nominated as the KEAC Member on the Biodiversity Strategy Working Group

9.3 Urban Forest Strategy

An update on the Urban Forest Strategy was provided to KEAC by the Coordinator Natural Areas. The history of the decision to create an Urban Forest Strategy was discussed; it was prompted in part by discussions relating to trees on private property, which led to a Council motion to create an Urban Forest Strategy. A KEAC Working Group was formed in response, with Mark Schilling convening that group.

A review of the Urban Forest Strategies already created was undertaken, with the Strategies at the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale and the City of Armadale being identified as the most relevant as both Councils have a similar ecology to the City of Kalamunda. The City of Melville had a different way in which to approach the Strategy, as they split the Strategy into a Section A and Section B. Part A relates to Public Land, Part B relates to Private Property. Part B has yet to be released.

The City of Kalamunda has a certain amount of funding available for the Strategy and have assessed applications from four consultancies for the Urban Forest Strategy. An Arborist will be separately hired to assess trees on Council land. An internal Urban Forest Strategy Working Group has been created, and it was recommended that at least one KEAC representative became part of it.

Action

That Mark Schilling and Victoria Laurie become KEAC's representatives on the Urban Forest Strategy Working Group.

9.4 Forrestfield North Update

The summary provided by the City's Strategic Planning area was noted, and it was requested that a representative from Strategic Planning attend the next meeting of KEAC to provide further information on Forrestfield North and respond to questions.

10.0 DEFINE AND PRIORITISE ACTIONS AND TASKS FOR KEAC TERM

Discussion

For the previous term of KEAC, a full plan of works was created, to identify when and where key topics would be reviewed and actioned. The Chairperson asked each member to share their ideas on what KEAC could do, that would inform a new work plan subject to future KEAC consideration.

Rod Strang – Expedite some initiatives, and if good ideas come through KEAC, he can build a business case and action the works.

Brett Byfield – Identify ways in which to use Smart Cities initiatives for the environment, in terms of using data for pattern identification and sensors to improve efficiency, reduce water usage, and put money where it is most effective.

Dallas Lynch – Concern regarding the issue fire and its emotive aspect, and how that could affect the politics of fire and potential damage to the environment from an overreaction. How can this be best managed, and how can KEAC help with education.

Cara Sheppard – KEAC could provide advice to Council on declaring a climate emergency. Identify carbon emissions in the City of Kalamunda, and how they could be reduced.

Victoria Laurie – How to enrich the natural assets in the City of Kalamunda, in particular the Zig Zag, the 'Kings Park of the Hills'. Profound asset for tourism and the environment. Landscaping and environmental design to resolve hooning and fire issues

Cr Janelle Sewell – KEAC could provide advice to Council on declaring a climate emergency motion. Developing a climate emergency plan, looking at emissions, what actions are occurring and what is achievable.

Mark Schilling – Improve and action the City's stormwater strategy, to reduce damage to the environment and improve the water quality to allow for improved environmental uses of the streams in and around Kalamunda.

Maria Kelly – A focus on urban development planning, community building and community consultation. Noted her own fire experience, and that it is an area to explore in terms of the potential clashes between the environment and fire requirements.

Kevin Goss – A focus on stronger planning policies around protection of vegetation, while allowing for the increase of residential growth

Holly Bradley – Maintaining wildlife corridors with increasing urban infill. Identifying ways in which to protect the Cockatoo population, and significant trees.

Peter Forrest – Focus on using available researchers in environmental science to further education for KEAC members and the broader community. Suggested Hans Lambers, a botanist with great understanding of the Yule Brook Creek area, be invited to present to KEAC. A priority should be identifying what is on the ground in Kalamunda, survey of vegetation, provide a State of the Environment Report.

Rupert Duckworth – Reactivation of the ELUPS discussion. Identify natural capital while balancing that natural capital against development

Cr Brooke O'Donnell – Focus on the wildlife corridor in the Welshpool area, and the potential effect of the Tonkin Highway upgrade on offsets and the environment in the area.

Action

The Chairperson to work with Staff on a draft task list for future consideration in the work plan.

11.0 FUTURE MEETINGS – Chair

Meet every quarter on a 3rd Thursday from January 2020

As this date clashes with Peter Forrest's Presidency of the Kalamunda Ratepayers Association's monthly meetings, staff will check Members' availability to change to potentially the 2nd Thursday of the month.

12.0 URGENT BUSINESS WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDING MEMBER

Climate Emergency

There have been a number of Councils throughout Australia that have declared a climate emergency motion. Creating such a motion acknowledges and brings into focus that we are in the midst of a climate emergency, while potentially allowing access to funding relating to environmental action and bringing the issue to the attention of State and Federal Governments.

It was noted that there is a petition that potentially could be submitted to Council for a Climate Emergency motion. KEAC members would like to investigate the potential for such a declaration, and how it could be used for effective action.

Yule Brook as a Regional Park

It was suggested that KEAC take a presentation from a group of botanical specialists on Yule Brook, its flora, and recognising the area as a regional park. The idea of a presentation was generally agreed to, with further liaison to take place to organise.

13.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be decided, potentially the 9 or 16 of April 2020

14.0 CLOSURE 9:02