

Heritage Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes



Meeting Name	Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) Meeting	Meeting No.	5 of 2014
Meeting Date	Wednesday 22 October 2014		
Meeting Time	10.00am		
Meeting Location	Randolph Stow Meeting Room 1 – Library		
Attendees	Cr. Tarleah Thomas (TT) Cr. Jerry Clune (JC) Susan Smith (SS) Gary Martin (GM) Ric McCracken (RM) Marilyn McLeod (MM) Paul Connolly (PC) Trudi Cornish (TC) Leigh O'Brien (LO) Elizabeth Griggs (Minutes) Lisa Sturis (LS) Rita Stinson (RS)	By Invitation	Darryl Ingvarson
		Apologies	Serena Schewtschenko (SSc) Andrea Selvey (AS) Cr. Simon Keemink Graham Alexander Tanya Henkel (TH) Jacquie Bradley (JB)
		Distribution	

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cr. Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for members unable to attend.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes were tabled as they had been presented to Council on 26 August 2014. Cr. Thomas pointed out a typing error in the previous minutes, item 4.1 "AS advised" was typed twice in the beginning of this paragraph.

3. Agenda Items

3.1 Update of Tree Register

SS advised she had separate meetings with City Officers, including the Heritage Advisor. It was decided that trees of historical significance could be included in the Municipal Inventory. However, Manager of Urban and Regional Development, Murray Connell explained that the new town planning scheme would include updated information about trees of significance. The current Tree Inventory would be reviewed and updated to include trees identified as having historical significance. Once this document is completed it will be reviewed to determine whether additional historical information would need to be added.

LS advised that the National Trust of Australia have a webpage dedicated to Significant Trees which she encouraged Committee members to view. The page can be found at www.trusttrees.org.au

3.2 Digitisation of Conservation Plans

TC advised that since the last meeting one of the library staff members had been working on this project and had completed approximately two thirds of the task. This has been proven to be worthy exercise as The Director of Creative Communities recently needed a document urgently which the Heritage Services team was then able to produce in a timely manner. TC advised that one of the part-time library heritage employees has been undertaking this task. Cr. Thomas requested a costing to date be provided.

ACTION: TC to provide cost of this process to date.

3.3 Significance Assessments

SS advised that requests for quotations to assess the objects currently stored in the Masonic Lodge Mullewa had been sent to suitably qualified people. The quotations were still to be reviewed by the assessment panel.

TT asked if the requests for quotes were from local people or others which SS advised that both local and Perth people had been approached to provide quotes.

TC gave an update on the Significance Assessment Workshop which was held on 16 October. They had 20 attendees which included local people and people across the state. This workshop provided people with guidance and practical skills, along with a template to conduct their own significance assessments. RS commented that the workshop was invaluable.

3.4 Assessment of Local Studies Collection/Disaster Plan

SS as per the request from the last meeting had requested a quote for the assessment of the Local Studies collection. A quote of \$5,621 had been received and the Committee agreed the quoted amount was to be spent on this project.

With regards to Disaster Management Plans for collections held at the Library, Community Archives and the basement of Queens Park Theatre, SS and TC had conducted some research and decided that this was project that could be undertaken by Library staff, rather than engaging a consultant. SS advised through Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) there are detailed planning phases, checklists and templates provided. TC will lead this initiative and the other Librarians will assist. This will be an interim plan until the City undergoes their next review of the CGG Recordkeeping Plan which will take place in January 2017.

3.5 Bootenal Springs

SS to provide update at next meeting.

3.6 Banners for Museums

SS has received quotes for between \$300 - \$350 each, the cost for three museums would be \$1,050. These banners are to be used for cross-promotion between the museums and to be used at events. Committee agreed to proceed with the purchase of the banners.

3.7 Mid West Museums and Heritage Brochure and DVD

At the previous meeting it was agreed that the City would take a full page in the Mid West Museums and Heritage brochure in development by Museums Australia (WA Branch). TC advised that following this meeting the community museums decided to also take out smaller, independent advertisements. The City entry therefore presents a broader welcome to the region, inviting visitors to engage with our heritage via the Geraldton Regional Library and also with key stories as showcased by our community museums. The smaller entries concentrate on practicalities, such as opening hours etc. This brochure is still in draft, as amendments are still being made. A draft copy was tabled at the meeting.

LO advised that the DVD came to fruition after discussions on how to promote the Midwest Chapter (Museums Australia, WA Branch). The Midwest Chapter sponsored this production which was produced by Chris Lewis with the Museum overseeing the content. The DVD promotes all the Chapter members of the Midwest and their collections.

Cr. Thomas asked how do we obtain a copy. LO advised once the final copy was completed that copies would be made for Midwest Chapter members which will include a copy for the library.

4. General Business

4.1 Heritage Precinct Proposal

Darryl Ingvarson was invited to the meeting to provide a presentation on the Heritage Precinct Proposal.

4.2 Rolling Stock at Walkaway

RMc advised new Railway Carriage Display Shed has been completed. The Walkaway Station Museum Inc are currently seeking in-kind support from Brookfield Rail to transport rolling stock from Perth to Walkaway.

4.3 WA Museum Collections Update

LO advised that the WA Museum had removed the Zeewijk cannon from Marine Terrace in September. The canon is in poor condition and has never received any conservation treatment. The cannon is Commonwealth property, registered in the Western Australian Museum collection and is awaiting assessment for conservation at the Conservation Department in Fremantle. The City has requested it is returned to Geraldton. LO will advise once assessment is complete whether this is possible, depending on the condition of the cannon, noting that any future display would need to be indoors

The asylum seeker vessel which came to Geraldton last April has been donated to the WA Museum. At this stage some initial assessment has been undertaken and it was identified that this item will be a costly exercise to move and conserve.

Cr. Thomas requested an update on the Museums Australia (WA Branch) conference.

LO advised that the conference was held Friday 17 and Saturday 18 October and there were 94 delegates. LO expressed her gratitude to the City of Greater Geraldton for their generosity. The Library hosted the Significance Workshop on Thursday 16 October and the City provided Queens Park Theatre for the conference. It was a great to bring some training and upskilling opportunities to the region. Feedback from attendees has been very favourable.

4.4 Astrolabe

MM brought to the Committee's attention the state of the structure supporting the Astrolabe which is located near the former Maritime Museum in the West End. The top row of bricks (ballast from the Batavia) is being affected by vandals and some of the bricks have been stolen. MM outlined Batavia Coast Maritime Heritage Association's plans which include a suggestion to relocate this structure to Batavia Park.

LO advised that if this structure was dismantled that the bricks would need to be returned to the Museum as they are registered with ANCODS.

Cr. Thomas suggested that this should be added as an agenda item for the next meeting. SS advised that the City had been approached about plans for Batavia Park but at this stage there was no outcome.

SS to follow up and provide update at the next meeting.

4.4 Greenhouse Development

PC advised that there is intensive greenhouse development proposed on Lot 31 Brand Highway Greenough, which is on the Greenough Flats. The development would have direct impact on the remains of McNeece's cottage, which would be removed to allow the full development as proposed to go ahead.

Members of the HAC expressed their concerns about the development which could set a precedent for future applications on the Greenough Flats.

GM requested that the Committee make a recommendation to Council to extend the Greenough Precinct Boundary from the beginning of the flats and as far south as the City boundary.

Cr. Clune advised that Council hadn't made any decisions in relation to this matter. Cr. Thomas asked if we could have an update for any information they have in relation to this.

Cr. Clune recommended that the Committee submits a letter expressing concerns about the development

Action: SS to prepare letter on behalf of HAC about the application. Submissions close 5pm Tuesday 28 October.

4.5 Interpretative Signage – Original Railway Station

The City has received a donation from John Purcell and the late Len Purcell of a nameplate and builders plate from the *Geraldton* locomotive. These items are significant historical items with regard to the history of the Midland Railway Company and will be displayed in the original Railway Station building along with an interpretive sign.

4.6 Interpretative Signage – Esplanade

SS advised that work for the interpretive signage at the Esplanade was in progress. Perth based, Creative Spaces are designing the signs which should be installed by late November.

4.7 Heritage Week 2015

TC advised that the dates for Heritage Week 2015 will be Saturday 11 April to – Sunday 19 April. TC noted that an article had been published in the State Heritage Council September newsletter, *Heritage Matters*, highlighting the award bestowed on the City as 2014 winners of the Local Government category. TC also advised that the CGG Heritage Awards 2014 Booklet was in the last stages of completion and tabled copies for the Committee's consideration. The Committee was happy with the draft and agreed these should be forwarded to Corporate Communications.

SS and TC urged the Committee to start considering events for next year as well as cross promotional activities. Ideally, all stakeholders could aim at holding a series of events over the week.

Action: Cr. Thomas would like TC to provide details of any other events which are coming up in Geraldton or the local area. All ideas for next year's events to be sent to SS and TC.

4.8 Proposal

RS asked if the Committee would be writing a letter of support for Mr Ingvarson's proposal to gain funding towards a feasibility study for the Heritage Precinct Proposal.

Cr. Clune advised that Mr Ingvarson had already presented to Council and that his presentation will be in the minutes. LO requested that the Committee wait until the report is released before any recommendation/comment is made to Council.

Action: SS to follow up with AS to determine the progress of this proposal.

4.9 Plaque – Department of Agriculture

RS brought to the Committee's attention correspondence on behalf of Stan Gratte, which discussed accessibility concerns to a small plinth and monument in Bringo commemorating the contribution of local Subterranean Clover growers to Australian agriculture.

TC asked if perhaps this flags another issue regarding the documentation of existing small monuments and plaques in the City and commented that although this need has already been partially addressed via the Signage Audit which was conducted by the Heritage Advisor, perhaps there is future scope for the Signage Audit to be expanded to cover small plaques/monument

Action: Cr. Thomas requested this be on the agenda for the next meeting and RS to forward and electronic copy of the letter to SS.

4.10 General Business

Cr. Thomas requested that all general business items for the next meeting be sent to SS and TC prior to the meeting to allow time for research to be undertaken if required.

5. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held Thursday 11 December 2014.

Meeting closed: 11.22am