

Meeting Minutes



Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Name	Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) Meeting	Meeting No.	4 of 2014
Meeting Date	Wednesday 10 July 2014		
Meeting Time	9.30am – Tour of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Museum 10.30am – Meeting begins		
Meeting Location	Council Chambers, Mullewa District Office		
Attendees	Cr. Tarleah Thomas (TT) Cr. Jerry Clune (JC) Susan Smith (SS) Gary Martin (GM) Ric McCracken (RM) Paul Connolly (PC) Graham Alexander (GA) Serena Schewtschenko (SSc) Trudi Cornish (TC) Tanya Henkel (TH) Andrea Selvey (AS) – via video conference Leigh O'Brien (LO) Elizabeth Griggs (Minutes)	By Invitation	
		Apologies	Cr. Simon Keemink (SK) Lisa Sturis (LS) Rita Stinson (RS) Marilyn McLeod (MM) Jacqui Bradley (JB)
		Distribution	

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cr Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting and Andrea via video conference.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved: Gary Martin Seconded: Cr. Jerry Clune

3. Agenda Items

3.1 Central Greenough Road Board Building Update (SS)

SS advised this has been discussed at other meetings. Letter of agreement between the City of Greater Geraldton and the Anglican Diocese of NW Australia has now expired. It has been suggested in past meetings that this space could be used for exhibitions. SS and Chris Budhan went for a viewing Wednesday 9 July and advised they are not sure there is any value or use due to the lack of power to the building.

GM made the recommendation that under these circumstances to not renew the agreement and AS made comment that as we have limited resources that we focus our efforts on current projects associated with the Heritage Strategy.

TH advised that the building is also limited due to its size. Both Dongara and Northampton have similar buildings which have power and are closer to town.

SS put to the committee that she write to the Anglican Diocese of NW Australia to advise that we would no longer be entering the agreement. Committee agreed to let the agreement lapse with a clause that we could perhaps use at a later date.

AS suggested we discussed this with the Asset Management team and put it on the radar every few years to put it on the register to be reviewed so that it doesn't fall into disrepair to at least make sure the building is preserved even if we aren't using it.

3.2 Heritage Strategy – Costed/Timed Items Budget Discussion

SS pointed the Committee to the budget and gave a brief overview of the big ticket items for the Heritage area. The budget has changed considerably from last year.

AS pointed out that a lot of the areas that had once been captured under the Heritage budget are now under Capital Renewal. Some of these items include upgrades and new investment such as the Walkaway Station Museum Precinct, planning of archival storage facility, Railway Station project, CCTV at the HMAS Sydney Memorial, West End project and the Art Gallery. The capital budget for the Heritage area value of \$0 is not a true reflection as these are covered in other areas of the budget.

SS advised that the Esplanade Interpretive signage is also included within that budget.

Item 1.6 – Review and identify places of heritage significance not already included in the Municipal Inventory

TC tabled the "Geraldton Tree Preservation Inventory", July 2010 and asked if updating of this report might be considered. TC noted that important trees previously in the Shire of Greenough (Dr Foley's Olive Tree and the Leaning Tree) are not mentioned in this Inventory. SSc advised this document was being phased out and being incorporated in another document.

PC made comment that if the building is State listed, doesn't that generally include the area surrounding? SSc advised that yes usually, but this might not necessarily get included in the inventory.

AS requested if it was possible for the Heritage team to address this action as an Inventory for heritage interest and then see how it can align with the Municipal Inventory.

SSc advised the current Tree Inventory has nothing other than basic information on each tree and it is a matter of identifying each tree and what status it is given.

AS commented that the document in its current form has very little value so for this item to progress, we should look at what would be of value so that it could for be included in the Municipal Inventory in the future.

ACTION: SS and SSc to investigate cost and review.

Item 2.6.1 - Conservation Management Plans

TC suggested that this budget item might allow for the digitisation of Conservation Management Plans in the City's collection. TH prepared a comprehensive list of Plans held at the City in 2012. Many of these are now available digitally. However, at least 20 are still only available in paper form.

TC suggested it should cost approximately \$500 to employ a casual clerical officer to complete this task and make the reports available online. TH commented that she thought this would be a good investment. Committee agreed to this being included in the budget.

ACTION: TC to follow-up with digitisation and uploading to Heritage webpages.

Another part to be included in the budget would be the review of older conservation plans. TH advised that the City owned Museum buildings were completed recently and that we should set aside some money to review other existing conservation plans.

LO asked if the process would be to prioritise the most out-of-date plans first. The Committee agreed. It was agreed that the Masonic Hall in Mullewa should be a priority.

LO advised that it was very important that the City stop collecting items in the Masonic Hall and that what is in there currently needs to be reviewed and sorted. LO asked if anyone knew if there was an official group responsible.

AS asked if a small amount of money was put aside to progress this as a project, it might be catalyst to form some heritage society or group in Mullewa. Cr. Thomas suggested putting this out in the Community to see if it attracts any attention.

TH advised she had visited the building in April, and was amazed at the assortment of items. If the items were presented it would be an amazing place for visitors.

TH suggested perhaps getting some quotes from qualified experienced people to sort the items in the first instance to do the initial assessment and possibly apply for a grant with Lotterywest for further works.

ACTION: SS to source quotes for Significance Assessment of the Mullewa Masonic Hall collection.

Item 2.8 – Improve Collection Management Facilities

TC advised the City has a Records Keeping Disaster Management Plan but this has not included offsite Library storage (Community archives collection and the Civic collection in the QPT). TC noted that the Plan is not due for review till 2017 and asked whether an interim plan might be considered.

TH advised that it's essential that these collections are included before something happens and it's too late.

SS advised that the Library had conducted an evaluation of the Library collection (items stored at the Library itself) a few years ago and this possibly also needs re-evaluation to capture new items now part of the collection.

Cr. Thomas asked at how much should be put aside for this project. TC and SS advised they weren't sure of exact cost. However, suggested that \$4,000 be allocated to this job.

ACTION: TC and SS to collect quotes for an Interim Plan that includes both internal and external Library collections for consideration by the Committee.

Item 3.1.1 – Ensure that all three Community Museums Meet National Standards

SS advised that the City is funding a Significance Assessment Workshop as part of Museums Australia WA Regional State Conference 2014 which is being held in Geraldton. Cost to deliver this training would be approximately \$800.

Committee advised they are happy for this to be included in the budget.

Item 4.1.3 – Open Days and Guided Tours

TC suggested that during Heritage Week 2015 a bus could be organised to take community members on tours between the three Community Museums.

GM agreed that getting local residents out to visit their local tourist attractions would be great for the community and anything to encourage this should be welcomed.

LO advised that Heritage Week will coincide with Heritage Month in 2015 and this could be incorporated in all marketing to encourage Heritage Week and Festival. This approach was taken in 2013 and 2014.

AS thought that it might be a good event to partner to attract some corporate funding for Heritage Week and Festival. TC and SS advised they had only costed \$1,000 for the bus but could put a strategy together to come up with some more ideas for the month.

GM questioned would there be any value to the museum representatives meeting on a more regular basis and putting on events and having joint programs.

LO advised that Mid West Chapter meets every 6 months and there is a fair bit of communication of the museum representatives in general.

GM suggested that perhaps when planning for Heritage Week 2015 they could meet more frequently and form a Sub-Committee.

Cr. Thomas asked if a Sub-Committee should be formed.

AS thought it would be a good idea if the key players at the Museums could get together and then report back to the Heritage Advisory Committee.

RM agreed that there was a fair degree of mutual corresponding and if the City wanted to know what was being planned this would be the correct forum.

AS suggested that an update from this correspondence could become a regular HAC agenda item.

SS suggested before Heritage Week we could organise more formal meetings.

SS asked the Committee if they would agree to retain \$5,000 for the 2015 CGG Heritage Awards. The Committee agreed that this should go forward.

Item 5.5 – Investigate Places of Significance for Aboriginal people

SS advised that this Project was in process last year, but was put on hold due to the Indigenous Cultural Development Officer at the City resigning. This position has now been filled so plans can begin again.

TC suggested that the next title in the Mid West Heritage Series might cover the Aboriginal history of the area, sites of significance, place names and perhaps some dreaming stories. There is potential for linking this with Item 5.5.1 in the Heritage Strategy which seeks to “Investigate other opportunities for interpreting and promoting Aboriginal heritage through consultation and possible cultural mapping”.

AS advised that she had recently met up with DAA and they have access to \$20k funding but only Aboriginal groups can apply for it this. AS suggested perhaps an application for funding by an Aboriginal group could be supported by the HAC.

LO advised this would be a long process and noted that consultation would be the key to success but that something needs to be done.

It was noted that the Bootenal Springs Interpretation site was in a very sad state, and that it is quite neglected. TH advised that she believed a Trail Head was needed and also some clearing of vegetation on site.

GM commented that the initial interpretative sign could perhaps be replaced with an aerial sign. This could be a simple solution to the issue.

ACTION: SS advised a quote would be sourced to replace the sign and clean-up works would also be investigated.

SS requested some of the budget be put aside for promotional material eg. Roll-up banners for the Community Museums, for the Library and Civic Centre.

LO asked what the banners would say.

GM advised they could be standard banners with general heritage information promoting the three Community Museums etc.

The Committee advised they were happy for this to be investigated.

ACTION: SS advised a quote would be sourced for graphics and signage.

SS advised Museums Australia WA had presented the opportunity to advertise in their brochures for the Mid West. These would be part of a series of brochures located in different areas.

LO advised that she sat on the Committee for Museums Australia WA and that the brochures produced would be located in Visitor’s Centres across the State.

SS advised that the cost for a full-page advertisement would be \$400.

Committee agreed this is a good idea and advised to proceed.

4. General Business

- 4.1 AS advised AS advised she had met recently with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. A letter was received from Amangu People wanting to be more engaged in terms of how City projects might impact on Aboriginal heritage. AS said it was important we align our processes.
- 4.2 Cr. Clune mentioned that he had attended the launch of “Geraldton’s Story” by Stan Gratte at the Geraldton Regional Library on the 18 June and it was very well patronised.

5. Next Meeting

Monday 22 September.

Meeting closed: 12.17pm