

Heritage Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) Meeting	Meeting No.	1 of 2015
Meeting Date	Thursday 26 February 2015		
Meeting Time	10.00am		
Meeting Location	Geraldton Regional Library, Randolph Stow Rooms 1 & 2		
Attendees	Cr. Tarleah Thomas (TT) teleconference from Mullewa Cr. Jerry Clune (JC) (Chair) Susan Smith (SS) Ric McCracken (RM) Gary Martin (GM) Rita Stinson (RS) Trudi Cornish (TC) Tanya Henkel (TH) Marilyn McLeod (MM) Paul Connolly (PC) Serena Schewtschenko (SSc) Elizabeth Griggs (EG), Minutes	By Invitation	
		Apologies	Lisa Sturis (LS) Andrea Selvey (AS) Cr. Simon Keemink (SK) Leigh O'Brien (LO) Graham Alexander (GA)
		Distribution	

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cr. Clune welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised Cr. Thomas was attending the meeting via teleconference and in Cr. Thomas's absence he would be chairing the meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

SS advised that a late comment had been received from Leigh O'Brien (LO). A representative from the Department of Maritime Archaeology at the WA Museum suggested that the term 'astrolabe' in the minutes may need to be more clearly defined as the 'replica astrolabe and wishing well comprised of Batavia ballast bricks'. LO did not attend the meeting, so will defer to the Committee as to how best to make this clear for the record and future reference.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Heritage Advisory Meeting held on 12 December 2014 as previously circulated, be adopted with these minor changes, as a true and correct record of proceedings.

3. Agenda Items

3.1 Batavia Park Proposal / Astrolabe Refurbishment (SS)

SS met with Howard Gray to discuss the possible removal of the Astrolabe and the dismantling of the wishing well. Leigh O'Brien was unable to attend the meeting.

Two letters have been sent to BCMHA – one with the recommendation from HAC following the presentation, the other outlining points discussed during the meeting between H. Gray and S. Smith

Further direction was received from WA Museum Department of Marine Archaeology stating that any relocation of the bricks would need to be closely monitored by WA Museum staff on site. SS was advised that she would receive a letter from WA Museum.

Since then SS has learned that BSMHA have “stabilised” the structure.

3.2. Heritage Strategy Items:

Museum Banners (SS)

SS presented cross promotional banners to each of the museums. A fourth banner will be displayed in the library as well as at the Visitor’s Centre on occasion.

Budget (SS)

\$78,000 has been committed to date with some surplus. One of the prioritised actions in the strategy was to ensure conservation plans were up to date. Walkaway Public Hall does not yet have a conservation plan and TH suggested this should be a priority.

Owner Education (SS/SSc)

SS advised one of the actions in our strategy was to develop education and awareness programmes. SSc provided an example of what can happen if the owners of heritage listed property are not aware of the correct guidelines and processes to follow. SS suggested an education session for owners and for Council staff to check the Municipal Inventory and suggested those departments could work together.

Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan (TC)

TC advised that item 2.8 in the Heritage strategy plan is to improve collection management facilities and support the professional management of these assets. Robert Muir has conducted a review of the Local Studies Collection on the 30th January – 3rd February. In conjunction with this the Heritage services team has been working on a Disaster Preparedness and Recovery plan. This detailed list covers the collection at the Library, items in storage at the Royal Wolf facility and items in the basement of the QPT. The Robert Muir report is available for viewing at D-15-10413.

TH noted that the report included conservation suggestions.

JC advised there are plans to make a storage facility for the City on the City wish list.

Heritage Week (TC)

TC advised that the program of events was close to completion, including the CGG Heritage Awards Presentation Evening, Red Cross book presentation morning, Tenindewa School Site Interpretation signage launch, Batavia Coast Veteran and Classic Car Club Show and Oral History morning at the Library.

SS has organised a Heritage bus tour in conjunction with the three Community Museums

TC advised throughout the week the Heritage team also plan daily postings of various images from town, Mullewa and Greenough. There will also be displays at the library and Mullewa of the award recipients.

SS advised that Bill Bunbury has been booked to be a speaker for the awards evening.

3.3. WA Heritage Awards (SS)

SS advised the City had submitted three entries into the West Australian Heritage Awards, one in partnership with Geraldton Building Services and Cabinets. All the entries were associated with the restoration of the original Railway Station Building..

3.4. CGG Heritage Awards (TC)

TC tabled the CGG Heritage Awards Nomination flyer which is available at locations throughout the City and via the Library website (document located at D-15-87146). Entries close on the 16th of March. LS has offered to participate again on the judging panel. The Committee agreed that Cr. Thomas, Cr. Clune, Cr. Keemink and LS would be on the judging panel for the heritage awards.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Date to be decided for judging to take place and once date is scheduled LS could organise to attend the meeting.

3.5. Interpretative Signage

Esplanade (SS)

An update on progress for Interpretive Signage at the Esplanade was provided. Artwork and fabrication of signs has been signed off, telescopes are to be ordered. Recordings for audio unit are underway.

Bootenal (SS)

SS visited the site with a Graphic Designer and the sign is in the planning stages.

Kembla Zoo, Mullewa (SS)

Proposed wording for a plaque has been provided to Mrs Reynolds for comment and feedback.

ACTION:

SS to follow up with Mrs Reynolds

Point Moore (TC)

TC advised that a Councillor Helpdesk item from Cr. Tanti had been received in November in relation to the deteriorating condition of interpretative signage at Point Moore. Prior to receiving this item, and following consultation with the CGG Heritage Advisor, this signage had already been moved from moderate to high priority on the Signage Audit list. This project is being reworked with the assistance of the BCMHA and it is anticipated to be installed in early April.

Tenindewa Progress Association (TC)

TC advised that the Tenindewa Progress Association received a Community Grant from the City for the construction of a Picnic Shelter which replicates the old Tenindewa School. The building is to be physically on the footprint of where the school once was. Heritage Services are assisting with the production of interpretative signage for this site.

The TPA have also applied for another Community Grant which will enable them to share the research on Tenindewa that has been collected.

3.6 Bootenal and Narra Tarra Cemetery Upgrades and Maintenance (RM)

RM advised that the City needs to commit funds to Bootenal and Narra Tarra Cemeteries. There is a need to survey former grave sites at Bootenal as a recent burial there has raised the issue of locating unmarked graves.

SSc raised the issue of public access to both of these sites.

RM commented that Narra Tarra Cemetery would benefit from interpretive signage following the completion of the restoration of the site.

RM advised that the road to the cemetery is actually a firebreak however there is a gazetted road. RM suggested that we move the gazetted road to where the firebreak is.

Committee Recommendation:

The Committee is to make a recommendation to Council to commence negotiations with the owner to investigate if moving the gazetted road is an option.

3.7 Greenough Cemetery Headstone (GM)

GM presented some images of the disrepair to the cemetery and some of the headstones. TH questioned whether these headstones were the same ones previously restored with Lotterywest funding. If so, the quality of the previous restoration was not acceptable.

Committee Recommendation:

The Committee is to make a recommendation to the City to seek funding to repair the headstones and railings.

3.8 Community Museums Curatorial Grants (GM)

GM brought to the Committee's attention that these grants were due to expire at the end of this financial year and would like the Committee to recommend these are in place to further help curatorial activities. SS advised that this was one of the services which would be discussed at the forthcoming Community Summit. Council would make the final decision when the 2015/16 budget is adopted.

3.9 Future use of Drummonds Cottage (GM)

GM advised that Drummonds Cottage doesn't have a conservation plan and is a City asset.

ACTION:

Contact the Drummond's Progress Association to see if they have a use for it.

3.10 Heritage Tourism (GM)

GM asked if it was possible to have an information board available at the Leaning Tree to promote heritage tourist attractions.

SSc advised that the City doesn't encourage remote advertising, which in this instance, would also need to go through Main Roads.

3.11 Recent upgrade of the original Railway Station (JC)

JC commented that it was fantastic what the city have done but is a bit disappointed with some aspects. The old stair case disappeared and has been used for railings with no images of this at all. The upper verandah doesn't go right around, due to the inclusion of an upstairs toilet which has blocked the view. Also not overly pleased with the structure which houses the café..

TH advised that as this was state registered the restoration was driven by a conservation plan.

3.12 Monsignor Hawes Heritage Trail (JC)

JC to discuss this at the next meeting.

3.13 Proposed HAC meeting dates for 2015 (SS)

Friday 10 April in Geraldton (Serena apology) with an 8.45am start.

Other dates to be sent to all members for their input.

4. General Business

4.1 Update on Rolling Stock, Walkaway (RM)

RM provided some images of the rolling stock being delivered.

4.2 Oral History Expression of Interest (TC)

TC invited expressions of interest from the Committee with regard to being a guest presenter at one of the Library's popular monthly history mornings. TC explained that these mornings are presently run to a great extent by volunteers.

4.3 Busy Bee at Masonic Lodge Mullewa – March 27, 28 & 29

SS advised a consultant has been engaged to assess the objects currently stored in the building so that items of potential significance to the Lodge can be identified. Other items will be sorted and assessed.

The City is looking for volunteers to assist on the day. An article will be placed in the Mullewa Mail.

Cr. Thomas advised she will put it on her Councillor Facebook account and will forward a list to SS of people she would like to invite.

ACTION:

Cr. Thomas to send list to SS and SS to follow up with other volunteers.

5. Next Meeting

Friday 10 April.

Meeting closed 11.30am.