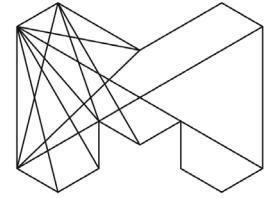


Confirmed minutes



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Future Melbourne Committee Minutes

**Meeting Number 52
Tuesday 21 March 2023
6.00pm**

Meat Market (Flat Floor Pavilion), North Melbourne

Present

Lord Mayor Sally Capp (Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece
Councillor Dr Olivia Ball
Councillor Elizabeth Doidge
Councillor Davydd Griffiths
Councillor Jamal Hakim
Councillor Rohan Leppert

Apologies

Councillor Roshena Campbell
Councillor Jason Chang
Councillor Philip Le Liu
Councillor Kevin Louey

Confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee
On Tuesday 4 April 2023

Confirmed minutes

1. Commencement of meeting and apologies

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm.

The Chair, Lord Mayor Sally Capp, advised that:

- the meeting was being streamed live and that a recording will be made available on the City of Melbourne website before close of business Wednesday, 22 March 2023. *Note that due to a technical issue that emerged during the meeting, the livestream was unable to cover the full meeting and a recording of the entire meeting may not be available in the usual manner.*
- apologies were received from Councillors Chang, Le Liu and Louey. Councillor Campbell is on a leave of absence, as a candidate in the Aston by-election.

2. Disclosures of conflicts of interest

The Lord Mayor advised that conflicts of interest should be disclosed as they arise.

3. Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting

Moved: Cr Doidge

That the minutes of meeting No 51, held on Tuesday 7 March 2023, be confirmed.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

Presentation for West Melbourne community

The Lord Mayor advised that officers were in attendance to provide an update on the West Melbourne neighbourhood, and asked the Committee to temporarily suspend the Governance Rules to allow for presentations.

Moved: Cr Dr Ball

That the Governance Rules be suspended to enable presentations from officers on the West Melbourne Neighbourhood Priorities and parking impacts.

Seconded: Cr Hakim

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

The Governance Rules were suspended at 6.05pm.

The Committee received presentations from Yaqub Hashi, Neighbourhood Partner and Kristal Maynard, Director Parking Services.

Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

That the Governance Rules be resumed.

Seconded: Cr Hakim

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

Confirmed minutes

The Governance Rules were resumed at 6.17pm.

Public questions

Extension of Public Question Time

Due to the number of public questions received, a procedural motion was considered to extend Public Question Time for 15 minutes, allowing for a total of 30 minutes.

Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

That public question time be extended for 15 minutes, allowing for a total of 30 minutes.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

Intersection of Power and Kavanagh Streets

Jannine Pattison asked the following question:

Given serious accidents continue to occur at the intersection of Power Street and Kavanagh Street, Southbank involving turning vehicles at the intersection, will the Council finally move to close access to Kavanagh Street at Power Street by vehicles? This would deliver a safer road user experience for all by removing a signalised intersection immediately after cars exit the freeway and immediately after they merge with CityLink traffic entering Power Street. Close the Kavanagh Street rat run from Southbank Boulevard by traffic wanting to enter the Westgate Freeway and the Bolte Bridge and enable the Council to create Kavanagh Street as a low traffic neighbourhood with road space reclaimed as open space. With accidents becoming a weekly occurrence at this intersection when will the Council act to deliver a safe traffic engineering outcome that is within its road network?

The Lord Mayor, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations Portfolio Lead thanked Jannine for the question and advised that Council would take the question on notice and a response would be provided after the meeting.

Safe injecting room

Cr Dr Ball summarised a written question received from Julie Fong:

We have been operating our small business in the CBD for 24 years. We have survived COVID and are now working hard to try and build our business up again. We are worried about the proposal of a safe injecting room in the CBD. We are strongly against it. We would like to know the City of Melbourne Council's view. In our opinion a safe injecting room will devastate the City of Melbourne. The city is in a very bad way as it is with empty shops everywhere, homelessness and drug use. Nobody will want to visit the CBD if a safe injecting room opens up. Please oppose the safe injecting room and push for a definite answer as soon as possible from the government.

Cr Dr Ball, Health, Wellbeing and Belonging Portfolio Lead thanked Julie for the question and advised that it is on the record that the majority of Councillors in the current Council do support a safe injecting room for the municipality. Cr Dr Ball noted that it is a state government project, and Council does not have the power to refuse it, should the state government decide to open a supervised injecting room. Cr Dr Ball advised that Council does however have the power to advocate to government and is indeed advocating for the opening of a safe injecting room.

Cr Dr Ball further advised that there is no evidence to suggest that the city will be devastated by this and noted the advice from experts which suggests that a supervised injecting facility is required, as the CBD has the second highest level of drug harm in Victoria. Cr Dr Ball further advised that the harm that exists must be addressed and the harm that flows on to any businesses such as Ms Fong's should be addressed by bringing injecting indoors.

C o n f i r m e d m i n u t e s

Wood fire smoke policy

Jan Lacey submitted the following written question:

There is abundant evidence that smoke from wood heaters is dangerous to health. The EPA's website advises those suffering from the effects of smoke to contact their local council. Councils have powers under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 to require the owner of the property to eliminate the nuisance. I have contacted council about two wood fires near me that burn throughout winter. I was initially ignored. Council officers have the power to investigate complaints, however there was no offer by the branch to investigate. Even when I lock myself away behind closed doors and windows smokes seeps in, and given that I have compromised lungs, that is dangerous to my health. What I am seeking from Council is a commitment to develop a policy for dealing with complaints about wood fires so that when they are received Council will have the ability to act quickly to alleviate the pernicious effects of this smoke.

Cr Dr Ball, Health, Wellbeing and Belonging Portfolio Lead thanked Jan for the question and advised that further to previous correspondence with Ms Lacey in August 2022, there is no provision for Council to prevent the use of burning wood in indoor fireplaces or outdoor wood fire set-ups such as fire pits and chimneys. Cr Dr Ball further advised that under Council's Environmental Local Law 2019, it is only a prohibited activity to incinerate waste material in the open on any premises.

Cr Dr Ball advised that Council's authorised officers have powers under the nuisance provisions of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* to investigate such complaints about wood smoke, and as part of their investigation officers would determine if the persons conducting the activity (the wood burning) are aware of the correct timbers to use, ensuring wood heaters are properly installed/maintained/used and are aware of any impacts on their neighbours. Cr Dr Ball further advised that under these provisions of the Act, if nuisance is established, Council can direct the owner of a property or the person causing the nuisance to take all reasonable steps to eliminate the nuisance.

Council (Pride Committee) response to recent events

Corey Johnstone submitted the following written question:

Will Council issue a public statement condemning transphobia and supporting trans and gender diverse Melburnians across its social media platforms?

Cr Dr Ball, Health, Wellbeing and Belonging Portfolio Lead thanked Corey for the question and advised that City of Melbourne has made a commitment through the 10-year Inclusive Melbourne Strategy to amplify the voices of people who experience discrimination and persistent barriers to participation, including the LGBTQIA+ community. Cr Dr Ball advised that this includes actions to ensure Council services and programs are accessible, inclusive and welcoming for everyone, as well as ensuring Council hears from and listens to the diverse communities. Cr Dr Ball reaffirmed that all Melburnians, no matter how they identify or where they come from – deserve to feel safe, supported, and equal.

Dale Park submitted the following written question:

What action is Council taking under its Local Laws to respond to the weekend's events and what actions have Council's Pride Committee taken in response?

Cr Dr Ball, Health, Wellbeing and Belonging Portfolio Lead thanked Dale for the question and advised that Council's Local Laws team works with Victoria Police to assess protests and respond to dynamic situations as they unfold. Cr Dr Ball advised that the Pride Committee, as an employee network, has reached out to all employees through the Acting Chief Executive Officer to reiterate Council's support for transgender community members and the broader LGBTQIA+ community and to share the support available should a team member have concerns for their safety and wellbeing.

Daisy Brenecki submitted the following written question:

Will Council commit to establishing an LGBTQIA+ advisory Committee to make the city safer for LGBTQIA+ people, noting the petition that was tabled at the last Future Melbourne Committee meeting?

Confirmed minutes

Cr Dr Ball, Health, Wellbeing and Belonging Portfolio Lead thanked Daisy for the question and advised that Council's position has been previously considered through a Notice of Motion on 15 March 2022, and a Briefing to Councillors on 13 July 2022. Cr Dr Ball advised that a further briefing is being prepared that responds to the petition noting that the City of Melbourne engages and seeks representation of LGBTQIA+ communities in the development and delivery of its services, policies and processes.

Cr Dr Ball noted that Council seeks to engage with its diverse communities, including LGBTQIA+ stakeholders, through a range of approaches, to ensure their voice, aspirations and needs continue to be built into Council's work, which includes targeted community engagement, co-creation opportunities, focus groups, pop-ups and surveys. Cr Dr Ball stated that Council's website includes detailed information on how Council manages LGBTQIA+ inclusion in the workplace; the ways Council publicly demonstrates its support for LGBTQIA+ community priorities; and activities that support inclusion in Council services. Cr Dr Ball advised that the City of Melbourne will continue to proactively engage the LGBTQIA+ community through an intersectional, integrated and data-led approach.

Martin Wong submitted the following written question:

Will Council commit to holding a public meeting with LGBTQIA+ community organisations in the next month to determine actions that can be taken to make the city safer for LGBTQIA+ people?

Cr Dr Ball, Health, Wellbeing and Belonging Portfolio Lead thanked Martin for the question and advised that Council will not be progressing a separate meeting at this time, but will continue to engage with LGBTQIA+ stakeholders to ensure their voice, aspirations and needs continue to be represented and incorporated into Council's work as outlined above.

Recycling Programs

Jan Lacey submitted the following written question:

Does City of Melbourne support recycling programs by purchasing goods made from recycled materials? For example, street furniture is available that is made from recycled products.

Cr Leppert, Environment Portfolio Lead thanked Jan for the question and advised that the City of Melbourne supports the procurement of recycled content products through City of Melbourne's Sustainable Procurement Policy and procurement framework. Cr Leppert advised that the City of Melbourne purchases products and civil materials made from recycled materials, and recent examples includes roads containing recycled soft plastics and glass, and bike lanes containing post-consumer recycled glass. Cr Leppert reaffirmed Council's commitment to reducing waste and supporting a circular economy by prioritising the purchase of sustainable and recycled products and materials.

Councillor International Travel

Chris Thrum asked the following question:

On 16 March 2023 the Herald Sun published an article by John Masanauskas entitled "City of Melbourne's Singapore to Seattle post-COVID travel spree". Is it important to the economic success of Melbourne that City of Melbourne Councillors travel overseas?

Cr Hakim thanked Chris for the question and advised that the City of Melbourne is a globally-connected capital city and Councillors are responsible for policy making on behalf of the community which includes the goal of promoting economic growth and development in the city. Cr Hakim advised that international travel plays an important role in achieving this goal by providing opportunities to establish and strengthen networks with overseas cities and organisations, promote Melbourne as a modern global city and attract investment, international students and visitors. Cr Hakim noted that while undertaking targeted international trips, Councillors have a unique civic leadership role that facilitates connections with their international counterparts and key decision makers, which can be leveraged to create business opportunities for Melbourne companies and industries. Cr Hakim further noted that through learning and sharing best practices with our partner cities in a range of industry sectors, knowledge gained is adopted and refined to suit Melbourne's purposes, benefitting the city's economy.

Confirmed minutes

Space Program

Chris Thrum asked the following question:

When Astronauts return to the Moon with the NASA Artemis project, they will be wearing Axiom Space's next generation spacesuit to walk on the lunar surface. The return on investment with NASA and Axiom Space for future Moon missions and beyond should be considered by City of Melbourne. In conjunction with the State Government of Victoria, could City of Melbourne consider contacting NASA and Axiom Space to see how we could support and invest in the Artemis Space project, and Axiom Space?

Cr Hakim thanked Chris for the question and advised that the City of Melbourne, through its Invest Melbourne branch, and in conjunction with local and overseas in-market colleagues in the Victorian Government, is supporting innovative businesses to start-up in the city. Cr Hakim advised that Council is currently working with a business that already has established links with NASA called the Gaia Project, which is a vertical farming enterprise that Invest Melbourne has supported to commence their operations in Docklands. Cr Hakim further advised that the Gaia Project is engaged in with NASA's Deep Space Food Challenge to provide viable food options for space travel, and are also exploring commercial farming applications for their technology. Cr Hakim advised that Invest Melbourne's Chief Executive Officer, will engage with our colleagues, Axiom Space and NASA to see what opportunities may exist for investment in the City of Melbourne.

At this point in the meeting the time for consideration of questions expired and resumed at the end of the meeting.

5. Reports from management

The Lord Mayor advised that the following submissions had been received.

Submissions/Correspondence

In relation to Agenda item 6.1, **Planning Permit Application: TP-2022-438 183-187 Grattan Street and 166-176 Bouverie Street, Carlton:**

Requests to speak:

- Ian Davidoff, Journal Student Living
- Vaughan Connor, Contour.

Items of Correspondence:

- Ian Davidoff
- Vaughan Connor.

In relation to Agenda item 6.2, **Review of Licensed Premises local planning policy:**

Items of Correspondence:

- Assaf Dekel
- Joanne Bacon.

In relation to Agenda item 6.4, **Draft Parking and Kerbside Management Plan:**

Requests to speak:

- Damien Codognotto OAM, Spokesperson, The Motorcycle Riders Association Australia (via Zoom)
- Dr Gary Au, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Monash Institute of Transport Studies
- David Hamilton, President, Southbank3006.

Items of Correspondence:

- Damien Codognotto
- Dr Gary Au
- David Hamilton
- Greg Bisinella, President, East Melbourne Group.

C o n f i r m e d m i n u t e s

In relation to Agenda item 6.6, **Southbank Temporary Play Court Options:**

Requests to speak:

- Jannine Pattison, Southbank3006
- Tony Penna, President, Southbank Residents Association.

Items of Correspondence:

- Jannine Pattison
- Tony Penna, President, Southbank Residents Association.

In relation to Agenda item 7.1, **Notice of Motion, Lord Mayor Sally Capp: An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament:**

Requests to speak:

- Chris Thrum.

Items of Correspondence:

- Chris Thrum.

Planning Section

6.1 Planning Permit Application: TP-2022-438 183-187 Grattan Street and 166-176 Bouverie Street, Carlton

The Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece assumed the role of Chair for the Committee to consider one report from management where Council exercises its responsibilities under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece declared a Material conflict of interest in this matter pursuant to section 128(3)(d) of the *Local Government Act 2020* due to his employment by University of Melbourne, who is affected by the proposal, and left the meeting at 6.43pm prior to discussion taking place.

Cr Leppert, as Deputy City Planning Portfolio Lead, assumed the Chair.

The purpose of this report was to advise the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) of a Planning Permit application seeking approval for the partial demolition of the building at 166-170 Bouverie Street, the demolition of other buildings, and the construction of a fifteen storey student housing building and three retail premises at 183-187 Grattan Street and 166-176 Bouverie Street, Carlton.

The following people addressed the Committee:

- Ian Davidoff, Journal Student Living
- Vaughan Connor, Contour.

Adjournment of meeting

Due to technical difficulties with the meeting audio, a procedural motion was considered to adjourn the meeting to address the issue.

Moved: Cr Leppert

That the meeting be adjourned to address technical difficulties.

Seconded: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.04pm.

C o n f i r m e d m i n u t e s

Resumption of meeting

The meeting resumed at 7.07pm with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

Moved: Cr Leppert

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit subject to the conditions set out in the delegate report (refer to Attachment 4 of the report from management), subject to the following changes to the conditions:*
 - 1.1. *In Condition 1, delete the words “and bulk excavation”;*
 - 1.2. *In Condition 21, replace the words “development, including demolition and bulk excavation”, with the word “use”.*
 - 1.3. *Add new Condition 5 to read “Except with the consent of the Responsible Authority Jackson Clements Burrows Architects must be retained to complete and provide architectural oversight during construction of the detailed design as shown in the endorsed plans and endorsed schedule of materials to the satisfaction of Responsible Authority.”*
 - 1.4. *Renumber existing Condition 5 and subsequent Conditions as appropriate.*

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

The Deputy Lord Mayor returned to the meeting at 7.08pm.

The Lord Mayor Sally Capp assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

6.2 Review of Licensed Premises local planning policy

The purpose of this report was to respond to a resolution of Council made on 13 December 2022, which requested a report from management to provide an opinion on whether the Melbourne Planning Scheme requires an amendment in relation to planning permissions for licensed premises.

Adjournment of meeting

Due to technical difficulties with the meeting audio, a procedural motion was considered to adjourn the meeting to address the issue.

Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

That the meeting be adjourned to address technical difficulties.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.09pm.

Resumption of meeting

The meeting resumed at 7.19pm, without live streaming or online participation, with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

Confirmed minutes

Moved: Cr Leppert

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee requests that management:*
 - 1.1. *Pursues the changes to the Melbourne Planning Scheme itemised at clause 5 of the management report, the preferred vehicle for which is a planning scheme amendment made by the Minister under section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987;*
 - 1.2. *Requests that the Minister facilitate these necessary changes to the planning framework by 30 June 2023, noting that this timeline was set by the State Government when it undertook to let the late night liquor licence freeze expire;*
 - 1.3. *Briefs Councillors on the form of the amendments being requested of the Minister for Planning by the end of March 2023 (as known at that time), and brief councillors on progress thereafter, noting Council's expectation that these amendments to the Melbourne Planning Scheme will be made by 30 June 2023;*
 - 1.4. *Monitors the impact of the cessation of the freeze on late night liquor licenses on the volume of applications, amenity, and the performance of Council's policy, presenting a report to councillors or this Committee (as appropriate) after 30 June 2024; and*
 - 1.5. *Writes to the Department of Transport and Planning and Liquor Control Victoria requesting information regarding justification for the removal of the freeze, and any changes they considered making to the regulatory framework, including the planning framework, in anticipation of the removal of the freeze.*

Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

6.3 Neighbourhood Model – Progressing the Priorities (MI 37)

The purpose of this report was to brief Council on current progress and seek endorsement of the next steps to further the implementation of the Neighbourhood Model (Major Initiative 37 of the Council Plan).

Moved: Cr Dr Ball

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee requests that management:*
 - 1.1. *Progresses the neighbourhood priorities through embedding the Neighbourhood Model into council planning and budget processes, enabling community led initiatives and embedding the priorities into partnership and advocacy strategies.*
 - 1.2. *Builds community awareness and understanding about the Neighbourhood Model through a targeted communications campaign, activating the neighbourhood portals and embedding the Neighbourhood Model into communications approaches at the City of Melbourne.*
 - 1.3. *Tracks and measure progress through development of a research partnership, roll out Knowledge Bank tools and undertake an interim review with community to refresh baseline data.*
 - 1.4. *Reports back by March 2024 to update the Future Melbourne Committee on proposed short and medium term actions.*

Seconded: Cr Hakim

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

C o n f i r m e d m i n u t e s

6.4 Draft Parking and Kerbside Management Plan

The purpose of this report was to seek endorsement of the draft Parking and Kerbside Management Plan for public consultation.

The following people addressed the Committee:

- Ed Lagzdin on behalf of Damien Codognotto OAM, Spokesperson, The Motorcycle Riders Association Australia
- Dr Gary Au, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Monash Institute of Transport Studies
- David Hamilton, President, Southbank3006.

Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee:*

- 1.1. *Endorses the draft Parking and Kerbside Management Plan for public consultation.*
- 1.2. *Authorises the General Manager Community and City Services to make any further minor editorial changes to the draft Plan.*

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

6.5 MI22 Design Excellence Program

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on Major Initiative 22 - Design Excellence Program.

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee:*

- 1.1. *Notes the operation of the Design Excellence Advisory Committee (DEAC) and the pilot Melbourne Design Review Panel (MDRP) and summary reports.*
- 1.2. *Approves the ongoing MDRP program.*
- 1.3. *Endorses the updated Terms of Reference of the DEAC (Attachment 4 of the report from management) and MDRP (Attachment 6 of the report from management).*
- 1.4. *Approves an Expression of Interest for members of the MDRP.*
- 1.5. *Endorses the draft Design Competition Guidelines (Attachment 7 of the report from management) to proceed to community consultation.*
- 1.6. *Notes that performance of the MDRP and DEAC will be reviewed as required under delegation.*

Seconded: Cr Leppert

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

6.6 Southbank Temporary Play Court Options

The purpose of this report was to notify the Future Melbourne Committee of options for the provision of a temporary basketball/multi-sport court in Southbank.

The following people addressed the Committee:

- Jannine Pattison, Southbank3006
- Tony Penna, President, Southbank Residents Association.

C o n f i r m e d m i n u t e s

Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

That the Future Melbourne Committee approves the pursuit of option 4 as described in the report from management.

Seconded: Cr Griffiths

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

6.7 Funding Support Requests March 2023

The purpose of this report was to seek approval to fund requests for support from the discretionary fund.

Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

That the Future Melbourne Committee approves the sponsorship of the National Child and Youth Homelessness Conference 2023 at Marvel Stadium on 5 – 6 June 2023 to the value of \$25,000 plus GST.

Seconded: Cr Dr Ball

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

7. General business

There was one item of general business.

7.1 Notice of Motion, Lord Mayor Sally Capp: An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament:

Chris Thrum addressed the Committee.

Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee:*

- 1.1. *Re-affirms the City of Melbourne's commitment to truth-telling, reconciliation and governing with Aboriginal people, as embodied in its 'Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-23', its 2021 'Declaration of Recognition and Commitment' and Major Initiatives 23, 24 and 25 of its Council Plan;*
- 1.2. *Recognises that Australia has formally endorsed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which includes the collective right to self-determination;*
- 1.3. *Notes the Commonwealth Government's commitment to: the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, including Voice, Treaty and Truth; and to a referendum on enshrining a Voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution;*
- 1.4. *Acknowledges that there is a diversity of opinions inside and outside Aboriginal communities, in Melbourne and across the country, on the significance and timing of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament;*
- 1.5. *Affirms the City of Melbourne's support for the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, and the 'yes' campaign for the Constitutional Recognition of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament;*
- 1.6. *Commits to a program that promotes community engagement and informed debate on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament, including but not limited to; sharing of information through public meetings and opportunities for discussion, resources, speeches, social media and other communications;*

Confirmed minutes

- 1.7. *Requests that in putting together this program, management seek feedback on proposed activities from Traditional Owner and Aboriginal community organisations.*

Seconded: Cr Dr Ball

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillors Dr Ball, Doidge, Griffiths, Hakim and Leppert.

8. Urgent business

There were no items of urgent business.

9. Public questions

ATET nightclub and Docklands noise

The Lord Mayor advised that eight public questions were received pertaining to noise issues in the Docklands area, primarily related to ATET at North Wharf, Docklands.

Joanne Bacon submitted the following written question:

On the Tuesday 14 March meeting that was held with Docklands residents about ATET, while we were provided with time to air the detriment it is causing on the lives of many Docklands residents, there were no comprehensive answers given to the many questions asked. When will you be holding a follow up meeting to answer many of these questions?

Molly Burdett submitted the following written question:

Regarding the Docklands Community Information Session held on 14 March, for Docklands. Will minutes be provided for this session? Will the residents have access to the same report/summary compiled by the facilitator which will be given to Council? If so, how will this information be provided to Docklands residents, specifically those who attended the meeting?

The Deputy Lord Mayor, City Planning Portfolio Lead thanked Joanne and Mollie for the questions and advised that all questions raised as part of the session have been captured and while the focus of the responses on the night was on the main areas of concern, Council committed to respond in writing to all questions raised by no later than 18 April 2023. The Deputy Lord Mayor further advised that this will be a coordinated response from City of Melbourne, Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Justice and Community Safety and Victoria Police, and will include all questions and comments captured by the facilitators on the night; and communicate the outcomes of the investigations currently underway by the City of Melbourne and the Environmental Protection Authority eight weeks from the information session (9 May 2023). The Deputy Lord Mayor outlined that the recording of the event can be found on the ['Docklands community information session'](#) page on the City of Melbourne website, and that responses will be published on the above webpage and via the Docklands Neighbourhood Portal when they are made available.

Linda Eitelberg submitted the following written question:

With the noise in Docklands clearly not under control, how will you tackle the new late night laws for venues to stay open late? What provisions are you making to properly protect residents from noise pollution?

The Deputy Lord Mayor, City Planning Portfolio Lead thanked Linda for the question and advised that Council currently has a local Planning Policy for licensed premises within the Melbourne Planning Scheme, which was considered at agenda item 6.2 earlier in the meeting.

Confirmed minutes

Melanie Waddell submitted the following written question:

Whilst many councils have worked hard to consider the environmental impact of their residents and to take action to ensure their health and safety, why has City of Melbourne not taken equivalent action to safeguard their residents from the same environmental impacts, specifically noise pollution? Many areas have put up signs for trucks not to use engine brakes during normal sleep periods if at all. Whereas City of Melbourne has not addressed this matter even when raised. Residents of the Voyager building are impacted by noise from trucks' engine brakes at all hours of the day and night from the Bolte Bridge and Lorimer Street. Likewise residents across Docklands have been impacted by the nightclub ATET and City of Melbourne's response has been to ignore the effect on residents and stick to the claim that it's ok as they are abiding by the rules (which has not always been the case). Why has City of Melbourne done nothing to address the impact on residents?

The Deputy Lord Mayor, City Planning Portfolio Lead thanked Melanie for the question and advised that management of noise from truck brakes on the Bolte Bridge needs to be raised with the relevant state road authority as this is a major arterial road and not a local street in a residential area where we often see the types of signs referred to in the question. The Deputy Lord Mayor assured Melanie that Council are not ignoring complaints raised in relation to ATET, and have taken specific action and continued to investigate concerns raised, as well as work with other agencies. The Deputy Lord Mayor extended an offer to directly discuss the matter of truck brakes in more detail and advised that if there are measures that Council can take to alleviate the noise, such as signage on local roads, then Council will do so.

Bill Thompson submitted the following written question:

In looking for solutions to the ATET noise problems at the Docklands, is the City of Melbourne and/or the venue operator looking at the technical benefits offered by directional speaker systems, such as the JBN Sound Ceiling? Such systems have been extensively utilised locally and internationally to reduce noise out to neighbours but up to 12 to 15 decibels. This level of noise reduction could potentially resolve the distress being experienced by Docklands residents from the excessive and incessant noise being emitted by the ATET Floating Nightclub.

The Deputy Lord Mayor, City Planning Portfolio Lead thanked Bill for the question and the idea of directional sound and speaker technologies, and advised that this question was raised at the recent Docklands Community information session on 14 March. The Deputy Lord Mayor further advised that Council officers and the EPA subsequently met with the venue operator to explore available options for noise mitigation, including whether directional speakers would assist in reducing the noise. The Deputy Lord Mayor noted that ongoing discussions about available options will form part of the current investigations.

Sandra Severin asked the following questions:

I note plans from 2012 and 2014-2024 include greenspace. Docklands greenspace is being built on and past greenspace planning appears to be disregarded, and Docklands is being excluded from sustainability and planning goals. What actions are Council undertaking for the health and wellbeing of residents and the amenability of the suburb, to protect and promote greenspace in Docklands? Why is North Wharf not being developed for family friendly parkland and greenspace as per previous planning?

In the Docklands Summit Actions and Next Steps report presented to the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on 8 November 2022, clause 7.2.4 states 'ensure communications celebrate Docklands and promote events that align with Docklands as a family friendly precinct'. What, if anything, is Council doing to ensure communications celebrate Docklands? Particularly to ensure the entrenched phrase 'we don't want to make the same mistakes as in Docklands' which ensure a negative imagery of the Docklands and discourages small business to engage in Docklands. I ask for this to be removed from Council communications. This creates the negative assumption of Docklands both in the public/media sphere and within the City of Melbourne offices/meetings/employees/Councillors in activities related to Docklands.

Council has repeatedly insisted the ATET venue doesn't quite fit in the categories for venues, neither indoor nor outdoor, in the current planning and permitting; and therefore have been delegated as an 'indoor' permitted venue. As the required Council laws, bylaws and guidelines evolve to ensure they keep pace with the needs and requirements of the evolving communities which Council serves, why has Council (and Development Victoria and Planning Victoria) not evolved laws, bylaws and permit categories which have kept pace with a different venue type, and have the contingencies in place to ensure the amenity of the area is ensured, and the residents ongoing enjoyment of their homes is protected?

Confirmed minutes

The Lord Mayor thanked Sandra for the questions and noted that Docklands is an area deserving of investment and attention. The Lord Mayor advised that there are ongoing plans for the delivery of family friendly green open spaces, including current initiatives around Harbour Esplanade, Yanonung Quay and North Wharf, amongst other projects. The Lord Mayor further advised that the questions will be taken on notice to enable a comprehensive response to be provided.

North Melbourne Community

Awil Hussein, President of the Melbourne Somali Community Inc. thanked the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillors and officers for listening to the residents' concerns raised at the June 2022 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting in North Melbourne. Awil outlined the steps that had been taken since that FMC, including meetings and a visit to Melbourne Town Hall, and showed appreciation and willingness for ongoing collaboration.

The Lord Mayor thanked Awil for his leadership on advocating on issues in the local community and for taking the time to show the Lord Mayor and Councillors around the local neighbourhood, which coincided with the implementation of the City of Melbourne neighbourhood program. The Lord Mayor noted that there is still plenty of work to be done, however with Awil's leadership the work and engagement with the local community is more effective and collaborative.

10. Closure of meeting

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9:29pm.

Confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Tuesday 4 April 2023.



Chair
Future Melbourne Committee