

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP

19 August at 6:00pm

Venue: Function Room
City of Vincent
Administration and Civic Centre
244 Vincent Street Leederville

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Attendees:

City of Vincent Councillors
Cr. Loden (Chair)

Community Representatives
Chris Cuttress, Lisa Edwards, Isaac Lorca, Jacinta Key, David White

City of Vincent Officers
Executive Director Infrastructure & Environment (EDIE), Sustainability Officers (SO)

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1. Welcome/Declaration of Opening

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:09pm and delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Apologies

Cr. Hallett, Project Officer Parks and Environment (POPAE), Leanne Jones, Anthony Horton, Zoe Myers, Fiamma Riviera, Halinka Lamparksi

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2019 were received and confirmed as a true and correct record.

4. Business

4.1 Update on Brisbane Street Carpark Upgrade

The Chair declared a proximity interest on behalf of Cr Hallett who lives near the project site but was an apology for the meeting.

Update provided by EDIE: The project will feature Water Sensitive Urban Design and include significant tree planting (71 new trees). The majority of trees planted will be native, as will the lower level amenity plantings. Existing mature Cape Lilac trees will be retained as they provide food for native Black Cockatoos. All storm water will be retained and infiltrated onsite via planted areas.

A question was raised relating to the density of proposed tree planting on site. This was taken on notice as POPAE was an apology for the meeting. The EAG member who raised the question will also contact POPAE to discuss further.

4.2 Update on Sustainable Environment Strategy adoption and next steps

SO provided an update on the adoption of Sustainable Environment Strategy 2019-2024.

A total of 37 submissions were received in response to community consultation. Support for the targets and strategies in the document averaged around 80%. The Strategy was adopted at the Council Meeting held on 23 July 2019.

A number of projects and actions listed in the Implementation Plan have already commenced.

An Executive Summary and Mayor's Message are yet to be added to the Strategy document. Graphic design, formatting, and stylistic changes are also to be completed prior to hard copy publication. In the meantime, the document as adopted by Council will be placed on the City's website.

4.3 Update on re-nominations for EAG

Due to its proximity to the 2019 Council election, the EAG meeting scheduled for 14 October 2019 will be cancelled. This is in line with the City's new Council Election Period Policy.

The current term of the EAG will end at the time of the Council election and the City's Governance team will contact all current advisory group members to advise about re-nomination.

SO and the Chair thanked current EAG members for their invaluable contribution over the past two years.

4.4 Increasing Solar PV within the Vincent community

The Chair listed this agenda item in order to seek ideas from the Group about additional ways to increase the uptake of solar within the community. The City currently promotes the uptake of solar PV in association with the Switch Your Thinking program and has a solar PV information portal on its website.

The main suggestion for further incentives was a direct cash rebate to households but this would need to be sizeable in order to effect a noticeable change in uptake. The financial and social equity implications of a rebate could be a significant barrier to its adoption. Focussing on local businesses was suggested as a possible alternative.

Discussion also included interstate examples of community renewable energy projects and the regulatory barriers that prevent WA local governments from providing loans for solar or sourcing/selling renewable energy for use by residents.

SO advised that the City has expressed interest in partnering with other local governments on renewable energy projects through WALGA and continues to express interest in community power sharing trials to Synergy and Western Power. An EAG member who works in the relevant field offered to share information relating to virtual power sharing via email.

4.5 Waste Update

EDIE provided an update on the FOGO (food organic/garden organic) waste project.

A third bin (for FOGO material) is planned to be rolled out to Vincent households in October 2020. Community consultation on the project started last week. So far the responses have been mainly positive.

Food-only organic collection trials in multi-unit developments are currently under way in partnership with the cities of Perth and Stirling.

Options for bulk waste collections are currently being considered and consultation will occur in due course.

4.6 Status Update of Previous Agenda Items

Item	Current Status	Next Step
Sustainable Environment Strategy	Adopted by Council on 23 July 2019	Graphic design, executive summary and Mayor's message, then publish
Hyde Park Floating Reed Bed Filtration System - Trial	City's Officers to prepare a report for Council to consider approving trial.	Council to consider approving trial.
Hyde Park Lakes Turtle Study	Project specifics and timeline provided by UWA	Project on hold until suitable student for study identified
Verge Policy Review	Completed – including flyers for quick reference	n/a

4.7 Other business – consideration of a sustainability hub for community groups

The Chair raised this item prompted by an enquiry from a local community group. This item has links to an existing action in the Sustainable Environment Strategy Implementation Plan: *“Investigate and implement if feasible mechanisms for providing ongoing funding to sustainability focussed community groups that have a proven track record of delivering actions in line with the City’s Sustainable Environment Strategy”*.

The Chair indicated that a vacant City property could be identified as a sustainability hub or a dedicated hub could be considered as part of the Woodville Reserve Master Plan. Such a hub could host community group meetings and other activities. It could provide storage for equipment, including a community tool library.

Discussion ensued about the inclusion of other types of community groups in such a hub and the need to maximise efficient use of the space through other day-time uses (e.g. a community co-working space).

The City’s Community Partnerships and Property teams will need to be part of further discussion on this topic. The Chair will submit a Council Member Request to the City’s Administration to ask for further investigation of this proposal.

Recommendation: If the City decides to proceed with the creation of a hub for community groups it is recommended that the widest range of local community groups be consulted to identify their need for a “home base” before considering options to meet such a need. Aim to maximise the use of any hub that is created to ensure effective use of funds.

5. Close/Next Meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:51pm. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on a date to be confirmed following the Council Elections. The City’s Governance team will provide an update in due course.

Signed _____
(Chairperson)

Dated this _____ day of _____ 20__