

Meeting: The Valley Tomorrow Community Reference Group #5

Date: 17/09/19 Meeting began at 6.15pm

Location: MVP Display Gallery

Attendees:

- Alice Dore, Fergus Humphries, Sally Irons - Hamton (H)
- Georgia Willis, Russell Higgins, Rozalee Erceg - Moonee Valley Racing Club (MVRC)
- Jenny Nola – Save Moonee Ponds (SMP)
- Sarah Ambrogio - Save Moonee Ponds (SMP)
- Jenni Chappell - Office of Danny Pearson MP
- Colin Harris - Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC)
- Sean Sammon - (LSAS)
- Allison Beaumont – (MV Families Facebook Group)
- Ilz Aslan – Senior Neighbourhood Engagement Officer (MVCC)

Apologies:

- Paul Hameister (Hamton)
- Michael Browell (MVRC)
- Cara Cunningham (Neue Media)
- Mayor John Sipek - Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC)
- Cr. Nicole Marshall - Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC)
- Cr Jim Cusack - Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC)
- Cr Cam Nation - Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC)
- Matthew Bott - Moonee Ponds Primary School (MPPS)
- Michael Holtz - Moonee Ponds Primary School (MPPS)
- Frank Dinoto - Office of Danny Pearson MP
- Mayur Taylor - Development Manager, Development & Opportunity Funds (ISPT)

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions to new members
2. Welcome and review actions from the last meeting
3. Status of Planning Permit Applications/Stages
4. Summary of Community Engagement
5. Public Launch
6. MVRC projects – Childcare Centre/Track & Grandstand
7. Annual Survey
8. Next 6-12 months
9. Feedback and next CRG meeting date

1. Introduction to new members

- 1.1. Sean Sammon (SS) opened the meeting and welcomed new members to the group

2. Welcome and review actions from last meeting

- 2.1. Alice Dore (AD) advised that now the masterplan has been released to the public it can be published on The Valley of Tomorrow website. AD thanked CRG members for keeping details around the masterplan confidential.
- 2.2. AD advised the MVP display gallery is now open Wed, Sat and Sun 12pm to 2pm and by appointment.
- 2.3. AD advised it has been requested that all future CRG meetings to be scheduled on Wednesdays and at a 6.30pm start so Councillors can attend.

3. Status of Planning Permit Applications/Stages

- 3.1. AD summarised status of current permit applications. The group are all familiar with Stage A – Feehan Row which is now on market. A planning permit for Stage B Thomas St has been received, design and documentation is now underway and we envisage going to an “off market” later this year. Stage B – B1 and B2 planning application lodged in May and is still under assessment. RFI’s have been received and responded to early September and therefore the application currently sits with Council. AD advised the application will require public notification for this stage. The details of the notification will be published on The Valley of Tomorrow website.
- 3.2. AD explained both Hamton and MVRC have also been working on Tote Project (Tote Café and Tote Park) with Council (the café) will require a building and works permit.

4. Summary of Community Engagement

- 4.1. AD explained that over the last few months we issued over 800 letters to the wider MP community to attend Community briefings around both Stage B – B1 and B2 and the Masterplan. We held 5 meetings with the community, governments and council with over 120 people in attendance. AD advised the meetings were well received.
- 4.2. AD advised the public Moonee Valley Park launch was on Saturday 14th September. The day went well with over 160 groups through the display. Café Operators Brother Hen are now operators of the on-site café Little Hen.
- 4.3. AD advised The Valley of Tomorrow website has been updated to make information more accessible as per community feedback. The site will be kept up to date regularly with respect to construction, infrastructure works and traffic management. The masterplan will be uploaded following the CRG meeting.

5. MVRC Projects – Childcare/Track and Grandstand

- 5.1. AD introduced Georgia Willis (GW) to update the members about MVRC Projects
- 5.2. GW advised the Childcare Centre is now operational and the Club will hold onto the asset given its heritage. There is a long-term lease in place and the centre has places for 91 children. Some Club employees have children in the centre.
- 5.3. GW provided an update around the track and grandstand. Initial investigations are being carried out around track levels and infrastructure and the Club have commenced discussions with Council around the Special Use Zoning as it relates to the grandstand precinct of the development.
- 5.4. GW confirmed the Club would be open for conversations with the CRG with respect to community uses for the infield.

5.5. GW advised the Club are working on the program to commence grandstand works in late 2024. Currently works are planned to commence after the 2024 Cox Plate with an 18-24 month delivery.

5.6. GW noted the Club are working on a 20-30 year plan for future use.

6. Annual Survey

6.1. AD advised the Moonee Ponds Annual Survey is now open for 2019. Background to this is we engaged Brickfields to prepare and facilitate a survey annually, with the first survey undertaken in 2018. The survey will be done on a year on year basis so we can monitor and test. AD asked if the members could share the survey via their socials and ask constituents to complete. Target is 300 completed surveys. Hard copy surveys will be made available at Council. We will share the results at the next CRG.

6.2. Allison Beaumont (AB) asked if the results shared can be more detailed. AD responded advising the community should be more specific in the survey so we can effectively understand their needs – the 2019 survey now has allowance for comment sections. We will also have data from 2018 as a comparison basis. If there are new pressure points raised by the community we will engage with those groups specifically to understand their concerns.

7. Next 6-12 months

7.1. AD advised Infrastructure works on site already. We will provide a contact phone number when we are on site for Feehan Row. Delivery of Tote Park next year with site activations.

8. Question Time

8.1. AB asked how the masterplan would appear on The Valley of Tomorrow website. AD advised we will have pop ups on the masterplan for live sites. AB and Sarah Ambrogio (SA) hoped heights, dwelling numbers, levels, number of carparks and construction commencement dates for live stages should be published. They also suggested future stages should set out preferred height, mandatory heights and anticipated commencement dates. AB advised she has a plan/table she has prepared and will issue a copy to AD to consider and respond.

8.2. SA wanted to know when community consultation would commence by MVRC. GW advised key infrastructure issues needs to be worked through – ie pedestrian and vehicular activity. They are also experiencing engineering challenges re - realignment of the dams and how the layout of the masterplan for the infield can work. The Club will be preparing an 'Infield' masterplan for discussion and consultation at the appropriate time.

GW advised the grandstand and infield is under the Special Use Zone and MVRC's design response will be complying with the current framework.

SA believes the community should be engaged now, so MVRC can understand what the community believes their impacts will be specifically around lighting, noise, wind and traffic. GW advised that MVRC needs to undertake further investigations before they can present to the community, specifically around the engineering required to resolve levels and civil infrastructure in the Special Use Zone. MVRC confirmed it will definitely be consulting with the community moving forward. SA advised she thought levels were specifically set out within the permit however GW reiterated work still needs to be done regarding the track to ensure its fit for purpose, such

examples include - setbacks from freeway, track functionality, lighting issues etc. GW advised that the MVRC is up to 5 years away from construction commencement so the current time is being utilised to firm up the masterplan and deliverables.

SA asked if Council had an obligation to advertise and consult on the MVRC masterplan. Colin Harris (CH) advised it must include recreational and social facilities etc. CH will take query forward to those in Council who make such decisions and to determine what consultation is required. Council is still working through the appropriate process and there are a whole suit of documents that need to be signed off on during the process. SA doesn't believe the Special Use Zone is transparent however GW believes it's a very detailed planning control. SA is concerned that only when the masterplan is settled is when the community will be consulted – not prior and if the planning scheme doesn't include specifics then there is zero basis for the community to oppose/reject. GW advised that the planning masterplan document will only be a ground level arrangement plan and detailed built form information will form part of the building & works planning applications post masterplan.

Sean Sammon (SS) suggested there are a number of hypotheticals being discussed at this stage. We all have different views on design and we will listen to the community however we may not always agree. He suggested a side conversation around process and timeline to be discussed at a later date. CH will source information around timelines and processed moving forward.

- 8.3. AB wanted clarification around the Special Use Zone and if it was specific to racing. CH noted there are different constraints around the usage on different parts of the site. SS advised we will add the Special Use Zone as an agenda item at the next CRG.
- 8.4. Jenny Nola (JN) advised the CRG were going to tour the Childcare Centre. GW advised this could be arranged outside of hours.
- 8.5. JN asked if the works on McPherson Street relate to the sewer site works. AD confirmed yes.
- 8.6. SA advised that the group had not received a community consultation plan as promised at the first CRG. SS disputed this but will issue a summary of works and future plan.

9. The meeting concluded at 7.18pm