

Meeting: The Valley Tomorrow Community Reference Group #6

Date: 05/02/20 Meeting began at 6.40pm

Location: MVP Display Gallery

Attendees:

- Alice Dore, Sally Irons - Hamton (H)
- Georgia Willis, Rozalee Erceg - Moonee Valley Racing Club (MVRC)
- 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)
- Cr Jim Cusack - Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC)
- Matthew Bott - Moonee Ponds Primary School (MPPS)
- Michael Holtz - Moonee Ponds Primary School (MPPS)
- Member of the public

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 Cam Nation - Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC)
- Frank Dinoto - Office of Danny Pearson MP
- Mayur Taylor - Development Manager, Development & Opportunity Funds (ISPT)
- Ilz Aslan – Senior Neighbourhood Engagement Officer (MVCC)

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions/housekeeping
2. Review of Actions from last meeting
3. Status of Planning Permit Applications
4. MVRC Projects – Tote Building
5. MVRC Project – Track & Grandstand
6. MVP – Works onsite
7. 2019 Annual Survey Results
8. Community Activations

1 Introduction to new members

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

1.2 Alice Dore (AD) advised that the annual update is open to everyone. There are a few late apologies due to an incident in the CBD.

2 Welcome and review actions from last meeting

2.1 The Masterplan is now on the website and letters to residents and traffic management plans are regularly published on the website.

2.2 We now have a mobile phone for on-site contact.

2.3 Georgia Willis (GW) will provide an update on the sale of the Childcare Centre during the Clubs works update.

2.4 The Special Use Zone will be a specific agenda item at the next CRG.

2.5 We will distribute a copy Community Consultation Plan to the CRG members.

3 Status of Planning Permit Applications

3.1 Planning scheme amendment for Stage A Feehan Row is currently with Council for approval.

3.2 Stage B Thomas St has an S72 planning amendment which is with Council for approval with approval due end of February.

3.3 Stage B - B1 and B2 planning application was with Council for consideration, however they did not make a decision within the statutory timeframe (Dec19) therefore an application has been made to VCAT and a hearing has been set for June 2020. Allison Beaumont (AB) asked who liaises with the objectors in this instance. Colin Harris (CH) will confirm if Council in fact do have a meeting with objectors prior to the VCAT hearing, however Council are quite clear on what the issues are and will thoroughly review and take into account the objections. Council will have a position going into VCAT as if they had made a decision on it.

4 MVRC Projects – Tote Park/Track and Grandstand

4.1 The Childcare Centre went to market and it has been sold as an investment (with 30 year lease). The original intention was to hold onto the asset however the market is currently very favourable for childcare assets so the Committee deemed it was an appropriate time to sell the asset which also enables funding to carry out Tote Building works. Settlement due 9th March 2020. The asset has heritage control so will remain as is.

4.2 The Tote Building is currently undergoing a new lease of life with the space designed as a café. The heritage part of the building will be retained and only the additions are being demolished, with delivery of the new building set for September 2020. The café will be for everyone to visit. A carparking management strategy has been agreed with Council with the carpark at the corner of Dean and McPherson Streets to be utilised until the broader precinct is redeveloped post demolition of the existing grandstand and infrastructure. The café has space for 180 guests. Hours at this stage will

be breakfast and lunch and possibly some special events. A strategy will be prepared as to how the Tote Building will function in events mode.

4.3 The Masterplan for the Track and Grandstand is still being developed and will be ready to consult with Council during Q1 and Q2 this year and the wider group in Q2. The Masterplan will provide details on traffic movements, the Special Use Zone in event mode and non-event mode, the bike tracks etc. The Club will be looking at how the Special Use Zone operates all year round ie community events, sporting opportunities, farmers markets as well as racing.

5 MVP Works Onsite

5.1 Trunk Sewer Works were completed in late 2019.

5.2 Phase 1 of Stage A works is now being undertaken. Details around these works and traffic management were communicated to local residents and displayed on the Valley of Tomorrow website. Note that the southbound end of McPherson St is closed for Phase 1 and works will be completed mid to late February 2020.

5.3 Phase 2 of Stage A works will see McPherson Street closed further down and a new pedestrian access provided and non-local traffic detours.

5.4 Phase 3 and Phase 4 of Stage A works will see truck traffic management for both large and small trucks. Trucks are able to turn around within the site which removes the need for trucks to reverse. AD has updated the Moonee Ponds Primary School.

5.5 Notification letters have been sent out to Thomas and McPherson Street residents for Phase 1 and 2 only. Phase 3 and 4 letters will be sent when we have a better understanding of timings.

6 Survey Results

6.1 Brickfields undertook the 2019 community survey and have provided comparisons to the first survey conducted in 2018. The survey results are attached to these minutes however a high level summary of results include –

- 6.1.1** 98% of people are now aware of the development (2019) as opposed to 57% the previous year.
- 6.1.2** Childcare and education rated as top issues for under 49's whereas infrastructure and development rated as the biggest concern for over 65's.
- 6.1.3** Locals are less concerned about affordability whereas parking and transport are still areas of frustration.
- 6.1.4** There has been a change in satisfaction – childcare, schools and education are still not adequate for area. In terms of MVP there are concerns around its built form, scale, density and height.
- 6.1.5** Locals believe Moonee Ponds is a family friendly location with a strong sense of community, however visitors not so much.
- 6.1.6** The best things in Moonee Ponds are its parks, Puckle St and the vicinity to CBD.

- 6.1.7 People would like to see more activations, healthy food, retail and convenience.
- 6.1.8 The worst things in Moonee Ponds are traffic, public transport, infrastructure, development, high density and accessibility – need people to commit and make some serious changes to this.
- 6.1.9 General satisfaction and importance relates to schools and parking and public amenity.
- 6.1.10 In terms of awareness around MVRC – some advise they are getting the right information but some say they are not getting enough – we are doing well but could do better. People disagree with the scale of density – more so locals who have a level of scepticism of how family friendly the development will be which suggests we can communicate this better.
- 6.1.11 People want to see more outdoor space, sporting grounds and a family friendly environment.

7 Activations

We have our first activation on the 21 March, Bean Bag Cinema showing Toy Story 4 which will be a family friendly event. You will see more advertising and tickets will be made available for sale and we encourage people to come down. We will see more events and activations in the park moving forward. Cr Jim Cusack (JC) from Council advised we could work with Council in relation to activations for future festivals. Council have already shared their calendar of events with MVP and discussions have commenced. Other ideas such as youth week and seniors week could also run events at MVP. If we collaborate we can create better events for both the local and wider community. AB suggested we could look at an information booth/tent that could answer questions and provide flyers around the development.

8 Question Time

- 8.1 AB asked about why dwelling numbers and heights are not on the website. Sarah Ambrogio (SA) asked if a building footprint plan could also be displayed on the website. AD advised this is difficult to do at this point in time given the buildings are not currently designed. AB and SA to provide their recommendations in writing for MVP to consider what can be published on the website.
- 8.2 CH advised Council be issuing letters to advise they are renaming some McPherson St addresses. Some properties will change from McPherson St to a new street name. Council have met the 2 residents and the Quest Hotel in relation to this. Changing titles will be a difficult and time consuming process with respect to Quest as each apartment has different owners and many are through SMSF's. A voting system will be used to choose the new street name with a choice of 4. The cost of reissuing titles is an owners expense.
- 8.3 SA advised she has noticed some walls cracking at the Childcare Centre. It was advised this is due to the age of the wall and the footings and not due to the redevelopment currently taking place in Mc Pherson St. The cracks have been monitored and we have had engineers out to assess and are currently waiting for their recommendations. A heritage permit to reinstate the wall is being sought. GW will look at Thomas St wall to check for cracking.

8.4 It was advised dilapidation surveys are being carried out before Feehan Row works are being undertaken. As we move throughout the development, we will continue to carry out surveys as per the Consultant's recommendation.

8.5 It was noted that a local Community Group is being established with Councillors to hear feedback on things that have effected them over the last 12 months ie helicopters, traffic etc. The date is set for February 12.

9 Meetings will be on Wednesdays at 6.30pm moving forward. The meeting concluded at 7.45pm. The next meeting is set for Wednesday May 6.

18 February 2020

Moonee Valley Community Survey 2019 Results Summary

About the Community Survey

Brickfields Consulting have been engaged to conduct a community survey on behalf of the MVRC Joint Venture Development team. The purpose and aim of this survey is to understand what is important to the people of the Moonee Ponds area. The information from the survey will be used to inform the Moonee Valley Racecourse Joint Venture Development team with an understanding of what is important to the Moonee Ponds community. The insights gained will inform the team's thinking as the vision for the site is developed, and as it evolves throughout the life of the project over the next 15 years.

2019 Community Survey Results

The following summarises the key findings of the 2019 Community Survey. This is the second year the survey has been conducted. It was made available from 22 August 2019 until 12 December 2019. It was communicated through the 'Valley of Tomorrow' website, distributed through Hamton and Moonee Valley Park social media, distributed to the Community Reference Group (who were encouraged to share via their social media platforms), distributed to the Moonee Valley Racecourse membership database and via mail out to 2546 addresses in Moonee Ponds surrounding suburbs. These 'community' responses were complemented by an online 'panel' of incentivised responses with participants recruited based on their residential postcode within a 5km radius of Moonee Ponds.

Key Findings

Response Profile

- A total of 158 valid 'community' responses, and 201 online 'panel' responses were collected
- Where relevant, the responses were analysed by segment based on their relationship with Moonee Ponds: 'Local' – those who live, work, or live and work in the area, and 'Visitors' – regular and occasional visitors to Moonee Ponds
- In 2019, there was an increase in the percentage of 'locals' who responded to the survey when compared to 2018
- Overall, there were no significant changes to the age, gender or household profile year to year. In 2019, 54.3% of responses were male, and 44.3% female

Perceptions of Moonee Ponds

- Moonee Ponds is viewed more favourably for its 'sense of community' and 'family friendly' attributes by 'locals' than it is by 'visitors' (sense of community - 82.8% agreement vs 64.2% respectively, 'family friendly' - 92.2% vs 78.6% respectively).
- The 'best' things about Moonee Ponds were related to 'proximity and location', 'public transport and/or accessibility', 'Puckle Street shops and retail', 'cafes, restaurants and nightlife' and 'heritage and/or character'.

- The ‘worst’ things about Moonee Ponds remained consistent between 2018 and 2019. These focussed on traffic and parking, concerns relating to density and over development, and pressures on public transport infrastructure and accessibility.

Overall satisfaction with attributes of Moonee Ponds

- Overall, there was a decline in mean satisfaction with Moonee Ponds between 2018 and 2019.
- Attributes with biggest change in satisfaction were ‘secondary schools’ (-23%), ‘kindergartens’ (-22%) and ‘childcare options’ (-21%).
- Attributes with the least change in satisfaction were ‘cafes, restaurants, bars’ (-3%), ‘public transport’ (-8%), ‘public open spaces’ (-9%) and ‘green spaces – parks and gardens’ (-9%).

The most pressing issues facing Moonee Ponds

- Consistent with results from 2018, in 2019 the top 4 most pressing issues for Moonee Ponds remained: ‘parking availability’ (62.4% community, 41.1% panel); ‘transport infrastructure’ (62.4% community, 36.5% panel); ‘future residential development’ (50.4% community, 42.7% panel); and ‘affordability’ (23.2% community, 57.3% panel)
- ‘Childcare and education’ was rated in the top 3 pressing issues for 46.5% of those under 49 years, compared to only 10.3% of those over 50 years

What we’d like to see more of in Moonee Ponds

- In 2018, ‘community’ responses emphasised the need for sporting and recreation facilities, community activities and food and beverage options. In 2019, the percentage of community respondents seeking ‘landscaping and greenery’ increased (up 8.1%), and those seeking ‘food and beverage options’ decreased (-14.6%).
- ‘Panel’ responses were similar year on year, with ‘community activities’, ‘food and beverage options’ and ‘landscaping and greenery’ remaining in the top three.

Views of Moonee Valley Race Course Redevelopment

- Overall, the highest level of agreement was with the statements that the MVRC Redevelopment will be ‘a new focus for entertainment and leisure in Moonee Ponds’ (39.8% agree or strongly agree) and that the MVRC Redevelopment will offer ‘events and activations not previously offered in Moonee Ponds’ (39.1% agree or strongly agree).
- Audiences had a strongest level of disagreement with the statement ‘built form, scale and density is appropriate for Moonee Ponds’ (40.7% strongly disagree and 17.9% disagree). Open-ended responses revealed that there is some uncertainty around the height of future development stages and a desire for transparent information on what the future holds.

What we’d like to see the MVRC Redevelopment deliver

- The key themes amongst open-ended responses on what the community would like to see the MVRC Redevelopment deliver, included family friendly and accessible outdoor public spaces, adequate onsite parking and infrastructure to support the development and appropriate levels development.

Awareness of and available information regarding the Moonee Valley Race Course Redevelopment

- In 2018, ‘panel’ respondents reported a significantly lower level of awareness of the MVRC Redevelopment (57%). In 2019, 98% of survey respondents across the ‘panel’ and the ‘community’ were aware of the redevelopment.
- 30.8% ‘community’ responses felt they had been provided with the ‘right amount of information’, and 40% ‘slightly inadequate amount of information’.