

Confirmed minutes



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Future Melbourne Committee Minutes

**Meeting Number 57
Tuesday 13 June 2023
6.00pm**

**Irene Mitchell Studio
St Martins Youth Arts Centre, South Yarra**

Present

Lord Mayor Sally Capp AO (Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece
Councillor Dr Olivia Ball
Councillor Davydd Griffiths
Councillor Jamal Hakim
Councillor Rohan Leppert (via Zoom)
Councillor Kevin Louey

Apology

Councillor Roshena Campbell
Councillor Jason Chang
Councillor Elizabeth Doidge
Councillor Philip Le Liu

Confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee
On Tuesday 11 July 2023

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

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 a recording will be made available on the City of Melbourne website before close of business Wednesday 14 June 2023.
- apologies were received from Councillors Campbell, Chang, Doidge and Le Liu.

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 Hakim

That the minutes of meeting No 56 held on Tuesday 6 June 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, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings

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

Presentation for South Yarra community

The Lord Mayor asked the Committee to temporarily suspend the Governance Rules to allow for a presentation from officers.

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

That the Governance Rules be suspended to enable presentations from officers on the South Yarra Neighbourhood Priorities.

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, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

The Governance Rules were suspended at 6.06pm.

The Committee received a presentation from Kimberley Pierzchalski, Neighbourhood Partner.

Moved: Cr Hakim

That the Governance Rules be resumed.

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, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

The Governance Rules were resumed at 6.14pm.

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

5. Public questions

Extension of Public Question Time

Due to the number of public questions received prior to the meeting, 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.

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, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

Below is a summary of public questions and responses. The full version can be heard in the recording of the meeting located on Council's website at <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/committees-meetings/meeting-archive/pages/Future-Melbourne-Committee-13-june-2023.aspx>

Role of Council in high density residential planning

James Syme noted the recent strong push by sections of the community to strip local government of its role in granting town planning permits in order to facilitate higher density residential development and that this role would be taken on by the state government. James asked what action is proposed by Council to oppose this push.

The Deputy Lord Mayor, City Planning Portfolio Lead thanked James for the question and advised that Council is aware of media reports that the Victorian Government intends to reform the Victorian planning system later this year. The Deputy Lord Mayor noted that Council is well equipped to make fair, balanced and efficient planning decisions and commended Council's City Strategy Branch on developing contemporary policy such as the City Spatial Plan and Municipal Planning Strategy to guide the development of the municipality.

The Deputy Lord Mayor further advised that Council has identified key renewal precincts such as Arden, Macaulay and Fishermans Bend where there is the capacity for significant population growth, while recognising that other parts of the municipality, such as South Yarra, are established and cannot accommodate the same type of higher density development.

Incorporating the National Herbarium of Victoria into the Greenline project

Chris Thrum asked if Council will consider incorporating the National Herbarium of Victoria, which houses a sizeable collection of plant specimens, into the journey of the Greenline project.

The Lord Mayor, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations Portfolio Lead thanked Chris for the question and advised that the Greenline project design team intends to draw upon the extensive knowledge and experience of the National Herbarium of Victoria in developing and selecting Australian plants for incorporation in the Greenline Project which will transform and upgrade public open spaces along 4 kilometres of the north bank of the Yarra River from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge.

The Lord Mayor further advised that the Greenline project intends to build upon and add to the celebration of the horticultural experience through the contemporary use of ecologically sustainable and restorative Australian planting together with a focus on highlighting First Nations culture.

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

Tram Route 58

Chris Thrum noted that when work commenced on Anzac Station, on St Kilda Road next to the Shrine of Remembrance, the tram route 58 was diverted from the Domain Road and Park Street, South Yarra route to the Toorak Road route. Chris asked if Council will consider requesting the state government to reinstall that section of tram route 58 given its importance and significance in servicing the nearby amenities.

The Lord Mayor, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations Portfolio Lead thanked Chris for the question and advised that the question would be taken on notice and the response made available on Council's website.

Celebrity sculptures in Docklands

Lyn Parker submitted a written question enquiring what happened to the celebrity sculptures, bronze plaques and the mosaic wall that were removed in 2016 to allow MAB to construct the Banksia building in Docklands, and if there is a chance of these being brought back to the area.

Cr Hakim, Creative Melbourne Portfolio Lead thanked Lyn for the question and advised that the statues of notable Melbournians such as Kylie Minogue and Dame Edna Everage are the property of Development Victoria (DV), and that officers will provide Lyn with an appropriate point of contact at DV.

Community data

Stewart Anderson submitted a written question asking what Council is doing to obtain data on what the majority of the community want to see and not just specific community groups.

Cr Dr Ball, Health, Wellbeing and Belonging Portfolio Lead thanked Stewart for the question and advised that Council engages with the community in many ways, and referred to the Neighbourhood Portals which are a two-way communication channel, specific to each neighbourhood of the municipality. Council also engages with the community on 50-80 projects annually to inform decision-making on specific initiatives, and this is done through targeted community engagement, co-creation opportunities, focus groups, pop-ups and surveys.

Cr Dr Ball further advised that the voice of community is being captured in a Knowledge Bank to support greater understanding of community ideas, priorities and concerns within the organisation. The Knowledge Bank, in its prototype state is a repository of community data from across the organisation that gathers and analyses community input from across multiple sources to provide an accurate, current and centralised picture of what is happening across different neighbourhoods.

ATET Docklands

The Deputy Lord Mayor, City Planning Portfolio Lead advised that nine written public questions were received in relation to ATET from:

- Joanne Bacon
- Helen Burdett
- Aleysha Thyssen
- Darren Smyth
- Graham Mercer
- Becky Monroe
- Annette Thompson
- Bill Thompson
- Gene Servadei.

The questions focused primarily on whether ATET is still under orders that require the noise to be operating at background levels, and how will appropriate noise limits be established and enforced on ATET, including actions that Council will take to address breaches that occurred over the weekend.

The Deputy Lord Mayor, City Planning Portfolio Lead thanked the submitters for their questions and advised that Councillors are aware of complaints received over the weekend.

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The Deputy Lord Mayor noted that ATET has been issued a Notice of Default under the Crown Land Licence for breaches associated with findings of the Environment Protection Victoria (EPA) of excessive noise limits, and the deadline to respond is 16 June. After that deadline passes, management will make a decision on the future of ATET's licence.

Council has been in close contact with ATET to try to address concerns and has made it clear that the expectation is for ATET to operate with background music only, until all the concerns raised by the EPA can be fully addressed.

The Deputy Lord Mayor encouraged residents to continue to keep the EPA informed of their concerns.

Acknowledgements at Council meetings

William Thompson requested that Council acknowledge ratepayers of the City of Melbourne at the start of Council meetings.

The Lord Mayor advised William that Council is very proud to acknowledge Traditional Owners at the start of Council meetings, and noted that everything Council does every single day is about representing all ratepayers.

At this point in the meeting the time for consideration of questions expired. Public Question Time was resumed at the end of the meeting.

6. Reports from management

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

Submissions/Correspondence

In relation to Agenda item 6.1, **Planning Scheme Amendment C435: ID-2023-1 599, 601, 605-609 King Street and 13-25 and 27 Hawke Street, West Melbourne (Miami Hotel):**

Requests to speak:

- William Cook
- Sarah McQuillen, Echelon Planning.

Items of correspondence:

- Lorraine Siska
- Jennifer Cook.

In relation to Agenda item 7.1, **Notice of Motion, Lord Mayor Sally Capp: E-scooters:**

Requests to speak:

- Chris Thrum
- William Thompson
- Tony Penna, President, Southbank Residents Association
- Michael Butcher, Melbourne South Yarra Residents Group Inc.

Items of correspondence:

- Tim Bracher, Yarra River Business Association
- Thomas McNair
- Arthur Shulkes
- Elaine Collins
- Bridie Cochrane-Holley
- William Thompson
- Chris Thrum
- Sarah Taylor and Tom Cooper, Beam
- Tony Penna.

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Planning Section

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*.

6.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C435: ID-2023-1 599, 601, 605-609 King Street and 13-25 and 27 Hawke Street, West Melbourne (Miami Hotel)

The purpose of this report was to recommend Future Melbourne Committee request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C435, which relates to the Miami Hotel in West Melbourne.

The following people addressed the Committee:

- William Cook
- Sarah McQuillen, Echelon Planning.

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee:*

- 1.1. *Seeks authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C435 in accordance with the Planning and Environment Act 1987, and in accordance with the attachments to the report from management.*
- 1.2. *Authorises the General Manager Strategy, Planning and Climate Change to make any further minor editorial changes to Amendment C435 prior to submission to the Minister for Planning for authorisation.*

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, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

The Lord Mayor Sally Capp resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

6.2 Improve internet access in City of Melbourne's community facilities and for hard to reach groups

The purpose of this report was to present a Digital Inclusion Plan, as part of Council's Major Initiative 43 which includes improving internet access at Council's facilities and for vulnerable groups.

Moved: Cr Hakim

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee approves the development of a Digital Inclusion Plan, to strengthen and extend digital access, inclusion and advocacy, which includes:*
 - 1.1. *establishing a standard level of Wi-Fi for Council community facilities; this would set the standard for any new Council facility*
 - 1.2. *exploring a model for the City of Melbourne to support a device donation scheme; allowing hard to reach groups access to devices*
 - 1.3. *investigating the establishment of a Digital Inclusion Network to bring partners together in a systematic way*
 - 1.4. *developing a system of capturing and sharing data that measures impact from activity focused on improving digital inclusion to drive a planned and evidence-based approach to reducing exclusion.*

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, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

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

6.3 Creating Communities of Equality and Respect: Women’s Safety and Empowerment Year Two Progress Report and Draft Year Three Action Plan 2023–24

The purpose of this report was to present the Year Two Progress Report and seek endorsement of proposed activities in the Year Three Action Plan of the Creating Communities of Equality and Respect: Women’s Safety and Empowerment Action Plan 2021–24.

Moved: Cr Dr Ball

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee:*
 - 1.1. *Notes activities delivered during year two of the Creating Communities of Equality and Respect: Women’s Safety and Empowerment Action Plan (action plan).*
 - 1.2. *Endorses year three actions of the action plan (Attachment 3 of the report from management).*
 - 1.3. *Authorises the General Manager Community and City Services to make any further minor editorial changes to the year three actions of the action plan prior to publication.*

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, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

7. General business

There was one item of general business.

7.1 Notice of Motion, Lord Mayor Sally Capp: E-scooters

The following people addressed the Committee:

- Chris Thrum
- William Thompson
- Tony Penna, President, Southbank Residents Association
- Michael Butcher, Melbourne South Yarra Residents Group Inc.

Moved: Lord Mayor Sally Capp

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee:*
 - 1.1. *Notes that the draft Annual Plan 2023-24 proposes the following activity: “Establish a Council position on the future of commercial e-scooter operations in the municipality in response to Victorian Government decisions.”*
 - 1.2. *Requests that this activity includes the production of a report to this Committee by 15 August 2023, which considers and assesses, in addition to matters already under consideration by management, the following:*
 - 1.2.1. *The regulatory and enforcement agreements that would be necessary to secure from the State Government in order for the future of commercial e-scooter operations to be considered safe, viable and a net public benefit.*
 - 1.2.2. *The role of the Cities of Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip, the State, and commercial e-scooter operators, in facilitating education campaigns to drive public safety and, especially, rules as they relate to footpaths.*
 - 1.2.3. *The opinions of the City of Melbourne Disability Advisory Committee.*
 - 1.2.4. *The adequacy and efficiency of powers available to Local Laws Officers to keep footpaths safe.*
 - 1.2.5. *New opportunities available to Council to better identify, manage and regulate e-scooter parking locations.*

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1.2.6. *What technology is required to better manage compliance with the rules governing the use of commercial e-scooters and the ability of Council to deny commercial operators that cannot deliver that technology.*

1.2.7. *The potential, through the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, National Cabinet or otherwise, to pursue harmonised approaches to laws governing e-scooter to reduce confusion and improve public safety.*

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, Griffiths, Hakim, Leppert and Louey.

8. Urgent business

There were no items of urgent business.

9. Public questions

Below is a summary of public questions and responses. The full version can be heard in the recording of the meeting located on Council's website at <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/committees-meetings/meeting-archive/pages/Future-Melbourne-Committee-13-june-2023.aspx>

Crowd crushes on New Year's Eve

William Thompson referred to a crowd crush incident in the Flinders Street Station underpass on New Year's Eve and asked if Council has discussed what can be done to prevent such an incident in the future.

The Lord Mayor thanked William for the question and advised that Council is engaging with Victoria Police, other emergency services and Metro Trains to see how crowd movements can be better regulated at major events, particularly around the popular river precinct. The Lord Mayor further advised that Council's longer term plan is to understand how we can create more spaces for people to move towards the river.

10. Closure of meeting

The Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.02pm.

Confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Tuesday 11 July 2023.


Chair
Future Melbourne Committee