



CITY OF MELBOURNE
Future Melbourne Committee

Minutes

Special Meeting Number 58
Thursday 13 June 2019
5.30pm

Council Meeting Room
Level 2
Melbourne Town Hall

Present

Acting Lord Mayor, Arron Wood
Councillor Nicolas Frances Gilley
Councillor Philip Le Liu
Councillor Kevin Louey (arrived 5.31pm)
Councillor Pinder-Mortimer
Councillor Cathy Oke
Councillor Nicholas Reece
Councillor Susan Riley
Councillor Jackie Watts

Apologies

Lord Mayor, Sally Capp
Councillor Rohan Leppert

Confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee
on Tuesday 2 July 2019

1. Commencement of meeting and apologies

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm.

The Chair, Acting Lord Mayor, Arron Wood, advised that:

- the meeting was being streamed live and that an audio and video recording would be made available on the City of Melbourne website before close of business tomorrow
- the agenda comprised of two reports from management
- apologies had been received from Lord Mayor, Sally Capp and Councillor Leppert.

2. Disclosures of conflicts of interest

The Chair, Acting Lord Mayor, Arron Wood, advised that conflicts of interest would be disclosed as they arose.

3. Reports from management

The Chair, Acting Lord Mayor, Arron Wood, advised that the following submissions had been received in accordance with the Council's *Meeting Procedures Code*.

Submissions/Correspondence

In relation to Agenda item 3.1, 'Consideration of submissions and matters arising on the draft 2019–20 Annual Plan and Budget':

Requests to speak:

- Paul Sinclair, Youlden Parkville Cricket Club
- Liam Smith
- Thomas Crabtree, Royal Park Brunswick Cricket Club
- Tania Lee
- Cindy Lee, Melbourne University Lacrosse Club
- Christian Bianchi, Melbourne University Soccer Club
- Tony Penna, Southbank Residents Association
- Pauline Taylor, Carlton Gardens Tennis Club
- Jen Holling, University of the Third Age.

Items of Correspondence:

Mark Stevenson	David Hancocks	Nicholas Neagle	Brian Thomas
Griffin Wagner	James Rawlinson	Daniel Dyer	Rhys Contessa
Isuru Peries	Josh Spilling	Peter Lusted	Aniket Gupta
Liam Smith	Chander Sejwal	Glenn Contessa	Andrew Hinkley
Ben Tivey	Will Crossley	Scott Condon	Saurabh Rajee
Mark Collins	Ken Sharp	Daniel Miller-Moran	Craig Dodson
Ross Borland	John Armstead	Le Contessa	Saumil Patel
Alan Jackson	Matthew Corrigan	Nicholas Tsias	Alex Croker
Richard Gorr	Theodore Arnold-Moora	Grace Li	Janet Graham
Vincent Micallef	Samantha Lau	James Phillips	Rose Mercer
Robert Cooper	Michelle Fitzgerald	Poppy Gounder	Netsanet Terefe
Judith Chhoeur	Cindy Lee	Tania Lee	Graeme Seabrook
Andreas Andrews	Nick Anthony	Daniel Juchnevicius	Andrea Knight

Paul Sinclair, Youlden Parkville Cricket Club
Thomas Crabtree, Royal Park Brunswick Cricket Club
Cindy Lee, Melbourne University Lacrosse Club
Murray Hohnen, East Melbourne Group
Christian Bianchi, Melbourne University Soccer
Beth Cook, West Brunswick Football Club
Michael O'Neill, Yarra Pools
Tom Keel, Carlton Gardens Tennis Club

Tony Penna, Southbank Residents Association.

In relation to Agenda item 3.2, 'Consideration of submissions and matters arising on the proposed amendments to the 2017–2021 Council Plan':

Item of Correspondence:

- Mark Collins.

Finance and Governance Portfolio

Acting Lord Mayor, Arron Wood continued in the role of chair for the Committee to consider the two reports from management in relation to the Finance and Governance Portfolio.

3.1 Consideration of submissions and matters arising to the draft 2019-20 Annual Plan and Budget

The purpose of this report was to consider submissions in response to the draft 2019-20 Annual Plan and Budget in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The following people addressed the Committee:

- Tony Penna
- Thomas Crabtree
- Cindy Lee and Nick Anthony
- Lachlan Bowden spoke on behalf of Christian Bianchi
- Pauline Taylor
- Jen Holling.

The following people who had requested to address the Committee did not attend the meeting.

- Paul Sinclair
- Liam Smith
- Tania Lee.

Moved: Acting Lord Mayor, Arron Wood

1. *That Future Melbourne Committee, after considering all written submissions in response to the draft 2019–20 Annual Plan and Budget and hearing from anyone wishing to be heard in support of their submission, recommends that Council:*
 - 1.1. *adopts the draft 2019–20 Annual Plan and Budget incorporating recommended changes outlined in Attachment 2 of the report from management*
 - 1.2. *notes that public notice will be given of Council's decision in respect to the 2019–20 Annual Plan and Budget, in accordance with section 130(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act)*
 - 1.3. *notes that a copy of the adopted 2019–20 Annual Plan and Budget will be submitted to the Minister for Local Government and copies made available for inspection by the public in accordance with sections 130(4) and 130(9) of the Act.*

Seconded: Cr Oke

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: The Chair, Acting Lord Mayor, Arron Wood and Councillors Frances Gilley, Le Liu, Louey, Oke, Pinder-Mortimer, Reece, Riley and Watts.

3.2 Consideration of submissions and matters arising on the proposed amendments to the 2017–2021 Council Plan

The purpose of this report was to consider submissions in response to proposed amendments to the 2017–2021 Council Plan as part of this year's annual review.

Moved: Acting Lord Mayor, Arron Wood

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee, after considering all written submissions in response to the proposed amendments to the 2017–2021 Council Plan (Council Plan), recommends that Council:*
 - 1.1. *adopts the proposed amendments outlined in Attachment 3 of the report from management*
 - 1.2. *notes that the Minister will be advised of any final amendments within 30 days of the decision and copies of the updated Council Plan made available to the public in accordance with section 125(11) of the Local Government Act 1989*
 - 1.3. *notes the updated Council Plan will also include new Mayoral and CEO messages, a new Councillor group photo, updated photos and details for two individual Councillors, new Portfolio details, revised list of strategies, and reformatted set of indicators against Council Plan outcomes.*

Seconded: Cr Oke

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: The Chair, Acting Lord Mayor, Arron Wood and Councillors Frances Gilley, Le Liu, Louey, Oke, Pinder-Mortimer, Reece, Riley and Watts.

Councillor Watts made a personal statement.

4. Closure of meeting

The Chair, Acting Lord Mayor, Arron Wood, declared the meeting closed at 6.20pm.

Confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Tuesday 2 July 2019.



Chair
Future Melbourne Committee

COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 14, 2019
DR. JACKIE WATTS OAM

PERSONAL EXPLANATION:

Part (A) A personal explanation is used to:

* *explain how any public comment made personally affects the Councillor.*

RESPONSE IN RELATION TO:

Events leading up to the Future Melbourne Committee 4th June 2019 personally affected me.

STATEMENT

In recent times I have become increasingly concerned about a litany of media regarding Chinese *influence* in various Australian governments, political organisations and officials and in particular Chinese '*sensitivity*' around media reporting on the events in Tiananmen Square.

On June 4, I personally experienced the affect of Chinese '*sensitivity*' manifested locally at my workplace, i.e., Council. This concerns me greatly. It continues to do so. I am personally affected and I feel an obligation to ensure that these events be recorded in the public realm. This is my first opportunity to do so.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION:

Most Australians, regardless of their origins, will be aware that June 4 is a day of tragic significance, the anniversary of the 1989 events in Tiananmen Square.

At the June 4 FMC meeting, my intention had been to move a simple and respectful Motion concerning the tragic events of that day. Two of my colleagues had offered to second my Motion which

- Firstly, acknowledged the 30th anniversary of this tragic event, which has caused such great pain and disrupted the lives of so many young Chinese students then studying in Australia.
- Secondly, acknowledged that we in Australia, and now they, have the privilege of living in a democracy where human rights are upheld.

However, during the afternoon prior to the 5.30 pm June 4 FMC meeting, a series of events unfolded sending an alarming '*message*' to Council. I believe '*political influence*' at Consular level occurred which triggering acute distress in some of my colleagues. When confronted by this distress, finally at 5.25 pm I was dissuaded from proceeding with the Motion or with an agreed Statement or a Personal Statement as intended. Regrettably the anniversary June 4 came, and went, unacknowledged by Council.

On reflection, I know that this timid acquiescence in the face of such pressure was an error on my part. I regret this on a number of levels.

Choosing to stay silent, to in effect bow to '*political influence*' right here in our city, may have been a humane or collegiate response, but it was contrary to the very democracy that we hold dear.

Such silence on my part, and ultimately on the part of Council as a whole, is a disservice to our democratic processes.

Remaining silent resulted a failure to acknowledge what has happened to those in our community granted protection and refuge within our democracy 30 years ago.

This '*political influence*' altered the actions of a democratically elected Councillor – in this instance me. It succeeded in changing my conduct on June 4. In effect, it led to suppression. Such '*political influence*' manifesting as distress in ~~my~~ colleagues *or you* resulted in my failing to acting as my conscience dictated.

This is not a minor matter. My sense is that this incident raises questions on the conduct of Council. I have little doubt that such '*political influence*' will come again into play in Council affairs.

Such '*political influence*' is not benign, nor respectful, nor acceptable in our democracy. It has to be called out for what it is, when it happens. And it will happen. As Albert Einstein remarked '*If I were to remain silent, I'd be guilty of complicity.*' And I refuse to be complicit!

Awareness, vigilance, and transparency are required of us all, In the interests of transparency my intention in making this this personal statement is ensure that this regrettable incident of overt '*political influence*' in fact known in the public realm.