



**CITY OF MELBOURNE**

## **Future Melbourne Committee**

### **Minutes**

**Meeting Number 72**  
**Tuesday 3 March 2020**  
**5.30pm**

**Council Meeting Room**  
**Level 2**  
**Melbourne Town Hall**

#### **Present**

Lord Mayor, Sally Capp  
Councillor Nicolas Frances Gilley  
Councillor Philip Le Liu  
Councillor Rohan Leppert  
Councillor Kevin Louey  
Councillor Cathy Oke  
Councillor Beverley Pinder-Mortimer  
Councillor Nicholas Reece  
Councillor Jackie Watts

#### **Apologies**

Deputy Lord Mayor, Arron Wood  
Councillor Susan Riley

Confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee  
On Tuesday 17 March 2020

## **1. Commencement of meeting and apologies**

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm.

The Chair, Lord Mayor, Sally Capp, 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 three reports from management
- apologies had been received from Deputy Lord Mayor, Arron Wood and Councillor Riley.

Lord Mayor, Sally Capp made a statement in response to a request from Chris Thrum at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting held on 3 December regarding the difficulties being experienced in Chile.

Lord Mayor, Sally Capp also made a statement in recognition of International Women's Day.

## **2. Disclosures of conflicts of interest**

The Chair, Lord Mayor, Sally Capp, advised that conflicts of interest would be disclosed as they arose.

## **3. Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting**

Moved: Cr Frances Gilley

*That the minutes of meeting No 71, held on Tuesday 18 February 2020, be confirmed.*

Seconded: Cr Reece

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

## **4. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

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

## **5. Public questions**

Chris Thrum asked a question relating to the demolition works currently being undertaken at the Palace Theatre and the City of Melbourne's efforts to defend and protect the theatre.

Cr Leppert stated that there has been a bit of public discussion on the matter recently due to a story in The Age newspaper, which was prompted by photos being taken of the demolition inside the building. The work being undertaken is legal, as the pre-demolition conditions imposed by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) in 2017 have been met. The Heritage Council refused an application for heritage protection and placing the Palace Theatre on the heritage register. The City of Melbourne defended its position at VCAT quite strongly, although we didn't succeed in increasing the heritage grading and status. Assertions that have circulated this week that the City of Melbourne permitted the demolition works are incorrect.

Chris Thrum asked if Council was aware that Melbourne Heritage Action and the National Trust were not present at hearing held at Heritage Victoria to define the category of The Palace in terms of state registration of heritage.

Cr Leppert responded that the hearing was held in 2014 and it was his recollection that Melbourne Heritage Action and the National Trust did not attend. He believed this was due to the fact that the application that went to Heritage Victoria and the Heritage Council was a rushed application from the advocates; it wasn't a full analysis like we would normally see. The quality of the application was the prime reason for Heritage Victoria refusing it. There also was not a lot of coordination between various groups at the time.

## **6. Reports from management**

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

### **Submissions/Correspondence**

In relation to **Agenda item 6.1, 'Ministerial Planning Referral: TPMR-2019-24, 102-156 City Road, Southbank'**:

#### **Requests to speak:**

- Tony Penna, Southbank Residents Association
- Jamie Govenlock, Urbis
- Phil Rowe, Cox Architecture
- Jock Gammon, Junglify.

#### **Item of correspondence:**

- Tony Penna, Southbank Residents Association.

In relation to **Agenda item 6.2, 'Draft Affordable Housing Strategy'**

#### **Request to speak**

- Michael Lennon, Housing Choices Australia
- Roberta Buchanan, Housing Choices Australia
- Tony Penna, Southbank Residents Association.

#### **Item of correspondence**

- Michael Lennon, Housing Choices Australia
- Tony Penna, Southbank Residents Association.

In relation to **Agenda item 6.3, 'Planning Scheme Amendment C365 Chart House Heritage'**:

#### **Requests to speak:**

- Tristan Davies, Melbourne Heritage Action
- Wayne Coles-Janess.

#### **Items of correspondence:**

- Julie Taylor-Bartels
- Weng Tuck Yee, on behalf of the Yee Family (sole owners of Berjaya Developments Pty Ltd)
- Tristan Davies, Melbourne Heritage Action
- Wayne Coles-Janess.

### **Planning Portfolio**

Cr Reece assumed the role of Chair for the Committee to consider two reports from management in relation to the Planning (General) Portfolio.

#### **6.1 Ministerial Planning Referral: TPMR-2019-24, 102-156 City Road, Southbank**

The purpose of this report was to advise the Committee of a Ministerial Planning Application seeking approval for the demolition of the existing building; construction of a multi storey mixed use development over two towers with basements; create or alter access to a Road Zone; and remove an easement at 102-156 City Road, Southbank.

Cr Watts left the meeting at 5.54pm and did not return.  
Cr Pinder left the meeting at 5.55pm and returned at 5.57pm

The following people addressed the Committee:

- Tony Penna

- Jamie Govenlock
- Phil Rowe
- Jock Gammon.

Moved: Cr Reece

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee:*

- 1.1. *Resolves to advise the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning that the Melbourne City Council does not object to the application subject to the conditions outlined in the delegate report (refer to Attachment 4 of the report from management).*
- 1.2. *Notes:*
  - 1.2.1. *That the applicant is yet to receive support/approval for the proposed building height from the relevant aviation authority.*
  - 1.2.2. *Notwithstanding, the assessment of this planning application is based on the proposal as submitted by the applicant.*
  - 1.2.3. *Any changes to the proposal required as a result of aviation restrictions will require further planning approval.*

Seconded: Cr Leppert

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: The Chair, Councillor Reece, Lord Mayor, Sally Capp and Councillors Frances Gilley, Le Liu, Leppert, Louey, Oke and Pinder-Mortimer.

## 6.2 Draft Affordable Housing Strategy

The purpose of this report was to seek endorsement of the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy for public consultation.

The following people addressed the Committee:

- Michael Lennon
- Roberta Buchanan
- Tony Penna.

Moved: Cr Reece

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee:*

- 1.1. *Endorses the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy for public consultation.*
- 1.2. *Authorises the Acting General Manager Strategy, Planning and Climate Change to make any further minor editorial changes to the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy prior publication.*

Seconded: Cr Pinder-Mortimer

Cr Le Liu left the meeting at 7.15pm and returned at 7.17pm.

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: The Chair, Councillor Reece, Lord Mayor, Sally Capp and Councillors Frances Gilley, Le Liu, Leppert, Louey, Oke and Pinder-Mortimer.

### Planning (Heritage) Portfolio

Cr Leppert assumed the role of Chair for the Committee to consider one report from management in relation to the Planning (Heritage) Portfolio.

## 6.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C365 Chart House Heritage

The purpose of this report was to recommend that the Future Melbourne Committee, having considered the Planning Panel's report, seeks Council adoption of Amendment C365 to include Chart House within the Heritage Overlay with the grading of non-contributory, as recommended by the Panel.

The following people addressed the Committee:

- Tristan Davies
- Wayne Coles-Janess.

Moved: Cr Leppert

1. *That the Future Melbourne Committee recommends Council:*

- 1.1. *Adopts Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C365 as exhibited with the changes recommended by the Panel.*
- 1.2. *Submits the adopted Amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.*
- 1.3. *Authorises the Acting General Manager Strategy, Planning and Climate Change to make any further minor editorial changes to the amendment documents prior to submitting to the Minister for Planning for approval.*

Seconded: Cr Reece

The motion was put and carried unanimously with the following Councillors present: The Chair, Councillor Leppert, Lord Mayor, Sally Capp and Councillors Frances Gilley, Le Liu, Louey, Oke, Pinder-Mortimer and Reece.

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

## **7. General business**

There were not items of General business for consideration.

## **8. Urgent business**

There were no items of proposed urgent business for consideration.

## **9. Public questions**

Peter Kelly asked a question in relation to ghost permits being used to increase the prices of property in the City of Melbourne.

Cr Reece responded and described ghost permits as those where land owners apply for permits which they have no intention of following through on, which they do to increase the value of the site for sale.

He acknowledged the potential harm this could cause to the community but stated it was difficult to legislate against. Cr Reece encouraged Mr Kelly to contact him to discuss further.

Stephen Mayne asked a question about why Lord Mayor, Sally Capp attended the recent Herald Sun lunch in the City of Yarra? He also asked if she would go to functions supported by other media organisations.

Lord Mayor, Sally Capp responded that the Herald Sun is an important stakeholder in our city and the invitation came from the chair and senior editor as part of welcoming the new editor, Sam Weir, to Melbourne and provided an opportunity to introduce him to various people from across Melbourne. There was also a fundraising element to the lunch, which the Lord Mayor contributed to, to raise funds for the bushfires.

Lord Mayor, Sally Capp advised that she attends a range of functions throughout different municipalities to meet with various stakeholders which provide opportunities to promote the interests of the City of Melbourne.

Stephen Mayne asked a question about pay arrangements of former Chief Executive Officer, Ben Rimmer, which were not disclosed in the Annual Report. Mr Mayne asked if Mr Rimmer exited with the strict terms of a contract or did councillors agree to any ex gratia larger exit payment being made.

Lord Mayor, Sally Capp stated it was a confidential item and sharing such information would be inappropriate. It was a staffing matter and such matters generally remain confidential.

Wayne Coles-Janess asked a question in relation to the timelines applicable to the installation and improvement of bicycle lanes, Elizabeth Street works and the footpaths in the 'little' streets such as Little Bourke and Little Collins Streets.

Cr Frances Gilley advised Mr Coles-Janess that he would take questions about the Elizabeth Street upgrades at the end of the meeting and respond with some detail.

Cr Frances Gilley advised that we have committed to developing 70 km's of bike lanes over the next 10 years, with the network being extended by 40kms over next 4 years as part of our Climate Change Action Strategy. We are also identifying hot spots for redevelopment, in consultation with a range of stakeholders. A current example is Exhibition Street, with works beginning shortly.

In relation to the 'little' streets, Cr Frances Gilley advised that there is an opportunity to undertake a range of options such as slowing down the streets, making them friendlier for pedestrians and cyclists. The Transport Strategy will guide the future use of these streets over the next 10 years.

Cr Oke also requested that cyclists who may identify areas of concern should let us know, because this provides useful intelligence for the team in planning for future works.

Tristan Davies asked if Council had any strategies to deal with the loss of affordable arts spaces within the City.

Cr Leppert advised that we are working on strategies but it is extremely difficult. He also acknowledged the importance of arts spaces, particularly those such as the Nicholas Building. We have a Creative Spaces Program which is very successful. This financial year we also have an Annual Plan Indicator to review the scope of the program to determine if it should be expanded within the central city next year. The review will be completed by the end of this financial year. The mission of the Creative Spaces Program is to find affordable spaces for artists to practice.

## **10. Closure of meeting**

The Chair, Lord Mayor, Sally Capp, declared the meeting closed at 7.53pm.

Confirmed at the meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Tuesday 17 March 2020.



Chair  
Future Melbourne Committee