

Darebin Parklands Association
General Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 26 August 2014

Time: 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Venue: Environment Centre, Darebin Parklands

1. Welcome

Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.1 Apologies: Samantha Roberts, Debra Nette, Sue Course, Louise Keene, Maree Trentin, Eve Recht

1.2 In Attendance: Mark Creamer, Barry Arnstein, Diane Dawson, Ian McMaster, Meredith Schaap, Michael Mann, Annabelle Dureau, James Garriock, Jan Borkowski, Duncan Pitt, Jocelyn Pitt, John Dunlop, Claire Dunlop, Charmaine Connan, Aaltje Harvey, Peter Harvey, Peter Williams, Susie Rogers, Rob Deutscher, Peter Wiltshire, Cath Sloan, John Lee.

2. Acceptance of minutes of the 25 February 2014 meeting

The minutes of this meeting were accepted unanimously.

Moved: Mark Creamer. Seconded: Susie Rogers. Passed.

3. Business Arising

None.

4. President's Report

Mark noted that most of the recent activities will be covered in later reports from Peter Wiltshire and other committee members.

He welcomed our two new committee members (James and Samantha).

He noted that we have had a couple of very successful park care days and that the September park care day has been cancelled because all the planting has been done.

He commented on the recent cyclocross event.

Mark reminded members that the next meeting will be the final one for the year (in November) and, after the success of last year's, will again be a BBQ and a walking tour of the park led by Ranger Pete.

5. Treasurer's Report

Meredith Schaap reported that we have a term deposit of \$10,378. A further payment from this will be made for the Environment Centre feasibility study.

There is \$7,715 in the statement account.

Recent payments are \$7,500 to Deutscher for the feasibility study and \$645 to Michael Mann for nest box cameras.

6. Ranger's Report

Peter Wiltshire reported that we have an excellent new ranger – Katie. She was chosen from 90 applicants for the new ranger position. She is on a three month trial period.

The park care days have been very good.

Trees on Mt Puffalo have been removed.

Peter has requested that plane trees in Yarana Road to be lopped to improve views of the city.

The Eastern end of the snake grass area is being prepared for 20,000 plants to go in. This will be the major focus for park care days next year.

The Shared Trail is going ahead. Vic Roads has taken over the management. \$18 million has been set aside for it. Boroondara Council is onside but Alphington Grammar has built tennis courts on the trail alignment.

Peter has received a grant of \$90,000 from Darebin Council for waste water management. There are many problems with salty water particularly in summer when botulism can occur.

Peter noted that Wildlife Victoria run training for their volunteers in the park. They would like to improve their training by having real interaction with injured animals. This would entail enclosures for animals on the Southern boundary of the park.

Darebin Parklands has come to be known as a 'dog park'. 1500 dog walkers bring 2000 dogs a week to the park. 90kg of dog faeces is collected every three days. Peter considers that the Master Plan needs to be changed. He wants to let dog walkers have more land in the northern end of the park. There have been many problems with dogs e.g. a pregnant woman was knocked over by an off-lead dog on the shared trail and she is threatening legal action. Peter is going to arrange a Dog Forum. He hopes to use responsible dog walkers to influence others.

7. Action Plan (2012-2014) progress reports

7.1 Park Care

Ian McMaster reported that the Volunteer group is going well with up to nine volunteers turning up on Thursdays.

7.2 Birds

Michael Mann reported that there are 450 fewer mynahs in the park now. There are more rosellas. Five lorikeets have nests with chicks. The nest box cameras have been installed with a monitor in the environment room.

7.3 Archives

Charmaine Connan has been working on the archives. If anyone has photos, Charmaine is keen to add them to the collection. They can be in digital format.

7.4 Membership

Peter Williams reported that the new membership rates (approved at the AGM) will start for the 2015 year. There is no \$2 Junior Ranger fee any more, but there will still be Junior Ranger events.

7.5 Deductible Gift Recipient Status

Susie Rogers and Peter Wiltshire reported that a fund is to be set up in conjunction with the DCMC so that donations to the DPA will be tax-deductible. Mark said that he will get approval from the committee to take this course of action and will seek a volunteer to represent DPA on the DCMC DGR subcommittee.

7.6 Action Plan

James Garriock has been reviewing themes for the next three-yearly Action Plan. He has interviewed 12 parties already including Melbourne Water and the Darebin Council. He would like to interview a few more. He reported that generally people are happy with the DPA.

Aaltje Harvey commented that she is happy that the DPA is going so well with many new ideas.

8. Guest speaker – Environment Centre Feasibility study

Rob Deutscher from Deutscher and Associates and Sally Hirst have prepared the first part of the Environment Centre feasibility study. In his illustrated talk, Rob spoke about many aspects of the study including the purpose of the centre (e.g. training of teachers, functions, school visits etc). Rob and Sally have researched centres throughout the world for ideas. He suggested that the centre could be innovative architecturally, perhaps being constructed of modules of recycled materials. It could consist of at least two different areas enabling two functions to be held at once. It should take advantage of the site outlook, linking indoor spaces with outdoor areas such as decking or a BBQ area.

An important aspect is the siting of the centre. It won't be on the Banyule side. It can't be on the old quarry or areas of water management. Rob proposed 5 possible sites. The preferred option is probably the present site of the Environment Centre.

Susie Rogers thanked Rob for his input.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Next meeting: Tuesday 25 November 2014 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.