

Darebin Parklands Association
General Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 25 February 2015

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Environment Centre, Darebin Parklands

1. Welcome

Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mark began by acknowledging the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

1.1 Apologies: Meredith Schaap, Susie Rogers and Peter Harvey.

1.2 In Attendance: Mark Creamer, Samantha Roberts, Peter Williams, James Garriock, Ian McMaster, Michael Mann, Louise Keen, Charmaine Connan, Peter Wiltshire, Katy Marriott, Diane Dawson, Tim Dickinson, Jennifer Jones, Kaye Roberts-Palmer, Greg Ishczenko, Ian McNamara, Claire Dunlop, John Dunlop, Justine McDonough, Cath Sloan, Janet White, Rudi Anders, Shirley Anders, Chris Tabuteau, Michelle Morris, Duncan Pitt, Jocelyn Pitt, David Moore, Sue Course, Gillian Tomkin, Kathy Brinkley, Les Spencer, Jill Massey, Robin Massey, Aaltje Harvey, Barry Arnstein, Eve Recht and Jan Borkowski.

2. Acceptance of minutes of the 25 November 2014 meeting

The minutes of this meeting were accepted unanimously with minor changes submitted by Michael Mann.

Moved: Peter Williams. Seconded: Jocelyn Pitt: Passed.

Action: Samantha to incorporate the changes from Michael into the minutes.

3. Business Arising

None.

4. President's Report

Mark will talk about the new strategic plan under item 7.

For the 2012-2014 strategic plan activities, we have compiled a report (available on the website) against the plan documenting what we actually did. Later added activities are italicised in the document. We did most of what we said we would do, with the top priority being flora and fauna and revegetation. The reveg group starts up again soon. There are a number of park care days throughout the year. We continue to have an active nest box and pest eradication program.

For a comprehensive report from Michael Mann on the Nestbox program, please see the attached report to these minutes.

History and environment: Louise and Charmaine have done a great job of documenting and archiving our history. They applied for a grant to produce brochures of different walks in the parklands.

Education: the shared trail comes under this activity. Peter Wiltshire will address this in his report.

The proposed new Environment Centre remains up for consideration.

Community involvement: Junior Ranger events last year were well attended thanks to Peter and Maree.

Junior Ranger events this year:

Saturday 28 March, Easter games
Friday 8 May, spotlighting at dusk
Sunday 30 August, treasure hunt
Friday 9 October, community bonfire night
Sunday 22 November, end of year activity

The committee has been pushing the sale of the book *Escaping the claws of the machine*.

At this year's AGM we will have a broader platform for Peter Wiltshire to speak instead of a guest speaker.

We have had a number of resignations from the current committee but new volunteers have stepped forward so we should be okay come the AGM.

5. Treasurer's Report

Meredith Schaap reported via email.

There is \$6,529 in the statement account.

6. Ranger's Report

The new toilets will be built after mid-April due to the Spiritual Healing festival on 22 March and numerous weddings.

Peter talked about the sink hole (land slip) and demonstrated the extent of the problem on a projected map. It's a half a million dollar project. Stability pylons are holding it until work begins. That part of the shared trail will be closed off during the works. It's an artificial slope caused by Northcote council workers dumping boulders etc in the 1960s. It will be terraced. DCMC has the contract to replant it. It won't be planted densely due to being close to the train track and the risk of fire which is owned by Vic Track. A few eucalyptus trees and grasses will be planted. Approximately 250 trucks needed. Will take 6 weeks to complete. A thin crust of top soil from Cranbourne will be placed on top. In March we will begin building up the land in the southern end of the park using the fill from the landslip.

Mt Puffalo has sunk half a metre. The plane trees block the view of the city.

The new shared trail will join up at the East Link trail not the Main Yarra trail.

Wildlife Victoria want to put enclosures in the parklands and train people in the handling of native animals. Land has been reserved in the southern end of the park for the project. Wildlife Victoria are waiting on information from Healesville Sanctuary before they can proceed. DCMC's involvement is simply to provide the land.

7. New Strategic Plan

We surveyed members and other park users. 48 out of 78 who started the survey were members. The age of respondents was more at the mature end of the spectrum. Roughly equal numbers of members and non-members were interested in volunteering. 100% of people thought the park care

days were important and of secondary importance was the weekly planting group; and third was the nest box program.

There may be potential implications for the DPA once the shared trail is extended.

Top topics for information evenings include: plant identification and flora and fauna in our region.

The last strategic plan was 24 pages long. The new one is 1 page only. Underneath it sits our activity plan. It's available on the DPA website. If anyone is interested in volunteering based on the listed activities, please get in touch. The activities plan will evolve over the 3 year period.

8. Guest speaker – Katy Marriott

Mark introduced Katy. Prior to joining the DCMC in July 2014, for two years Katy worked as a regional Landcare facilitator in Nhill, Wimmera. She then moved to Melbourne and worked for a native grassland restoration group on the northern fringes of Melbourne. Katy has an agricultural science degree and grew up near Stawell in the Wimmera. Her love of the bush and native flora and fauna was instilled in her as a child.

In the parklands, Katy is working with riparian zones which are inundated with floods and weeds.

Examples of the plants in the parklands were grouped into mismatch, snake grass and riparian zone. The meeting attendees took a look at the plant samples. Katy then spoke about each one and their uses. Katy had examples for indigenous uses and attracting flora and fauna to the park. Peter said that the taxonomy of plants is constantly evolving and the botanical names often change.

Traditionally the parklands are mostly riparian zones which has been substantially reduced over the past 150 years. The DCMC continues to work to replant these zones. A list of species called 'Indigenous Plants of Darebin Parklands' which includes both botanical and common names is available from the DCMC website.

In early autumn and once the MFB declares the fire season over, the rangers will burn snake grass. Once more plants are in bloom, a tour of the parklands will be in order. It will also provide an opportunity to view the different eucalyptus trees. James suggested that we have a plant centric walking tour at the final general meeting on Tuesday 24 November 2015.

Future information topics could include eucalyptus trees and weeds. The closest indigenous nursery is VINC in Fairfield by Yarra Bend Park.

Mark thanked Katy and Peter.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Next meeting: AGM 26 May 2015

Also:

Sunday 1 March - Clean Up Australia Day

Monday 20 April - Committee meeting

Sunday 17 May - Park care day

Meeting closed at 8.58pm.