Anzac Centenary Community Coordinating Committee

Minutes

Meeting #10

Monday, 21 March 2016 at 6pm
Committee Room, Moonee Valley Civic Centre
9 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds

Attendees
Cr Jan Chantry Chair, Buckley Ward
Cr Jim Cusack (Sub chair) – Myrnong Ward
Bill Laker President, Keilor East RSL
Bob Chalmers President, Essendon Historical Society
Elaine Brogan Friends of Sandy
Ev Reynolds 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association Ltd
John Hills Essendon Historical Society
Judy Maddigan Local Historian

Council officers
Gil Richardson Acting Director City Services
Troy Watson Manager Arts, Culture and Libraries
James Martin Acting Manager Communications and Customer Service
Craig Medcalf Manager Operations
Alana Stevens Executive Assistant City Services (minute taker)

Apologies
Cr Shirley Cornish (Sub chair) – Rose Hill Ward
Barry Gough Former Mayor City of Essendon

Order of Business

Welcome
Meeting opened at 6.01pm.
Chair Cr Jan Chantry welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Apologies
Noted as above.

Chair Cr Jan Chantry acknowledged the resignation of committee member Ange Kenos and noted that Gavin Comport is no longer with the Keilor East RSL.

1. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**
   
   Moved by Elaine Brogan seconded by Bill Laker that the Minutes of the Anzac Centenary Community Coordinating Committee (#9) held on Monday, 8 February 2016 be confirmed with no changes.

2. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
   
   Nil.

3. **Actions arising from previous minutes**

   3.1 **Street signs in Ascot Vale – launch event**
   
   James Martin advised the event is scheduled for Monday, 18 April 2016, commencing at 11am at the corner Victory Parade and Elliott Street, Ascot Vale.

   Cr Chantry suggested that in addition to the letters being sent out, notices also be placed in Ascot Vale Library and in the Ascot Vale Leisure Centre.

   John Hills will be running the walking tour. Judy Maddigan suggested if there are too many people we can split the group and she will lead the second tour.

   3.2 **Boulevard Project**
   
   Bill Laker advised that the Council grant application has now been submitted, with assistance from Ben Carroll’s office. Announcements are expected around May-June 2016.

   The event will be held on Sunday, 6 November 2016. The Boulevard Committee would be grateful for some Council assistance with the event, including sourcing a marquee, a flag pole, wreaths etc.

   Ev Reynolds advised he had made contact with the families of those who’ll be receiving a plaque.

   3.3 **Final event for Anzac Centenary**

   The committee agreed that the Clocktower Centre is the preferred venue for the event, which will be celebrated around the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day in November 2018.

   3.4 **Victoria Cross commemorative pavers**

   Gilbert Richardson advised that Council is waiting for a response from the Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding the pavers that were requested. Council is unsure if pavers for the additional names Moon and Tubb will be provided. The department has advised the pavers will not be ready in time for Anzac Day 2016.

   The committee briefly discussed where the pavers should be located and were leaning towards Queens Park, Moonee Ponds.

   3.5 **Scurry Court proposal**
Item deferred as Barry Gough was not in attendance.

4. Event / project status updates

- Judy Maddigan advised that Moonee Valley Brass will hold a concert on Sunday, 10 April.

- Elaine Brogan advised that Friends of Sandy had been granted access to the hill outside Fisher Stables on the Maribyrnong Defence site, which is where Sandy was put down (rather than the original proposed site on the banks of the Maribyrnong where Sandy was buried). The proposed monument has been altered to suit this site. Elaine was concerned there is no public access to this site. Additionally, the Department of Defence want the monument to be installed and unveiled this year, which would mean the event would have to be held in November 2016. The committee were concerned that there are already a number of other events occurring around this time and would prefer to see this event held as originally planned, in May 2017. Cr Chantry advised she would liaise with Bill Shorten’s office to write a letter to the Department of Defence, requesting public access to the land and for the event to be held in May 2017.

- Ev Reynolds provided an update on the Pompey Elliott service and luncheon held on 11 March.

- The unveiling of the 58th Battalion monument in Queens Park will be held on Saturday, 8 October. Ev will liaise with Craig Medcalf regarding the requirements for the footing of the monument and with James Martin on the wording on the monument. Ev would appreciate support from Council for this event, as was provided for the Lone Pine event in 2015. Troy Watson advised that Council has a limited budget for supporting Anzac Centenary activities, which is enough for around 2-3 events.

- Judy Maddigan advised the Historical Society has been working closely with Council on the Queens Park Memorial Wall. The project has been included in the draft 2016/17 Council budget. It was suggested Anzac Day 2017 would be a good time to unveil the wall, if completed in time.

- Troy Watson advised that Moonee Valley Libraries have two events scheduled around Anzac Day 2016. The first is a talk on the City of Essendon Regiment by Major Robert (Bob) Prewett RFD on 20 April at Sam Merrifield Library. The second is a screening of the documentary Why Anzacs narrated by Sam Neil, being held at Flemington Library on 19 April. Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre will also host the Writing the War exhibition from March 2017.

- Cr Chantry enquired about the search for the Essendon High School cannon. She would like continue to try and get the story in the news and possibly include in Valley View.

**ACTIONS:**

- Alana Stevens to distribute flyer for Moonee Valley Brass concert with the minutes.

- Cr Chantry to liaise with Bill Shorten’s office to write a letter to the Department of Defence regarding the Friends of Sandy monument.

- Craig Medcalf and James Martin to assist Ev Reynolds with requirements for the 58th Battalion monument in Queens Park.

- Alana Stevens to include item on agenda for next meeting; Council support for events in 2016/17.
- James Martin to pitch the missing cannon story to the local newspapers and include an article in Valley View.
- Alana Stevens to update the Summary of events and activities document and distribute with the minutes.

5. **Other Business**

5.1 **Essendon Rowing Club honour board**

Judy Maddigan advised that she had recently visited Essendon Rowing Club and was told their honour board of members who went to war was stolen (quite some time ago). Cr Jim suggested the club may wish to apply for a Responsive Grant (up to $1,000) from Council to replace the board. These grants are allocated monthly and applications can be made at any time.

5.2 **Fromelles gift**

James Martin passed around a copy of the photo that will be framed and provided to Maj. Bob Prewett to take to Fromelles in July.

5.3 **Telling the story of the Committee**

James Martin advised that photos from key Anzac Centenary events are being kept, and a chronology of events and activities could be put into book format at the end of the centenary.

5.4 **Rosie**

Craig Medcalf provided an update on the replacement of Rosie. A quote has been obtained, which includes measures to make Rosie II more theft/vandal proof, such as filling the statue with sand/slurry and mounting the statue on a raised plinth. With the inclusion of these measure, the cost for Rosie II is looking to be around double the cost of the original statue.

Cr Cusack suggested that Mr Adam Bandt MP might be able to assist with finding additional funds to help replace Rosie. The committee agreed to write to Mr Adam Bandt MP, requesting support.

**ACTION:** Gilbert Richardson to write to Mr Adam Bandt MP seeking support for the replacement of Rosie.

6. **Date of next meeting**

Meeting schedule for 2016:
- Monday, 6 June, 6pm-8pm
- Monday, 12 September, 6pm-8pm
- Monday, 5 December, 6pm-8pm

The meeting closed at 7.06pm