



Meelup Regional Park Management Committee

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Informal Meeting- Notes

DATE: Monday 29 May 2017, 10am
VENUE: Dunsborough District Country Club

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance:

Members: Dr Bob Jarvis (Presiding Member), Mr Peter Randerson (Deputy Presiding Member), Councilor Terry Best, Councilor John McCallum, Mr Tony Smurthwaite, Mr Bob Ginbey, Mrs Shirley Fisher and Mr Albert Haak.

Officers: Mr Greg Simpson (Environmental Services Coordinator) and Ms Kay Lehman (Meelup Environment Officer- EO).

Apologies: Mr Damien Jones and Ms Arlene Maidment

2. FINANCIAL SUMMARY - Attachment A

Proposed Direction:

1. That the Committee notes the May 2017 Financial Summary (**Attachment A**).

3. MEELUP VOLUNTEER UPDATE

The Acting Volunteer Coordinator, Mr Peter Randerson presented a summary of volunteer activities over the period 28th March to 23rd May as there was no Management Committee meeting held in the month of April. During this period no volunteer activities were undertaken on the 18th and 25th April due to school holidays and ANZAC day.

For the period there were a total of 53 man-hours of volunteer involvement with an average number of 8.25 volunteers per day. Achievements for the period included:

- Clearing of stink weed around the plantings in the wildlife corridor.

- Removal of tree guards and stakes from established plants in the wildlife corridor and along the coastal trail between Meelup Beach and Castle Rock.
- Painting of bench seating and railing, and oiling of decking on the Meelup Brook trail platforms.
- Removal of tree guards and stakes from established plants in Zone 6.

Volunteers will be actively involved over the next month or so in the annual planting program.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information for the Committee to note.

4. ACTION SUMMARY PROGRESS UPDATE

The Action Summary table was discussed. The action summary is appended as **Attachment B**.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Weed Control Report

The weed control report (Attachment C) provides a summary of weed control undertaken during Spring 2016 and Summer 2016/17. The Environmental Weed control point data outlines the weed species, growing stage, density and control method including chemical treatments. Mapping has been produced showing the locations of the weed points and treatment areas. This information will be retained on the City's GIS system to assist future weed control programs.

Major weed species in the Park include: Arum Lily, Dolichos Pea, Bridal Creeper, *Asparagus declinatus*, Sweet Pittosporum, Sydney Golden wattle and Flinders Ranges Wattle.

Refer to **Attachment C** – Weed Control Report-Spring 2016, Summer 2016/17.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information for the Committee to note.
2. Inform both the Weed contractor and the Dieback contractor of the City's Panel Tender process.

5.2 Meelup Beach Tree Condition Report

The condition of the trees surrounding the Meelup Beach carpark area was assessed using the following criteria:

- A visual assessment of the trees current health, surroundings and soil profile. The site was visited 3 times over 4 months to assess the seasonal change and the effect of the growth, vigour and health of the trees.
- Soil samples were taken at various locations within the sites.
- Leaf tissue samples were taken from selected Marri and Peppermint trees.

The report outlines general findings and includes recommendations to assist maintaining and improving tree condition in the vicinity of Meelup beach.

Dead or dangerous trees are to be removed from public access areas and nutrient/fertiliser and mulch applied as recommended in the report. The application of mulch will occur as part of the Meelup beach revegetation works to be undertaken this winter.

Refer to **Attachment D** – Meelup Beach Tree Condition Report

Proposed Direction:

1. EO to arrange mulching and public/vehicle access control for those areas that require rehabilitation.
2. City horticulture staff to be informed of the report recommendations and action.
3. Information for the Committee to note.

5.3 Litter Collection contractor

The litter contract position has now been operating for over 6 months. The contract commenced in December 2016 and is due for completion at the end of June 2017. The contractor works for 8 hours per week covering the coastal carpark and beach areas.

A summary from a 26 week period has recorded the collection of 185 large bags of rubbish. The contractor has been reporting to the City each fortnight including details on the types of rubbish and other observations including campers and camp fires. The contractor has provided the City with another 'set of eyes on the ground' and has received good feedback from the community when out in the Park. The regular collection of this large amount of litter means the Park remains in a pristine condition for local and visitors.

Refer to **Attachment E**– Summary of Litter Collection Contractors Work

Proposed Direction:

1. To continue the Litter collection contract role during 2017/18.
2. Information for the Committee to note.

5.4 Summary of Works in the Park 2017

The following are underway in the Park:

Trail work and dieback management

- All limestone sheeting has been completed.
- The 7 dieback hygiene stations, signage and markers have been installed. Article in the Times newspaper and the City Facebook site.

Revegetation works

- Meelup Beach- weed control, 1,020 seedlings, fertilizer, mulching, tree guards. In addition, 25 mature Peppermint trees to be planted.
- Car Rally gravel pit- 440 seedlings, fertilizer, tree guards and installation of 6 coir logs for erosion control.
- Zone 6- weed control, 880 seedlings, fertilizer, tree guards.

Meelup volunteers and the Busselton Senior High School will be undertaking the following revegetation works:

- 800 seedlings at coastal nodes areas including Hurford Street, Eagle Bay coastal trail and Bunker Bay.

School Group Beach Cleanup

The Presiding Member Bob Jarvis and the EO spoke to a group of fifty five students from the Busselton Senior High School on 11 May 2017 about the Parks history, conservation values, threats, management and the impact of litter. The students conducted a beach cleanup and categorised the litter items to be included in the Tangoroo Blue Beach Debris database Initiative. These activities form part of the schools Geography curriculum and students are required to complete a detailed assignment on Meelup Regional Park and litter issues.

Proposed Direction:

1. To arrange for the best school assignment from the Busselton Senior High School to be placed on the Meelup website.
2. Information for the Committee to note.

5.5 Funding from Water Corporation for Limestone Trail Work

An onsite meeting was held on 6 April with Water Corporation staff, the EO, the Presiding and Deputy Presiding members of the Meelup Regional Park Management committee to discuss access to Water Corporation's (WC) infrastructure to improve dieback management. Following this meeting, the WC offered to fund 1.1 kilometres of limestone sheeting through the wildlife corridor and along the western boundary of the Park to the tank site. In addition, WC will be replacing the old gate at the Sheen Road entrance. Picton Civil have been awarded the work which is scheduled in the next few weeks and will be completed by the end of June.

Proposed Direction:

1. The Presiding Member to write a thankyou letter to the Water Corporation for the funding of the limestone trail and attend a media photo opportunity.
2. Information for the Committee to note.

5.6 Equipment Storage Shed

A review of possible locations for the shed within the Dunsborough area identified Lot 3003 Dunsborough Lakes Drive as a suitable location. This location is being established as a hub for community use and includes the community garden site, Men's Shed and Lions Club of Dunsborough

shed. Arrangements have been made with the Dunsborough Greenfields Community Group Incorporated current lessee of the site, and a suitable area selected for construction of the environmental volunteer equipment storage shed.

Proposed Direction:

1. Include photo of the new shed for promotion at the July Meelup Friends group meeting.
2. Information for the Committee to note.

5.7 Sign Audit

The sign audit to identify the types and location of signage throughout the Park has commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of June 2017. The audit involves the use of a Trimble data collection unit to link sign information and GPS location details for current and future management purposes.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information for the Committee to note.

5.8 Zone 6 Remediation Works

The Detailed Site Investigation report, Sampling Analysis Quality Plan, Asbestos Management Plan and site specific Safety and Health plan for the remediation of zone 6 have been forwarded to the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) as part of the contaminated site management process. The Asbestos Management Plan recommends a barrier to the human receptor pathway be installed involving the installation of a soil/mulch capping over sections of the former waste disposal areas within zone 6. Initial discussions with DER indicate the installation of a soil/mulch capping is appropriate and acceptable. Following installation of the soil/mulch barrier the affected area will be progressively re-vegetated in a manner to accommodate the mountain bike trails that have been identified for this section of zone 6

A survey and civil design for modification of site access to zone 6 have been completed and quotations from suitable soil supply and earthmoving companies are currently being sought with works expected to commence in July 2017.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information for the Committee to note.

5.9 Mountain Bike Trail Development Zone 6 – Update

In December 2016, the City Council made a determination to establish a mountain bike zone for the development of a mountain bike trail network within Meelup Regional Park. It is proposed that the mountain bike trails in Zone 6 will be constructed in stages and as funds become available for the trail construction works. Stage 1 of mountain bike trails development will involve upgrade and enhancement of the existing trails in the western sector of zone 6, referred to as Brown Street.

Cape Mountain Bikers Inc. has been granted a license to commence the development of the mountain bike trail network in zone 6. A Request for Quotation from 5 known mountain bike trail builders to undertake the trail building works has resulted in the appointment of a trail builder.

A meeting of the Mountain Bike Trail Working Group will be held on 24 May 2017, to discuss the trail construction program, site remediation and revegetation. The outcomes from the Working Group meeting will be presented to the Committee.

Proposed Direction:

1. Committee members to meet at 12.30pm on 13 June 2017 at the Endicoot Loop entrance to the Park to inspect the mountain bike trail construction works.
2. Information for the Committee to note.

5.10 X Adventure Event

The X Adventure Race was held on Saturday and Sunday, March 25th and 26th, 2017. The weekend involved four separate races, including kids races. The designated trails to be used in Meelup Regional Park were assessed and approved prior to the event and included onsite inspections of trails with the event organiser. This year the running section of the race included the Car Rally trail which had been sheeted with limestone prior to the event to prevent the spread of dieback. This eliminated the need for a foot bath station which had proved ineffective with past events.

The use of the Car Rally trail for the running sections meant that the Lookout Loop Trail, previously used for this event, could be excluded from the event circuit. The Lookout Loop trail was recently assessed by a Dieback consultant for the presence of Phytophthora dieback and was found to be uninfested. It was not considered suitable for use for events with large numbers of walkers/runners under all weather conditions due to the risk of disease introduction (even with foot baths). It was estimated that approximately 30 hectares of susceptible coastal heath vegetation would be lost if Phytophthora is introduced onto this trail.

A Final Event Report has been received from Rapid Ascent. The report summarises the attendance numbers, marketing, media impact, community support, signage, event budget and evaluation. The event was attended by 1,556 competitors and 4,071 spectators. The organisers arranged a post event cleanup of the area and no issues from the event were noted.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information for the Committee to note.

5.11 SWCC Wildlife Corridor Project

The City has secured grant funding for \$8,458 from the South West Catchments Council (SWCC) to fund a revegetation project in the Wildlife corridor.

The project will revegetate a total of 0.13 hectares across four areas to restore a vegetation corridor linkage. Works include:

- Weed control
- Installation of mulch
- Planting of 1,000 seedlings with tree guards
- Direct seeding and fencing to be undertaken by the Meelup volunteers
- Post planting weed control
- Photo-point monitoring and reporting to SWCC.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information for the Committee to note.

5.12 Other Items

Re- appointment of Committee members

With the Council elections coming up, current Meelup Regional Park Management Committee members will be required to nominate for re-appointment. The City will be advertising for new members as required.

Proposed Direction:

1. Letters will be sent to Committee members to nominate for re-appointment.

6.0 Meeting Closure

The meeting was closed at 12:15pm.

7.0 NEXT MEETING- 26 June 2017 at 10am – The next meeting will be held in the new City Administration Building.