

**Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee Meeting  
– Thursday 15 November 2018**

**Meeting commenced at 9:35am – 11:48am at Realm**

*Minutes are yet to be confirmed. They will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting to be held on 7 March 2019.*

**Attendees:**

Cr Kylie Spears (Chair), Angela Fitzpatrick, Cara Hudson, Judith Lenthall, Ron Major, Amelia Milroy, Jenny Newman (from 10:20 am), Melinda Spencer (left 10:30 am)

**Support:**

Fiona Burrige (MCC), Phil Medley(MCC), Jack Mulholland (MCC), Judy Morris MCC (admin support)

**Guest speakers:**

Item 2 and Item 3 - Sze lay Ng, Senior Assets Project Manager and  
Stefanie Black, Open Space Projects Improvements  
Item 4 - Vivienne Fraser, Environment Planner

**1. Opening of meeting**

Welcome by Cr Kylie Spears

**1.1 Apologies:**

Cr Tony Dib, Michelle Egan, Jacob Matthew, Andrea Salmon

Cr Kylie Spears

**Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 13 September 2018**

Minutes moved by:

Moved: Cara Hudson

Seconded: Angela Fitzpatrick

**Declaration of potential conflict of interest**

Cr Kylie Spears declared a possible conflict of interest relating to Item 2b (HE Parker Multisports Complex) as she is the President of Melbourne East Netball Association Inc (MENA).

**2. Discussion on Realm Extension, HE Parker Multi Sports Complex & Ringwood Lake Park**

Sze lay Ng, Senior Assets Project Manager, and  
Stefanie Black, Open Space Projects Improvements

**Realm Extension**

Cr Spears gave some background information on the proposal for both of Council's offices in Croydon and Ringwood to move to Realm, with an extension to the existing Ringwood facility planned. This consolidation will bring most Council staff together in the one location and provide increased accessibility to the community. The proposed location will be easy to access with parking and public transport readily available. Council is pursuing a green star rating with consideration given to design, materials, sustainability, health and wellbeing. The existing Council offices in Civic Square, Croydon will be redeveloped as part of the Croydon Community Precinct Masterplan.

Realm Extension design plans were shown to the Committee. Consideration has been given to accessibility for staff and community so that the building is fit for purpose. Materials selection, a neutral colour palette and alternate floor finishes are designed to assist with accessibility. Council's MetroAccess Officer and a vision impaired employee have been consulted during the design process.

Discussion was held around Council's ability to employ people with disabilities with improved accessibility in the new building.

The Committee raised the potential issues of acoustics in the building with the open office space layout. The height of the room, along with vibrations off wall and windows can make it difficult for those with hearing aids. The Committee also suggested the need to consider sensory needs with an open workplace environment. Several local audiologists were mentioned that could advise Council if required.

**Action:** Sze will take these comments back to the design team, who will speak to the consultants. Sze will give an updated report to the Committee in 2019.

### **HE Parker Reserve Multi Sports Complex**

This complex is currently under construction with works due to be completed in May 2019. There are four indoor and four outdoor courts. Wheelchair users have an unobstructed viewing area and an allocated accessible toilet plus a Changing Places facility. This is the first sports facility in Maroonah to have a Changing Places toilet incorporated into the design.

Discussion was held regarding a quiet viewing area for people with sensory concerns. More research needs to be done about the requirements for this type of viewing area and consideration needs to be given at the design stage of a project. Currently in Maroonah Jubilee Park and HE Parker Reserve have quiet viewing areas.

**Action:** MetroAccess Officer will provide information on quiet rooms in sporting facilities to Cr Kylie Spears.

Photographs of the facility under construction were shown to the Committee. All courts will be on the one level, making them accessible for everyone. Time lapse footage is available for viewing on Council's website. A web link will be sent to the Committee with the minutes.

### **Ringwood Lake Park Playspace**

The Committee discussed the new Ringwood Lake Park Playspace, in particular accessible play equipment and the liberty swing. The Committee noted the liberty swing consultation process which was undertaken on whether to keep the swing and its location. With a focus on inclusiveness, the liberty swing was placed in the swing area. Positive feedback has already been received from a user of the swing. As well as the swings area, there is inclusive play equipment including a whirly wheel that has room for wheelchairs.

A query was raised regarding the maintenance schedule for the playspace. Sze will follow-up and report back to Committee. Stefanie advised that there has just seen a defects inspection carried out. All equipment is checked before final sign off.

It was also highlight that there is also new disability parking at the lake, accessed from Maroondah Hwy, opposite the shops.

The Assets Department would appreciate feedback on the Park from the Committee. Therefore, the first meeting for 2019 will be held at Ringwood Lake Park so the Committee can view/comment on the playspace.

**3. Update on Kurboroo Kindergarten, Croydon Town Square and Karralyka -**  
Sze lay Ng, Senior Assets Project Manager

**Kurboroo Kindergarten redevelopment works**

Improvement works to Kurboroo Kindergarten were completed in September 2018 ready for Term 4. The Kindergarten is now accessible for wheelchair users with a doorbell installed at wheelchair level. The Kindergarten is more welcoming with a lower gradient ramp installed out the front, and an accessible toilet with handrails. Through the installation of ramps, outdoor areas are now accessible for all children.

**Karralyka Centre**

The Karralyka Centre will be undergoing an upgrade with consideration given to accessible viewing in the theatre, access and egress from the stage, accessibility to green room and changing rooms, inclusion of a changing places facility, and improved accessible amenities. This project has just commenced so further consultation will be undertaken with the Committee.

Discussion took place about the noise and crowding in the foyer before a show commences and the possibility of a quiet waiting area when the foyer is busy.

The Committee also suggested the inclusion of a seating area in the theatre for those community members with hidden disabilities that has an easy exit area.

**Croydon Town Square**

Construction commenced in Croydon Town Square in August 2018 with completion date due March 2019. This project received State Government funding for a Changing Places facility.

The Exeloo onsite has been decommissioned and a temporary accessible toilet facility has been placed on the site during the construction period. The area adjoins Croydon train station and will provide public open space for the whole community to enjoy.

**4. Update on Tarralla Creek project** Vivienne Fraser, Environmental Planner

Tarralla Creek project concept plans were distributed to the Committee. Due to the scope of the project, it will be broken down into five different stages due to the cost and available funding. The masterplan identifies various changes intended to make the creek more appealing including re-naturalisation, accessible crossings, quiet areas, softening with planting/greening areas. Information on the project is available on Council's website and the Melbourne Water website. This is a combined project between Council, Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The project is expected to be a \$10 -12M project, with current allocated funding of \$5M.

A functional design will be available in March 2019 with construction works scheduled to commence in October 2019. The Committee will be provided with an update at the May 2019 meeting.

Cr Spears suggested that individual Committee members take the opportunity to inspect the daylighting works at the Dandenong Creek before the May 2019 meeting. This Creek can be viewed at HE Parker Reserve in Heathmont.

**5. Consultation update for Disability Policy and Action Plan 2018-2021**

Jack Mulholland, MetroAccess Officer &  
Fiona Burridge, Community Development Officer

The current Disability Policy & Action Plan is a four-year policy that expires at the end of this year. The next Disability Policy will run from 2018-2021 so its conclusion aligns with the redevelopment of Council's Maroondah Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Consultation for the next Disability Policy and Action has commenced with a survey made available online, at Council facilities, Customer Service Centres, Community Houses and at the Croydon Library. Consultation was also undertaken last year at Café Consult as part of the Maroondah Festival. Meetings have recently been held with local disability organisations and internal Council service area workshops are being held later in November 2018. The feedback from the consultations will be collated over December/January and a draft Disability Policy and Action Plan is anticipated to be placed on public exhibition in late March 2019.

**6. Event updates - Rawcus flashmob and Maroondah Festival**

Fiona Burridge, Community Development Officer

**Rawcus Flashmob**

Some Committee members gave feedback on the Rawcus Flashmob event. The event itself went well with good participation. It was reported that communication issues occurred with some workshops being relocated and the facilitator being absent in one workshop. It would have assisted participants if an online video was available with the routine so that people could view it and practice at home. Only having the flashmob during the day limited those who could participate.

Additional publicity before the event would have been preferable. As it was a partnered event, individuals were told they were not allowed to video it so participants didn't have anything to show others and talk about. The Committee requested a copy of the video from the event.

**Action** : Fiona will contact Rawcus to obtain a copy of the video.

**Maroondah Festival**

No one on the Committee used the quiet room at the Festival.

Fiona will talk to members that were not at the meeting or had to leave early.

**Reminder**

Council's Volunteer Recognition Function is being held on Wednesday 5 December, 5pm to 7pm. Both Fiona Burridge and Phil Medley will be in attendance.

**7. Close of meeting**

Cr Kylie Spears

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 7 March 2019.

Meeting dates for 2019 as follows: 7 March, 16 May, 18 July, 12 September and 21 November, 2019.