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INTERCULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 20 June 2018 at 6.30pm at Caroline Springs Library

Present: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, City of Melton
 Tony Ball, Acting Coordinator Community Capacity, Melton City Council
 Essan Dileri, Intercultural Development Officer, Melton City Council
 Lillian Campos, Service Coordination Officer, Melton City Council
 Gary Verma, Indian Community Sri Durga Temple
 Kubir Khanal, Bhutanese Community Melton
 Vonivate Tawase, Fijian Community Association Victoria
 Robert Aduer, South Sudanese
 Christina Prakanthan, Natyatharu School of Performing Arts/ Bharathanatya
 Acharya Association of Victoria
 David Cowan, Melton Interfaith Network
 Deepti Alurkar, Mums Dance Club - Founder and President, Connectwest No
 Hunger Community Leadership Program
 Gurpreet (Gary) Verma, Vice President Sri Durga Temple
 Hammam Dewanyang, South Sudan
 Kubir Khanal, Bhutanese Community Melton Inc
 Sasee Devaraja, Tamil Ethnic Language School
 Vishma Guatam, Nepalese Community in Melton
 Vonivate Tawase Drui, Fijian Community Association Victoria Inc
 Tigist Kebede, Ethiopian Community
 Amy McDonald, Home of Multicultural Exchange

Chairperson: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, City of Melton

1. Welcome

Chairperson began the meeting with Melton City Council Acknowledgment of Country.

2. Introductions

Chairperson welcomed Committee members.

3. Apologies

Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, City of Melton
 Kelly Bartholomeusz, Odyssey House Victoria
 Lynette Dawson, Djerrivarrh Community and Education Services
 Tutana Bradshaw, Home of Multicultural Exchange

4. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil



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5. Introduction of Committee members

Cr Turner requested Committee members that they introduce themselves and say a few words about their communities they represent.

6. IAC's Terms of Reference

E Dileri presented the IAC's Terms of Reference and allowed some time for the Committee members to go through it.

T Kebede wanted some clarification on the use of generic terms. She discussed terms which are based on collaborative approaches such as 'co-design and co-plan' be used.

T Ball mentioned that Council use the standard format and language used by local Councils in connection to advisory committees. He also mentioned that sub-committees may be formed on a needs basis which may have a more hands-on and practical approach. He further added that the role of the IAC is to provide technical advice in the diversity space to Council.

R Aduer referred to African Communities Working Group as a subcommittee of the IAC which focuses on more hands on and practical initiatives concentrating on matters related to African communities.

E Dileri added based on the proposed ideas of the IAC's members, initiatives/projects can be designed, planned and executed. 'I Belong' and 'Power of Collaboration Community Leaders Forum' were presented as two practical projects which were proposed by previous IAC members.

L Campos agenda items are set by the IAC members. The Terms of Reference provides a guidance and a foundation for the overall operations of the Committee. Minutes of the meeting go to Council and become part of the agenda of the Ordinary Council Meetings.

7. African Communities Working Group (ACWG)

T Ball briefly presented a summary about the ACWG's. He mentioned that the Group is a subcommittee of the IAC which meets every two months. The focus of the Group will be on employment in the next few months. Participation in the Careers Expo was one of the initiatives in 2018 creating employment opportunities for young people from African background. T Kebede is also a member of the Group. She added that the Group is about local voices and local issues. Recently the members of the Group implemented a mapping exercise to extract some stats and identify key stakeholders working in this space. The Group provided input into the African Australian Action Plan developed by the Victorian Government. The Group is also one of the finalists at the Keep Victoria Beautiful Award.

8. Intercultural Plan

E Dileri presented on Intercultural Plan 2017-2021 and explained the processes involved in developing the plan. He highlighted the key themes and actions of the Plan.

9. Other Business

Cr Turner asked Committee members to briefly talk about community events and initiatives.

E Dileri asked Committee members to have an active role to contribute towards the Intercultural Stage at the Djerriwarrh Festival 2018.

G Verma briefly discussed the need for engaging seniors in different community events. Some seniors from diverse backgrounds have very little to do and stay at home most of the time. He



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said Sri Durga will organise an event on 2 September 2018. He invited Committee members to come along.

V Tawase will organise an event on 13 October 2018 in Hanna Watts Park involving Islander communities from Melton which will include dance, food and activities for all ages. He will also discuss establishing an Islander community group.

C Prakanthan informed the Committee about the dance exams in the next three weeks.

T Kebede talked about the Ethiopian New Year. In connection to that her community will organise events in Footscray over four Sundays in July.

R Aduer discussed his initiatives at Melton Secondary College which involves engaging young people in sports such as basketball targeting young people from diverse backgrounds and the Islander communities. He also talked about Community Patrol which is a grassroots initiative of South Sudanese community to provide support to organisers of big events such as White Night, New Year etc to manage young people well in these events.

Cr Turner encouraged Committee members that they interact with different communities and keep the intercultural spirit in action when it comes to community events and initiatives.

V Guatam expressed his gratitude on being part of the Committee. He talked about the Nepalese community in Melton. His community will organise a women-only cultural event in September.

A McDonald informed the Committee about Dream Big Festival which will take place on Sep 14 and 15 this year. The event will include music, dance, visual arts and many other activities. She also discussed Drum Big – Walk Tall at the Djerriwarrh Festival.

S Devaraja talked about their community connection with Council through Community Partnership Program. He also talked about an intercultural dance program involving different community groups.

D Alurkar discussed Moms Dance Club, a free dance program for women. She also talked about Indian Bazaar which is a platform for Indian businesses. This event will take place on 24 June 2018. She also talked about Women Health and Wellbeing program which is currently being planned.

D Cowan briefly presented on Melton Interfaith Network and encouraged Committee members to get involved. He also talked about Bus Tour of Places of Worship on 22 August 2018. He also mentioned Connecting Melton-Free Community Dinners and Preventing Violence against Women workshops.

H Dewanyang expressed satisfaction about being a member of the IAC. He talked about South Sudanese community's partnership with the Home of Multicultural Exchange.

K Khanal informed the Committee about one of the biggest events on 14 October 2018 organised by their community. He also talked about Nepali Language School for their community which will start on 8 July 2018.

L Campos briefly presented on her programs which involves Care Support Program and Volunteers' Program. She is keen to hear from Committee members and seek their input and feedback into the aged and disability space.

Cr Turner emphasized on the importance of the IAC and its role in the community to help different communities to interact with each other. He informed the Committee about the Blue Light Disco for young people on 22 June 2018 from 6-8pm.

Next Meeting

Next meeting Wednesday 5 September 2018 at 6.30pm at the Melton Library.



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Close of Business

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.