



MINUTES

RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 11 February 2020 at 6.00pm in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Cr Lara Carli, Mayor
Cr Yvonne Sebire, Councillor
Skye Gooch, KIRRIP Board member
Dawn Davies, KIRRIP Board member
Jo Layton, Community member
Julieanne Axelford, Wurundjeri Land Council
Dayane Mardesich, Coordinator Community Capacity
Annette Vickery, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Engagement Officer
Nicole Misurelli, Manager People & Culture (observer)

Chairperson: Cr Lara Carli, Mayor

1. Welcome

Chairperson welcomed all attendees to the meeting and proceeded with Acknowledgment of Country. *'Melton City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.'*

2. Apologies

Charmaine Hamilton, Community Member
Dan Turnbull, CEO, Bunurong Land Council
Karen Jones, Community Member
Peter Webster, Executive Officer, KIRRIP Aboriginal Corporation
Sharon Sowter, Chairperson, KIRRIP Aboriginal Corporation
Stephanie Skinner, Chairperson, Wadawarrung

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Noted

Minutes of the last Reconciliation Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting could not be confirmed as quorum was not achieved. As such, notes from the previous meeting outlined the following actions:

- A Vickery: N Misurelli to be invited to future RAC meetings as an ongoing observer.
- M McClelland: Distribute arts calendar to RAC members.

5. Business Arising

S Gooch raised a concern that Djerriwarrh Festival Coordinators charged KIRRIP \$500 for a stall at the Festival. In previous years, if the organization was involved in the parade, the fee had been waived. KIRRIP is a small organization and \$500 is a significant amount of money for it to pay. S Gooch requested the fee arrangements be reconsidered.

J Layton queried why Aboriginal people were not on the Intercultural Advisory Committee. D Mardesich mentioned that Intercultural Advisory Committee was about to open an Expression of Interest process for recruitment of committee members for the next term. Cr Sebire proposed for D Mardesich to table this at the next Intercultural Advisory Committee meeting which was scheduled for 12 February 2020.

Action

A Vickery to raise the matter of the fee charged to KIRRIP with Council's Events team.

D Mardesich to table the request from the RAC, for the Intercultural Advisory Committee to be open to Aboriginal people in recognition of their rich culture.

6. General Business

6.1. Council Policy on Payment for members attending

A Vickery undertook some comparisons with other Councils and found that Councils undertook one of the following:

- Maintained their advisory committees with volunteers.
- Paid a modest sitting fee (between \$60-\$100) to committee members.
- Provided committee members with gift vouchers.
- Engaged committee members as sessional staff and paid an hourly rate.

Committee members mentioned that payment of Aboriginal participants in committees is improving, with large departments within State Government leading the way. The reasons for paying Aboriginal participants is to:

- Recognise and respect First Nation's intellectual property and valuable contribution, and
- Acknowledge there is value in receiving Aboriginal cultural knowledge.

Recommendation

J Layton/S Gooch

Council should pay Aboriginal members of the Reconciliation Advisory Committee a sitting fee of approximately \$60 per meeting.

Action

Further discussions to take place with Council relating to this matter.

6.2. Electronic Signature

Consistent wording for acknowledgement of country on electronic signatures at Melton City Council was discussed, and it was agreed for the following to be recommended:

Melton City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Recommendation

J-A Axelford/J Layton

Council to adopt a consistent acknowledgement of country on all electronic communications.

Action

A Vickery to submit this recommendation to Council's Communications team for action.

6.3. Finalisation of Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and proposed build of the next plan

A Vickery reported that the current RAP is at its end stage and a final report will be provided to Council on the action items. The next RAP is proposed to be built as follows:

- RAC to meet and brainstorm ideas.
- Socialisation of ideas throughout Melton City Council.
- Melton City Council departments asked to identify Reconciliation actions within their scope.
- Four wider Aboriginal community meetings to be held with Aboriginal communities in Melton.
- Draft RAP produced and finalised through the RAC.

It was agreed to follow this process.

Action

A Vickery to convene the RAC brainstorming meeting in April 2020.

6.4. Updates from Committee members

Dream Big: Active in Melton.

Dingo Sanctuary – Wurdi will receive a Welcome to Country on 7 March 2020. Flyers will be sent around about the event. This is a public event and everyone is encouraged to attend.

KIRRIP – the women's group is building the bird boxes for the Dingo Sanctuary. The men's group will reconvene when Peter Webster returns from leave.

Melton City Council Mental Health Forum – Cr Carli mentioned the Mental Health Forum being held at Fraser Rise Children and Communities Centre on 27 February 2020 and encouraged all members to attend.

Parkwood Primary School – Cr Carli showed pictures of the work the children had done in the school garden, planting indigenous plants and putting up story boards. It was agreed it would be great to see all schools take up this activity.

Cultural Awareness Training – A Vickery said there is budget allocation to provide an opportunity for Cultural Awareness Training for all Advisory Committee members and she will be working with providers to set a date.

Action

A Vickery to schedule Cultural Awareness Training and send invitation flyers to all advisory committee members.

A Vickery to follow up with Parkwood Primary School about the process they used to get the garden funded and built.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 23 April 2020, commencing at 6pm in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre.

8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.