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WELLINGTON PARK MANAGEMENT TRUST

Minutes

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON PARK MANAGEMENT TRUST HELD AT 9:55 AM ON WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2020 IN MEETING ROOM 206 OF THE HOBART COUNCIL CENTRE

NOTE

MINUTES OF TRUST MEETINGS ARE PUBLISHED ON THE WELLINGTON PARK WEBSITE FOLLOWING THEIR APPROVAL BY THE TRUST

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1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT (in person): Ms R Warrener (Tourism Tasmania)
 Alderman J Briscoe (HCC)
 Alderman M Carlton (GCC)
 Alderman D Thomas (HCC)
 Ms F Smith (TasWater)

(via video-conference) Dr C Mucha (Chairperson)
 Mr A Rushton (PWS)

APOLOGIES: Ms L Wilson (DPIPWE)

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS AND RELATED PARTY INTERESTS IN AGENDA ITEMS

Alderman Carlton (GCC) declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 but remained in the meeting room during discussion of this item. No interests in any other agenda items were declared.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2020

The Trust accepted the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April as true and correct. The minutes were signed.

4. ACTION TABLE – 24 June 2020

The action table was noted and discussed including removal of the following completed actions:

- Update on the operation of the Litter and Dumping Management System (LADMS).
- Project steering committee comments on draft policy elements for the Historic Bush Huts Management Policy Framework.
- Confirmation of due dates for the Trust's financial statement and Annual Report for 2020.

5. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager advised that no Trust staff, Park visitor, Park management agency staff or contractor incidents had been reported since the last WHS report on 5 April 2020.

The Manager noted that all Trust staff have been working from home as much as possible since 25 March to minimise the risk of catching and spreading the COVID-19 virus. As restrictions eased the Manager returned to the office on 1 June and the Education and Regulations Coordinator from 9 June. Other staff continue to work from home. All staff report being in good health.

The Manager noted that the Park was closed in accordance with State Government COVID-19 control measures on 27 March. In accordance with government directives the Park was re-opened to allow public access for exercise on 11 May, however the Fern Tree Park picnic area remained closed and Pinnacle Road remained closed to public vehicles. The Park fully re-opened on 5 June, however Pinnacle Road remained closed until 7 June due to snow and ice on the road. Signage regarding physical distancing requirements is in place at major entry points and track heads.

The Manager advised that there had been no reports of damage or other incidents due to recent heavy rainfall in the Park (about 250 mm over 2 days); confirmed by PWS member.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and noted.

NEW BUSINESS

Items for decision

6. BUDGET UPDATE AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2020-21

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager reported that State Government funding had been confirmed and noted that the Trust's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TasWater had been renewed; the MoU with the Parks and Wildlife Service was being renewed and the MoUs with Glenorchy and Hobart City Councils were due for renewal.

Members noted that the process for renewing the MoUs with Glenorchy and Hobart City Councils needs to start now. Agencies should be asked if they prefer a shorter term (3 years rather than 5 years).

Members agreed to have a strategic planning workshop on the Trust's functions and resourcing needs and sources of revenue, particularly in relation to the Visitation and Recreation Strategy.

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Item No. 6 continued

RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust endorses the budget for the 2020-21 financial year subject to a review of the Trust's vehicle requirements.

7. DRAFT HISTORIC BUSH HUTS MANAGEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager explained that the Trust had previously endorsed 4 key principles for the Historic Bush Hut Management Policy Framework. The project steering committee, which includes representatives of Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils and the PWS, have now endorsed a set of draft management policy elements developed from the 4 key principles. These have been provided to the Trust for comment.

The following issues were noted:

- The policy elements had only been considered by the project steering committee members, not by the Park management agencies.
- Members noted the proposed process for completion of the project and agreed that formal comment on the draft Management Policy Framework should be sought from the relevant Park management agencies before it is provided to the Trust for final approval.

RESOLVED:

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust agrees on the process for completion of the project set out in the report noting that formal comment on the draft Management Policy Framework will be sought from the relevant Park management agencies before it is provided to the Trust for final approval.

8. PARK ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT FOR NEW SIGNAGE AT THE FERN TREE PARK AND FERN GLADE ENTRIES TO THE PARK

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager advised that Hobart City Council has submitted a Park Activity Assessment (PAA) for new signage at Fern Tree Park and the car park and Park entry at Fern Glade. This signage is the last stage in the implementation of the Fern Tree Visitor Entry Node Master Plan at these locations.

The Manager noted that some of the proposed signage was outside the Park and did not require Trust approval, however the whole signage plan may require a planning permit under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

The Manager noted that there were still some matters with the location of the signs in the Park and compliance with the Wellington Park Signage Manual being discussed with Council and that the Trust's graphic designer could provide additional sign mock-ups for incorporation into the final sign plan if required. Council officers had asked for the Trust's view on what it considered essential signage in the event that only these sign can be installed at this stage.

The following issues were noted:

- Wellington Park entry signs are needed at main entry points in accordance with the Trust's resolution at its meeting on 5 February.
- COVID-19 safe messaging is not required on permanent signs as it is provided on temporary signs at entry points.

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Item No. 8 continued

- Members considered Park entry signs and directional signs that include safety and regulatory information as essential.
- The text on the 2 large, 3-panel interpretation signs requires further discussion and consideration before approval.
- Multilingual information is desirable and probably best provided on the Wellington Park website with QR code links on signage.

RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust Manager to issue a permit for the Park entry signs and directional signs that include safety and regulatory information when he is satisfied they meet the requirements of the Wellington Park Signage Manual.

9. PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF THE DRAFT GLENORCHY MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK MASTERPLAN

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager explained that Glenorchy City Council has prepared a draft master plan for the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park, part of which is within Wellington Park. Council now wishes to place a draft of the consultant's report on public exhibition as the final stage of its stakeholder and community consultation process and seeks the Trust's endorsement of the draft report.

The Manager advised that the draft of the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Master Plan attached to the report has been checked to confirm if a number of errors and misleading statements noted in the previous draft had been addressed. Most of the matters noted have been addressed, however some remain and are listed in attachment 5 to the report.

The following matters were noted:

- Members noted receipt of a letter from Glenorchy City Council's Director, Infrastructure and Works, with Council's response to 4 issues the Trust had advised Council it would need to be satisfied had been addressed in the master plan before final approval.
- Comments on the merits of the draft master plan, including the 4 issues the Trust wished to see addressed, will be provided after the next Trust meeting.
- Confusion about the location of the informal track known as "Cherry Lane" and therefore whether it should be included in the master plan requires further discussion between the Trust Manager and Council's project manager.

RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust endorses the draft Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Master Plan for public exhibition on the basis that it does not contain any factual errors or misleading statements.
3. The Trust Manager will work with Glenorchy City Council to address the matters noted in attachment 5 to the report.

10. PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF THE DRAFT MOUNTAIN BIKE NETWORK PLAN FOR THE LOWER FOOTHILLS OF KUNANYI / MOUNT WELLINGTON

The content of the report was discussed.

The Manager reported that the Trust had approved the public exhibition of the draft Mountain Bike Network Plan on the basis that it did not contain any factual errors or misleading statements. Council was advised that the Trust would provide comments on the merits of the plan and its recommendations during the exhibition period.

Members agreed there should be further discussion of the implications of the Network Plan for Park management between the Trust Manager and Council officers before the Trust finalises its comments. It was agreed that the project manager for the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Master Plan should be invited to attend the meeting.

It was noted that there had been separate discussions between Tourism Tasmania and Council's project officer about how the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to affect tourism and hence the Mountain Bike Network Plan.

RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust defers providing comments on the Mountain Bike Network Plan for the lower foothills of kunanyi / Mount Wellington until after further discussion between the Trust Manager and Council officers.

11. AGENDA PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TRUST MEETING

The content of the report was discussed.

Members agreed to change the date of the Trust meeting in November and that the following additional items need to be on the agenda for the next meeting:

- MoUs requiring renewal.
- Comments on the mountain bike plans being prepared by Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils.

RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust agrees on the priority items for the next Trust meeting listed in the report with the addition of the items noted above.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

12. TRUST PLANNING CALENDAR FOR 2020

The content of the report was discussed.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

13. UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH THE VISITATION AND RECREATION STRATEGY

Verbal report by the Project Manager.

The Project Manager for the Visitation and Recreation Strategy (VRS) advised the Trust of further results from the VRS and 2 forthcoming workshops, one to focus on natural and cultural heritage issues and the other on Park management issues.

The following comments were noted:

- The value of recreation for mental health and wellbeing needs to be considered. This was highlighted during the COVID-19 shutdown.

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Item No. 13 continued

- The Park adds value to the experience of visitors to Tasmania but it is unlikely many come to Tasmania because of the Park.
- Hobart City Council has deferred consideration of a visitor centre at Halls Saddle but is seeking funding to construct a car park and bus interchange.

Trust members thanked the Project Manager and noted that there would soon be a workshop for Trust members and deputies on the strategic directions in the VRS.

14. UPDATE ON PARK CLOSURE UNDER THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

Verbal report by the Trust Manager.

The Manager reported that, In accordance with State Government directives, the Park had been closed to the public between 27 March and 11 May with an exemption to allow Fern Tree residents to use the section of the Pipeline Track that runs through the Park between Huon Road and Clegg Road. The Park was partially re-opened on 11 May for persons living within 30 km of the Park for exercise only. The Fern Tree Park picnic area remained closed and Pinnacle Road remained closed to public vehicles. The Park fully re-opened on 5 June, however Pinnacle Road remained closed until 7 June due to snow and ice on the road.

Following the partial re-opening on 11 May there were some issues with overflowing car parks but there have been no issues reported since the full re-opening of the Park on 5 June.

15. REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF SMITHS MONUMENT

Verbal report by the Trust Manager.

The Manager reported that:

- The painted cast iron memorial to Dr John Smith who became lost and died in the Park in 1858 is becoming corroded and is in need of conservation work to prevent further deterioration.
- An Irish Masonic Lodge organised a memorial in 1858 at the site where Dr Smith's body was found.
- A meeting attended by the Trust Manager and Cultural Heritage Coordinator, Hobart City Council's Senior Cultural Heritage Officer and representatives of the Masons and the Hobart Walking Club discussed the options for conserving Smiths Monument.
- The meeting decided that the most cost effective option would be to remove the original monument, donate it the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery who have undertaken to carry out the necessary conservation work, and replace it with a suitable replica and an interpretation sign. The cost of a suitable replica is being determined.
- Removal of the monument from the Park and replacement with a replica will require a permit under the Wellington Park Regulations.

Trust members commented that they were happy with the proposal on the understanding that the original memorial would be available for display at a future visitor centre or other appropriate location and, although a replica on the site was desirable, it should depend on whether it could be provided at a reasonable cost.

16. JEFFERYS TRACK FEASIBILITY STUDY.

Verbal report by the Trust Manager.

The Manager reported that Huon Valley Council had just engaged consultants to undertake a study of the feasibility of upgrading Jefferys Track to a sealed public road.

17. REPORTS ON OFFICE ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Item for information only, no discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Trust has received a letter from the Fern Tree Community Association setting out its position on the consumption and sale of alcohol in the Park. The Association is opposed to the sale of alcohol in the Park but does not object to private consumption. The Trust Manager explained that there were no restrictions on the consumption of alcohol in the Park in either the Wellington Park Management Plan or the Wellington Park Act or Regulations. The Management Plan only allowed sale of alcohol to be considered within the Pinnacle Specific Area and Springs Specific Area, but any application would need a planning permit from Hobart City Council, a licence from the Trust as well as a liquor licence under the *Liquor Licensing Act 1990*.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence received and sent was noted.

NEXT MEETING

2 September 2020

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:45 am.