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MINUTES OF BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 9th of April 2019

Kororoit Creek Neighbourhood House

Present: Jessica Gerger, Reg Ayton, Linda Roberts, Gerard Morel, Jodie Williams, Dominique Wisniewski, Natalie Everett, Anna, Simon Egan, Kate Berg, Joshua Gomez

Apologies: Anne Beevers, Jack Nunn, Alex Schlotzer, Karin Saliba, Ferdi Saliba, Glenda Kueng

Meeting opened 7:00 pm.

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome, introductions and apologies President, Jessica Gerger, opened the meeting, welcomed members and apologies were noted.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of previous meeting Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th of February 2019 were accepted by the group. Moved: Linda Seconded: Natalie</p>	
<p>3. Actions from previous minutes</p> <p>a. Talk to Gerard and council about stormwater pipe nets (Linda) – Linda contacted Gerard about the nets. Gerard said he would continue to look into it, but explained some limitations of the nets with the group: the nets can get very heavy making them difficult to empty/remove and when the nets are too full additional litter simply flows over the net.</p> <p>b. Organise subcommittee for Campfires and Science event, and the DELWP grant (Jessica) – a subcommittee comprising Jessica, Dominique, Jack, Simon and Barbara Nunn was formed. A grant was put together and submitted before the deadline by Jack. The purpose of the grant was to raise funds for a data collection project on the health and biodiversity of the Kororoit Creek. There was some discussion about the possibility of using a Melbourne Water Waterwatch kit as one of the ways to collect data. Simon has experience with data collection and offered to train others to use the kit. The kit is a good way to provide a general health assessment of the water in the creek. Kate suggested finding out where Melbourne Water already does data collections and how frequent it is, then use that information to decide on the most strategic place for FOKC to conduct data collection. There is a possibility to get funds from Melbourne Water or a Merri Creek contact of Simon’s, to top up materials needed for the kit that the FOKC already owns.</p>	

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<p>4. Anna - Conservation Community Liaison Officer from the Environment Department at Brimbank City Council (BCC)</p> <p>Anna, as the new Conservation Community Liaison Officer, came along to meeting to introduce herself and remind the group of some upcoming BCC events that might be of interest:</p> <p>25th of May – community planting at Deer Park. Jessica said that FOKC would share/promote this event on the FOKC Facebook page.</p> <p>28th of July – BCC’s National Tree Day event will be held at Green Gully Reserve in Kealba.</p> <p>Jessica asked if council would still support the FOKC National Tree Day as they have in the past (organised a BBQ to cater for the large numbers of people expected). Anna said she would check with her team.</p> <p>Alex Scholtzer has been in touch with the Councillors to see if they could come to either the BCC or the FOKC National Tree Day. The councillors could also be split up so that there are Councillors present at both events. Anna said she would see what will be planned for the Councillors on the day.</p>	<p>Jessica – share BCC planting on the 25th of May on the FOKC Facebook page</p>
<p>5. Treasurer’s Report</p> <p>The bank account currently holds \$28,618, \$25,000 of which is from grants, including a grant for the Truganina project.</p> <p>\$3000 has been spent mostly on maintenance (carried out by Rosie from Haas and Gray), which came from the previous big grant from Melbourne Water. This is much larger amount spent on maintenance than it has been in the past. It was discussed that a reason for this could be due to increased size of planting sites. Ways to reduce the amount spent on maintenance were discussed. Since the current two pumps can be difficult to start and are not very reliable, the purchase of a water tank on a trailer was considered. Linda said she would look into the water tank trailer idea.</p> <p>More money was received from Melbourne Water than what was applied for in the last Melbourne Water grant application. Linda has been in touch with Andrew Clare from Melbourne Water regarding this issue.</p> <p>Gerard passed on \$50 which he received as a donation from someone who took away a group of goats from Melbourne Water land.</p>	<p>Linda– look into water tank trailer</p>
<p>6. Brainstorming for National Tree Day (Sunday, 28th of July)</p> <p>Australia Post has a \$500 grant available for not-for-profit organisations organising meaningful community projects. Jessica and Dom are applying for the grant to provide part of the money for a Welcome to Country and a Smoking Ceremony to be held on National Tree Day. The rest of the money will be provided by the Melbourne Water grant.</p> <p>Jessica volunteered Alex to follow up with the Wurundjeri Council about organising the two ceremonies, as Jessica will be away and unavailable to do that.</p> <p>Louise Nicholas (previous secretary of the FOKC) suggested an organisation that attends events and allows customers to top up their existing shampoo, conditioner and soap containers. The purpose of this would be to reduce the amount of packaging and therefore waste produced.</p> <p>Jodie suggested asking the Sunshine Street Band to perform again, as they have done at previous NTD events.</p> <p>Any other ideas for NTD – please share with a FOKC executive member.</p>	<p>Alex – follow up with Wurundjeri Council regarding ceremonies for NTD.</p>

<p>7. Upcoming events</p> <p>a. Friday, 26th of April – Earth Day at Sunshine Heights Primary School This event will be held between 9am-1pm. Anna will attend, and possibly Linda and Gerard.</p> <p>b. Sunday, 28th of April, 11.30am – 12.30pm – Love Your Station Day, Sunshine Station, City Place At the last Love Your Station Day an unacceptable amount of rubbish was found in several shopping trolleys in the laneway behind City Place shops. This was reported to BCC and compliance officers in plain clothes will monitor the area to determine where the rubbish is coming from and who is dumping it. Other sources of significant litter in the laneway include disposable smoking tubes coming from Shisha smoking venues located along City Place. Additionally, there are groups of people drinking in the laneway and then littering, possibly due to unlicensed shops nearby selling alcohol.</p> <p>c. Sunday, 19th of May, 10am-12pm, Boreham St and Stepping Stones (2A Boreham Street Sunshine) Infill planting will be conducted at Boreham St and a new strip of plants will be added to the current Stepping Stones planting. Council will carry out some preparation for this site, such as weed clearing. Large rocks will be installed at the Stepping Stones site to reduce the amount of erosion taking place on the bank. There will possibly be a working bee next weekend (20-21st of April) to remove graffiti on the Stepping Stones mural and a little bit of weeding.</p> <p>d. Friday, 31st of May – Caroline Chisholm Catholic College Planting This planting has been cancelled by the school. Currently waiting to hear of a new date from them.</p> <p>e. Friday, 19th of July – Ford Planting This planting will be from about 9am-3pm at Lizard Lounge. A further planting by Ford will take place on the 26th of July.</p> <p>f. Every Monday, 9.30am – 11.30am - Boomerang Bag Making, Kororoit Creek Neighbourhood House Everyone is welcome to attend this regular event.</p>	
<p>8. Other Business</p> <p>a. Melbourne Water report Feral goats are still present on Melbourne Water land, between Buckingham Reserve and Somerville Road on the east side of the creek. Gerard is continuing his efforts to remove them, as the goats eat all vegetation that is planted there, preventing any chance of revegetation. Gerard is trying to organise a meeting with representatives from all relevant departments in BCC. The purpose is to try to see how BCC and Melbourne Water can work better together, and ensure everyone is clear of Melbourne Water's intentions. Gerard attended a meeting with the Woodlea development group. They are still eager to build a community that works together to improve the health of the creek, but need assistance. Gerard said that the FOKC will help where they can. Ferdi and Karen Saliba reported to Gerard that two trees near Davitt Drive along the creek were removed. Gerard found out that they were removed by Melbourne Water due to complaints from a resident along the creek who said the trees were too close to their property. Melbourne Water will plant several trees in the area to replace the ones that were removed, but not next to the resident who complained.</p>	
<p>b. School sites Three school site plantings are coming up. Jessica will send more details of these events at a later date.</p>	Jessica – send email regarding school sites
<p>c. Broadspectrum planting Broadspectrum is a company working on the Westgate tunnel and they are eager to help out with some FOKC projects. A proposal has been by FOKC for the company to plant mostly trees near Proximity Drive, Sunshine West. FOKC are still waiting for a reply from the company.</p>	

<p>d. Sub groups</p> <p><u>Cairnlea</u> Natalie had been in contact with Mayor Lucinda, and had taken the Mayor on a walk along the creek to show the overgrown weeds and litter present there. Mayor Lucinda was not happy with the state of the creek and passed on her concerns to the council. The Urban Design department have devised a proposal to clean up and revegetate the area. Natalie shared the proposal at the meeting asking for the group's opinion. Gerard suggested that Urban Design should get in touch with Melbourne Water since a lot of the work that has been proposed is what Melbourne Water would do anyway. Gerard also suggested that Melbourne Water should be involved in this proposal instead of the FOKC. Jessica suggested keeping some of the dead tress along the creek as structures for habitats. Natalie also said that a large bin has been dumped in the creek. Gerard said he could organise for Melbourne Water to remove it. The day of the Cairnlea planting event will possibly change from the 23rd of June to the 14th of July.</p> <p><u>Beautiful Brimbank</u> Received a good turn out at the recent Clean Up Australia Day event. About 50 bags of rubbish were collected on the day. BCC provided some support on the day by organising and cooking a BBQ. Jodie will make a laminated sheet with cues on how to introduce a group of people to an event, including how to carry out an acknowledgment of traditional owners and provide a safety talk. The aim of this is to encourage others interested in becoming event leaders and aid them while opening an event. It was asked if the recently erected mural at the Love Your Station Day site has been graffiti proofed. Jodie said she would follow up on that.</p>	<p>Natalie – email Gerard regarding removal of bin in creek in Cairnlea.</p> <p>Jodie – create laminated sheet with instructions/suggestions on how to open an event.</p> <p>Jodie – find out if the Love Your Station Day mural has been graffiti proofed.</p>
<p>9. Next meeting – 7pm Tuesday 11th of June at the Kororoit Creek Neighbourhood House</p> <p>The FOKC has received an invitation to visit the Healesville Sanctuary on the 25th of May. See Jessica for details if you are interested. Jessica will be giving a talk at a Kindergarten about the creek. Others are welcome to join her. Joshua announced to the group that he is looking into doing a course in land conservation and management – news that was well received by the group.</p>	

Meeting closed 8:40 pm