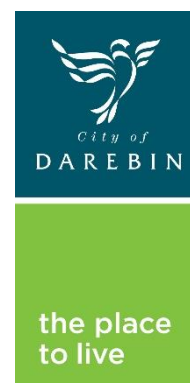


Meeting Minutes

Darebin Nature Trust

7 March 2023
 5.00pm – 7.00 pm
 The Gleeson Centre, Darebin Parklands



Community Member invitees: Michelle Lang, Nadine Richings, William Ruchel
Officer Support: Sofia Enrigue, Michelle Perry, Hannah Lopez
Councillor invitees: Cr. Tom Hannan
Apologies: Aviva Reed, Owen Butler, Cr. Susanne Newton, Cr. Trent McCarthy

Item	Description	Actions
1. Welcome & Acknowledgements	Acknowledgement of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country Welcome & Introductions Resignations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janine Howton 	
2. Assembly of Councillors	No conflicts to report from councillors	ACTION - Send SMC to Council Business - Completed
3. Confirmation of minutes & actions from previous meeting	Previous meeting confirmation of minutes and progress update of actions was explained to the committee.	
4. Council Officer Introduction	Hannah Lopez (Water Sensitive Urban Design Support Engineer) – Background and work portfolio outlined	
5. Update on DNT survey responses	Some of the key insights from members responses were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main priority selected from the Committee’s guiding practices was to create viable long-term habitat for flora and fauna within Darebin in the face of climate change Collective desire to be consulted at early stages of projects to have a greater impact shaping the outcomes. Suggestion to increase collaboration between different council departments and external stakeholders to better support Darebin's flora and fauna. Discussion to change meeting start time to 5:30 pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only two members present at the time: one member stated they are flexible, the other mentioned they can’t commit to a 5.30 pm start. Online survey shows two other members prefer a 5pm start over a 5.30 pm It was decided that the 5 pm time would be respected. 	

<p>6. Ruthven Park Wetland</p>	<p>Presentation, feedback and discussion around the Ruthven Park Wetland project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hannah presented the different proposed scenarios for the Ruthven Wetland project, their constraints and advantages. - Proposal to consider the installation of a dog off-lead area to keep dogs off the water body. - Question around biodiversity values being considered into the design – Hannah mentioned that stage to discuss such concepts will come later in the process. - Proposal to lean on biodiversity values to guide visitors to the park to make good environmental choices - Potential seed bank under the concrete – Michelle P. indicated nothing of high significance has been found, species found are those which are already in high numbers in Darebin. 	<p>ACTION – Sofia to send Hannah’s presentation for DNT members to provide feedback – deadline for feedback 30th March</p>
<p>Break (5min)</p>		
<p>7. Strategic use of iNaturalist data</p>	<p>Discussion around the use/analysis of iNaturalist data and the organisation of Bioblitz events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research today, mainly focuses on records of unique or rare findings, not exploring the benefits of ongoing data collection - Suggestion to identify a knowledge gap and develop a question and objective - Consider that different demographics have different interests - Identify key iNaturalist users in the area and engage with them - Engage with schools to include in the curriculum - Connect with university students for collaboration in data analysis 	<p>ACTION – Sofia to share information about the upcoming City Nature Challenge.</p>
<p>8. Project updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cheddar Rd. Revitalisation Project – community consultation – around 40 people provided their insights for improvement works and ideas to inform future projects at Cheddar Rd. Project outcomes are: Improved amenity along a well-used walking/cycling link to the Reservoir Centre; Increasing community use and satisfaction with open space; Improve biodiversity values. Limitations: Melbourne Water pipes under the project’s site. ● Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Taskforce – overview of the last meeting’s discussions – it was agreed that a scoping and prioritisation study will be completed at Edwardes Lake to 	<p>ACTION – share project’s updates</p> <p>ACTION – Sofia to send Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Taskforce meeting minutes.</p>

	<p>outline feasible water quality improvement projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White's skink research project – This species, which hadn't been seen in Darebin for 20 years, was recorded during the City Nature Challenge last year. La Trobe honours student is looking at the genetics of populations in Darebin, as well as the surrounding populations within the Melbourne region. The aim is to compare them to populations in non-fragmented areas around Victoria, to determine any effects of habitat fragmentation. 	
9. DNT member resignation and new members recruitment	<p>Update on member's resignation and recruitment plan for new DNT members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As stated in the Terms of Reference, all appointments will be for an initial period of 2 years, so current members will need to reapply in June - Recruitment for new members will occur during the same recruitment round in June - Discussion around temporarily recruiting people who have applied to be part of the DNT in the past. 	<p>ACTION – Sofia and Michelle to investigate if applicants from past recruitment rounds can be appointed temporarily until next recruitment in June – Completed</p>
11. Other business (15 mins)	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dumbarton Grasslands – land has been sold - Dole Reserve – seek clarification on recent changes. - Enquiry regarding the Darebin Nature Plan - Nature Strips 	<p>ACTION – share updates about Dumbarton Grasslands</p> <p>ACTION – Members to send comments or questions to Hannah L.</p> <p>ACTION – Sofia to share the Darebin Nature Plan</p> <p>ACTION – members to reach out to Sofia and Michelle with comments or questions</p>
Close	Meeting Closed 7:05pm	Chair

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday 6th June 2023

Time: 5 – 7 pm

Location: to be determined