

CITY OF JOONDALUP

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM 2, JOONDALUP CIVIC CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE, JOONDALUP ON WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2006

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Committee members

Mr M Norman	Chairman	
Mr B Fitzsimmons	Community Representative	<i>Departed 1800 hrs</i>
Mr R Henderson	Community Representative	
Mr S Magyar	Community Representative	
Mrs M Zakrevsky	Community Representative	
Mrs C Wood	Community Representative	

Officers

K Armstrong	Conservation Coordinator	Infrastructure Management Services
J Schelfhout	Administration Officer	Infrastructure Management Services

Apologies

DECLARATION OF OPENING

Chairman Mike Norman opened the meeting at 1745 hours.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Ms S Bailey	Community Representative
Mr D Pike	Community Representative
Mr J Wood	Community Representative
Mr D Mallan	Community Representative
M Ralph	Manager Infrastructure Management Services
Commissioner M Anderson	Guest

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOVED S Magyar SECONDED M Zakrevsky that the minutes of the meeting of the Conservation Advisory Committee held on 22 February 2005 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to change listed below.

Ms Margaret Ellerton, guest, is a member of the Friends of Maritana, not Periwinkle.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5/0)

In favour of the Motion:

Mr M Norman, Mr R Henderson, Mr S Magyar, Mrs M Zakrevsky, Mrs C Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

M Norman announced his resignation as Chairman and Committee member, effective today.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

REPORTS

ITEM 1 VOLUNTEERS AND BUSHLAND FRIENDS GROUPS - [12168]

WARD: All

RESPONSIBLE Mr David Djulbic
DIRECTOR: Infrastructure Services

PURPOSE

To introduce for discussion the possibility of seeking the assistance of volunteers registered with Volunteering WA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) has requested that Council officers investigate the possibility of bushland Friends groups in the City being able to garner the assistance of volunteers registered with Volunteering WA with projects in the natural areas managed by the City. The CAC has requested staff to provide a report on this topic for the CAC meeting to be held on 29 March 2006. Committee members will then further discuss the issue at this meeting.

BACKGROUND

Volunteering WA is the peak body for volunteering in Western Australia. It is a membership based organisation and its main focus is to link volunteers with community based not for profit agencies.

Volunteering WA retains a database of volunteers from throughout the state, which matches these volunteers with community organisations requiring volunteers.

The ten bushland Friends groups operating within the City's natural areas are examining ways to increase their membership base and the use of volunteers from Volunteering WA is one of the options they are to examine.

DETAILS

Issues and options considered:

Ten Friends groups and a coast care group currently assist the City in the management of natural areas. Volunteers undertake many tasks, including vegetation and weed surveys, conducting guided nature walks, and planting indigenous plant species.

The City's Friends groups feel an association with Volunteering WA will be a means to boost group membership and enable them to utilise volunteers on Volunteering WAs database. Local volunteers could be located, thereby building a long-term association with locally based volunteers.

Link to Strategic Plan:

Key Focus Area

Caring for the environment.

Outcomes

The City of Joondalup is environmentally responsible in its activities.

Objectives

To plan and manage our natural resources to ensure sustainability.

Strategies

- 2.1.1 Maintain and protect natural assets to retain biodiversity.
- 2.1.2 Further develop environmentally effective and energy-efficient programmes.
- 2.1.3 Develop a coordinated environmental framework, including community education.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

The Local Government Act 1995 allows a Council to establish committees to assist a Council to exercise the powers and discharge the duties that can be delegated to a committee.

Risk Management considerations:

Volunteers involved in bonafide City endorsed activities within its reserves are covered by the City's public insurances.

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not Applicable.

Policy implications:

Not Applicable.

Regional Significance:

Not Applicable.

Sustainability implications:Environmental

The Conservation Advisory Committees objective “To make recommendations to Council for the Conservation of the City of Joondalup’s biodiversity”.

Social

To promote partnerships between Council and the Community to protect the City of Joondalup’s natural biodiversity as contained within its various natural areas (bushland, wetlands and the coastal environment).

Consultation:

The Conservation Advisory Committee provides a forum for community consultation and engagement on natural areas.

COMMENT

The City’s Friends groups have been a valuable resource over a number of years, an increase in membership of these groups would allow more volunteers hours to be undertaken within the City’s natural areas. It is considered that a close association between the Friends groups, Volunteering WA and the City should be supported.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Conservation Advisory Committee, at its meeting on 29 March 2006, CONSIDERS Item 1, Volunteers and Bushland Friends Group.

The Committee agreed that the City should seek to register the City’s bushland friends with Volunteering WA, and that such an association will be of benefit to the City.

MOVED R Henderson SECONDED M Norman the CAC accepts the report and requests that Council jointly registers all friends groups with Volunteering WA.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5/0)

In favour of the Motion:

Mr M Norman, Mr R Henderson, Mr S Magyar, Mrs M Zakrevsky, Mrs C Wood

MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil.

REQUESTS FOR REPORTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- 1 The eradication of feral bees on land managed by the City of Joondalup.
- 2 Development of a list of weed species with a view to declaring them pest species for elimination.

RECOMMENDATION

MOVED M Zagrevsky SECONDED R Henderson

1. THAT the Conservation Advisory Committee requests Council to endorse the Committee's request for a report on the immediate eradication of feral bees on all land managed by the City of Joondalup for public safety and to maintain biodiversity.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5/0)

In favour of the Motion:

Mr M Norman, Mr R Henderson, Mr S Magyar, Mrs M Zakrevsky, Mrs C Wood

MOVED M Zagrevsky SECONDED R Henderson

1. THAT the Conservation Advisory Committee requests Council to endorse the Committee's request for a report on developing a list of weed species that require urgent attention, with a view to declaring them pest species for elimination on all land within the City of Joondalup, both private and under the control or management of the City.
2. THAT the first species to be considered for the list are Calthrop, Mosman River Grass and Black Flag for reasons of public safety and severe environmental impact that these weeds cause currently and into the future.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5/0)

In favour of the Motion:

Mr M Norman, Mr R Henderson, Mr S Magyar, Mrs M Zakrevsky, Mrs C Wood

CLOSURE

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 1934 hrs.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) will be held in Conference Room 2, Joondalup Civic Centre, Boas Avenue, Joondalup on Wednesday 26 April 2006 at 5.30pm.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

MOVED D Millan SECONDED M Zakrevsky that the minutes of the meeting of the Conservation Advisory committee held on 22 February 2006 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to change below.

Ms Margaret Ellerton, guest, is a member of the Friends of Maritana Bushland, not Periwinkle Bushland.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6/0)

In favour of the Motion:

Ms S Bailey, Mr S Magyar, Mr D Millan, Mr D Pike, Mr J Wood, Mrs M Zakrevsky

RECOMMENDATION

MOVED M Zakrevsky SECONDED D Pike that the minutes of the meeting of the Conservation Advisory Committee held on 29 March 2006 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6/0)

In favour of the Motion:

Ms S Bailey, Mr S Magyar, Mr D Millan, Mr D Pike, Mr J Wood, Mrs M Zakrevsky

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

IDENTIFICATION OF MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY SIT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

N/A

PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

REPORTS

Item 1 Feral Bees in Bushland Reserves
Item 2 Volunteers and Bushland Friends Groups

ITEM 1 FERAL BEES IN CITY'S RESERVES

WARD: All
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: Mr David Djulbic
Infrastructure Services

PURPOSE

To introduce for discussion the impact feral bees have on the City's reserves and the possible eradication of bees within these reserves.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) has requested that Council officers investigate the impact feral bees are having on the City's reserves in particular the bushland reserves, with a view to the possible eradication of feral bees from these reserves.

The CAC requested staff to provide a report on this topic for committee members to discuss at CAC meeting on 3 May 2006.

BACKGROUND

The existence of European feral bees on land managed by the City has been the topic for discussion at the Conservation Advisory Committee on many occasions in the Committee's ten-year history. Up to this point discussions have been general in nature and no reports have been requested and no motions passed.

The main concern of members has been the threat these bees pose to public safety and their detrimental affect on the biodiversity of natural areas.

At the March 2006 Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting the Committee resolved the following;

That the Conservation Advisory Committee requests Council to endorse the Committee's request for a report on the immediate eradication of feral bees on all land managed by the City of Joondalup for public safety and to maintain biodiversity.

DETAILS

Issues and options considered:

European bees were introduced to Western Australia in the early nineteenth century as a source of honey and for crop pollination. Bees have since escaped captivity and are found throughout parklands and bushland within the Perth metropolitan region.

The City has been very proactive in disposing of swarming bees when they have been found on verges and in parklands because of the risk bee stings pose to

residents. The removal of bees under these circumstances is an activity the City has undertaken for over twenty years and has been viewed as a public safety issue.

Recent research has revealed that bees also pose a serious ecological threat to Western Australia's biodiversity as found in our natural spaces. Feral bees (introduced species) nest in the same locations as our native birds and mammals, ie holes in tree trunks and hollow logs. This has had a substantial deleterious affect on the numbers of native birds and mammals found in our bushland reserves.

Birds and mammals will not enter areas where bees are active and this limits their choice of nesting hollows and results in reduced fauna populations. A recent survey undertaken near the Cateby Roadhouse on the Brand Highway found that in 1996, 74 potential nesting hollows were recorded along a 3km creek bed, of which two were occupied by bees. When the area was checked again in 2005 every hollow contained a bee's nest, which demonstrates the affect feral bees have on hollow dependent fauna.

To maintain biodiversity and to reduce the risk to the public, the CAC members wish to bring to Council's attention the impacts feral bees are having on the City's natural areas.

Link to Strategic Plan:

Key Focus Area

Caring for the environment

Outcomes

The City of Joondalup is environmentally responsible in its activities.

Objectives

To plan and manage our natural resources to ensure sustainability.

Strategies

- 2.1.1 Maintain and protect natural assets to retain biodiversity.
- 2.1.2 Further develop environmentally effective and energy-efficient programmes.
- 2.1.3 Develop a coordinated environmental framework, including community education.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

The Local Government Act 1995 allows a Council to establish committees to assist a Council to exercise the powers and discharge the duties that can be delegated to a committee.

Risk Management considerations:

Feral bees pose a safety risk to members of the public using Council managed reserves where bees are present. Feral bees also have a profound negative affect on the ecological health and the biodiversity of native bushland.

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not Applicable.

Policy implications:

Not Applicable.

Regional Significance:

Not Applicable.

Sustainability implications:

Environmental

The Conservation Advisory Committees objective "To make recommendations to Council for the Conservation of the City of Joondalup's biodiversity".

Social

To promote partnerships between Council and the Community to protect the City of Joondalup's natural biodiversity as contained within its various natural areas (bushland, wetlands and the coastal environment).

Consultation:

The Conservation Advisory Committee provides a forum for community consultation and engagement on natural areas.

COMMENT

There is growing concern amongst land managers in Australia about the growing number of introduced feral bees found in public open spaces. The Conservation Advisory Committee is the appropriate forum to discuss these issues at the City of Joondalup.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Conservation Advisory Committee, at its meeting on 3 May 2006, CONSIDERS Item 1, Feral Bees in the City's Reserves.

RECOMMENDATION

MOVED M Zakrevsky SECONDED D Millan

1. That the Conservation Advisory Committee requests Council to include information on feral bees on its website with links to other organisations that explain the danger of feral bees to local biodiversity;
2. That the Conservation Advisory Committee requests Council to ensure adequate funds are available for feral bee removal from all Council controlled land including bushland reserves;

3. That the Conservation Advisory Committee requests Council to thank Council officers for their continued involvement in ongoing research with CALM and Water Authority;
4. That the Conservation Advisory Committee requests Council to acknowledge Council's responsibility under Duty of Care to ensure that members of the community are not exposed to the danger of feral bees whilst on Council managed land, and that Council ensure their removal where practicable.
5. The Committee agreed that the City should seek to register the City's Bushland Friends with Volunteering WA as such an association will be of benefit to the City.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6/0)

In favour of the Motion:

Ms S Bailey, Mr S Magyar, Mr D Millan, Mr D Pike, Mr J Wood, Mrs M Zakrevsky

ITEM 2 VOLUNTEERS AND BUSHLAND FRIENDS GROUPS - [12168]

WARD: All

RESPONSIBLE Mr David Djulbic

DIRECTOR: Infrastructure Services

PURPOSE

To introduce for discussion the possibility of seeking the assistance of volunteers registered with Volunteering WA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) has requested that Council officers investigate the possibility of Bushland Friends groups in the City being able to garner the assistance of volunteers registered with Volunteering WA with projects in the natural areas managed by the City. The CAC requested staff to provide a report on this topic for the CAC to discuss at its meeting on 3 May 2006.

BACKGROUND

Volunteering WA is the peak body for volunteering in Western Australia. It is a membership-based organisation and its main focus is to link volunteers with community based not for profit agencies.

Volunteering WA retains a database of volunteers throughout the state, which matches these volunteers with community organisations requiring volunteers.

The ten Bushland Friends groups operating within the City's natural areas are examining ways to increase their membership base and the use of volunteers from Volunteering WA is one of the options they are to examine.

DETAILS

Issues and options considered:

Ten Bushland Friends groups and a Coast Care group currently assist the City in the management of natural areas. Volunteers undertake many tasks, including vegetation and weed surveys, conducting guided nature walks, and planting indigenous plant species.

The City's Friends groups feel an association with Volunteering WA will be a means to boost group membership and enable them to utilise volunteers on Volunteering WA's database. Local volunteers could be located, thereby building a long-term association with locally based volunteers.

Link to Strategic Plan:

Key Focus Area

Caring for the environment.

Outcomes

The City of Joondalup is environmentally responsible in its activities.

Objectives

To plan and manage our natural resources to ensure sustainability.

Strategies

- 2.1.4 Maintain and protect natural assets to retain biodiversity.
- 2.1.5 Further develop environmentally effective and energy-efficient programmes.
- 2.1.6 Develop a coordinated environmental framework, including community education.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

The Local Government Act 1995 allows a Council to establish committees to assist a Council to exercise the powers and discharge the duties that can be delegated to a committee.

Risk Management considerations:

Volunteers involved in bonafide City endorsed activities within its reserves are covered by the City's public insurances.

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not Applicable.

Policy implications:

Not Applicable.

Regional Significance:

Not Applicable.

Sustainability implications:

Environmental

The Conservation Advisory Committees objective "To make recommendations to Council for the Conservation of the City of Joondalup's biodiversity".

Social

To promote partnerships between Council and the Community to protect the City of Joondalup's natural biodiversity as contained within its various natural areas (bushland, wetlands and the coastal environment).

Consultation:

The Conservation Advisory Committee provides a forum for community consultation and engagement on natural areas.

COMMENT

The City's Friends groups have been a valuable resource over a number of years and an increase in membership of these groups would allow more volunteers' hours to be undertaken within the City's natural areas. It is considered that a close association between the Friends groups, Volunteering WA and the City should be supported.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Conservation Advisory Committee, at its meeting on 3 May 2006, CONSIDERS Item 2, Volunteers and Bushland Friends Group.

MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil.

REQUESTS FOR REPORTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- Pest Weed Species within the City of Joondalup

At this point the Chairman suspended Standing Orders for discussion on the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

MOVED S Magyar SECONDED S Bailey

1. That the Conservation Advisory Committee requests Council to accept the nomination of Marjory Apthorpe as a representative of the Joondalup Coastal Care Forum to the CAC;

2. That the Conservation Advisory Committee requests Council to note the resignation of Mike Norman, thank him and recognise his long service on the CAC for the last 10 years;
3. That the Conservation Advisory Committee requests Council to note the resignation of Daniel Millan and thank Daniel for his contribution to the CAC.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6/0)

In favour of the Motion:

Ms S Bailey, Mr S Magyar, Mr D Millan, Mr D Pike, Mr J Wood, Mrs M Zakrevsky

The Chairman reinstated standing orders

D Millan left the meeting at 1840 hours.

CLOSURE

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 1841 hours.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be advised.