UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

20 JULY 2022

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ATTENTION/DISCLAIMER

The purpose of this Committee Meeting is to discuss and make recommendations to Council about items appearing on the agenda and other matters for which the Committee is responsible. The Committee has no power to make any decisions which are binding on the Council or the Shire of Mundaring unless specific delegation of authority has been granted by Council. No person should rely on or act on the basis of any advice or information provided by a Member or Employee, or on the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the Committee Meeting.

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1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES

The Presiding Person declared the meeting open at 6.04pm.

Acknowledgement of Country

Shire of Mundaring respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We wish to acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the region.

1.1 Announcement of Visitors

The Presiding Person welcomed David Deeley and Susan Deeley.

1.2 Attendance/Apologies

Members	Cr Amy Collins (Presiding Person)	Central Ward
	Cr John Daw	East Ward
	Larissa Byrne	Member
	Stephan Millett	Member
	Alexis Krapez	Member
	Andrew Wallace	Member
	Michael Waite	Member

Staff	Angus Money	Manager Planning & Environment
	Briony Moran	Co-ordinator Environment & Sustainability
	Andrew Bratley	Coordinator Strategic Planning
	Jenine Smith	Minute Secretary

Apologies	Michael Lohr	Member
	Winsome Santa Maria	Member
	Francesca Flynn	Member
Absent		

Guests	Cr Paige McNeil (Deputy President)	Central Ward
	Cr Claire Hurst	East Ward
	Susan Deeley	Consultant
	David Deeley	Consultant

Members of the Public

Members of the Press

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil.

3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3.1 Declaration of Financial Interest and Proximity Interests

Elected Members must disclose the nature of their interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting *(Part 5 Division 6 of the Local Government Act 1995).*

Employees must disclose the nature of their interest in reports or advice when giving the report or advice to the meeting *(Sections 5.70 and 5.71 of the Local Government Act 1995).*

Nil.

3.2 Declaration of Interest Affecting Impartiality

An Elected Member or an employee who has an interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting must disclose that interest *(Shire of Mundaring Code of Conduct, Local Government (Admin) Reg. 34C).*

Nil.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

COMMITTEE DECISION **EAC1.07.22**
MOTION

Moved by Michael Waite Seconded by Cr John Daw

That the Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held 17 February 2022 be confirmed.

CARRIED 7/0

For: Cr Amy Collins, Cr John Daw, Stephan Millett, Larissa Byrne, Alexis Krapez, Andrew Wallace, and Michael Waite

Against: Nil

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy – Progress Presentation by consultants Dr David Deeley and Ian Bradshaw

The above presentation was held after the closure of the meeting to allow for a more interactive workshop and facilitate greater input from EAC members.

6.0 REPORTS OF EMPLOYEES

6.1 Environmental Art Project Theme for 2023

File Code	GV.MTG 6/7
Author	Briony Moran, Coordinator Environment and Sustainability
Senior Employee	Angus Money, Manager Planning & Environment
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	Nil

SUMMARY

The Environmental Art Project (EAP) is a long running environmental education initiative with a different theme each year.

It is recommended that the EAC endorse an environmental volunteer focussed theme for the 2023 EAP, 'Helping Hands'.

BACKGROUND

The EAP is an annual program delivered in partnership with the Mundaring Arts Centre. It is centred around an environmental drawing competition and exhibition for local primary school students. Each year, classes and students can investigate the environmental or sustainability theme, then develop their ideas into an A4 artwork. Focus questions and pages of resources are provided to assist schools, teachers and students to participate.

A professional artist assists the winning students to adapt and paint their design onto a banner to be displayed in the town centre. After a year, the banners are returned to the students as the new designs are installed.

The banners currently displayed in the Mundaring town centre are from the 2021 theme, Caring for Country. The current year's theme is Backyard Biodiversity, with entries open until 17 October 2022. Previous themes have included Life in the Leaf Litter, Plastic Waste and Recycling, Clean Energy, and Things with Wings.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Shire's Environmental Sustainability Policy includes a number of principles that relate to stewardship of the natural environment, and collaborative environmental education initiatives such as EAP, including:

3.2. The Shire seeks to build and maintain effective partnerships to promote environmental awareness, responsible natural resource management and sustainable lifestyles.

3.3. Information will be made available for schools and residents on sustainability and local environmental issues through publications, talks, workshops and other mediums.

3.4. The Shire encourages enjoyment, environmental stewardship and care of natural areas by residents and community groups.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 2 - Natural Environment

Objective 2.1 – Protecting natural areas and biodiversity

Strategy 2.1.1 – Pursue revegetation and address weeds and other threats to native flora and fauna in partnership with Friends Groups, the wider community, government and non-government organisations

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The provision of an environmental themed art project for local primary schools across the Shire has social and environmental benefits. A theme that supports volunteering to help the environment will have additional social and environmental benefits.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: The Shire's reputation within the community may be at risk if supporting materials are not provided to help schools participate		
Likelihood	**Consequence**	**Rating**
Unlikely	Minor	Low
Action / Strategy		
Collate suitable resource material to provide to schools to support the theme		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Mundaring Arts Centre staff were consulted and are very supportive of the theme. Confirming the theme in advance allows more time for the Mundaring Arts Centre to seek grants and additional funding to support the project and deliver more related activities.

City of Swan often adopt the theme developed by the Shire of Mundaring to promote to schools within their area. This year the proposed theme and title were developed in collaboration with City of Swan staff, who are strongly supportive of recognising the contributions of environmental volunteers.

COMMENT

The Shire has a long history of supporting environmental volunteers in Friends Groups and Catchment Groups working to restore natural areas. These groups have raised the issue of recruiting new volunteers, and particularly younger volunteers, to continue their work as older members retire from groups or move away.

Other types of environmental volunteering that could be included in the material developed for schools are wildlife carers, volunteers making nest boxes, and volunteers sorting donated materials to support reuse (minimising waste and environmental impacts).

As well as helping look after the environment, volunteering also has benefits for the volunteers themselves:

- Learning new skills and building confidence
- Having fun whilst giving back to the community
- Feeling valued and part of a team
- Taking concern about the natural environment and turning it into practical local action can reduce anxiety
- Meeting new people and feeling more connected to the local community, as well as the natural environment.

The theme of 'Helping Hands' would provide broader recognition of the important contributions made by our current environmental volunteers, and hopefully encourage future volunteers.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COMMITTEE DECISION RECOMMENDATION			**EAC2.07.22**
Moved by	Dr Millett	Seconded by	Member Waite

That the Committee supports the environmental volunteers theme 'Helping Hands' for the 2023 Environmental Art Project.

CARRIED 7/0

For: Cr Amy Collins, Cr John Daw, Stephan Millett, Larissa Byrne, Alexis Krapez, Andrew Wallace, and Michael Waite

Against: Nil

7.0 URGENT BUSINESS (LATE REPORTS)

8.0 CLOSING PROCEDURES

8.1 Date, Time and Place of the Next Meeting

The next Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, 7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring.

8.2 Closure of the Meeting

The Presiding Person closed the meeting at 6.20pm, advising the meeting that the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy presentation will now be held.