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Ald Damon Thomas	Hobart City Council
Ald Jeff Briscoe	Hobart City Council
Ms Frances Smith	TasWater
Mr Chris Colley	Parks and Wildlife Service
Ms Rita Warrener	Tourism Tasmania
Ald Melissa Carlton	Glenorchy City Council
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Cr Will Coats	Deputy to Ald Thomas
Ms Anne Greentree	Tourism Tasmania deputy
Mr Ben Goodsir	DPIPWE deputy
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## WELLINGTON PARK MANAGEMENT TRUST

### Meeting Minutes

#### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON PARK MANAGEMENT TRUST HELD AT 9:30 AM ON WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2021 IN THE "RIVERVIEW ROOM" OF THE HOBART COUNCIL CENTRE

##### NOTE

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

INFORMATION IN THE PUBLISHED MINUTES MAY BE REDACTED IF THE TRUST CONSIDERS IT IS EXEMPT INFORMATION UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT 2009

#### 1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

**PRESENT:**

- Dr C Mucha (Chairperson)
- Ms R Warrener (Tourism Tasmania)
- Ms F Smith (TasWater)
- Mr B Goodsir (DPIPWE deputy)

**APOLOGIES:**

- Ms L Wilson (DPIPWE)
- Alderman J Briscoe (HCC)
- Alderman M Carlton (GCC)
- Alderman D Thomas (HCC)
- Mr C Colley (PWS)

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

Nil

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2020**

The Trust accepted the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020 as true and correct. The minutes were signed.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE ADDITIONAL MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2020**

The Trust accepted the minutes of the additional meeting held on 3 December 2020 as true and correct. The minutes were signed.

**5. ACTION TABLE – 17 February 2021**

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

- Fern Tree Park and Fern Glade entry interpretation signs
- Park Activity Assessment for new Track 1b in Hobart City Council's "Riding the Mountain Plan"
- Discussions with Hobart City Council about its proposal to address traffic management issues on Pinnacle Road.

The working group to review the Strategic Risk Management Framework and risk register will be postponed till after the next Trust meeting.

**6. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

The content of the report was discussed.

The Trust Manager advised that no Trust staff, Park management agency staff or contractor incidents had been reported since the last WHS report on 14 November 2020.

One incident involving a fire outside one of the bush huts in the Park was noted. The fire was quickly extinguished by the Tasmania Fire Service who determined that it was started by discarded ashes from the fireplace in the hut.

Tasmania Police reported a fatality on the Ice House Track due to cardiac arrest.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and noted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Items for decision**

**7. INCLUSION OF PROPOSED NEW TRACK 1b IN THE WELLINGTON PARK BIKE STRATEGY**

The content of the report was discussed.

The Trust Manager advised that Hobart City Council has prepared a mountain bike network plan for the lower foothills of kunanyi / Mount Wellington called "Riding the Mountain" which aims to improve track accessibility, connectivity and navigation as well as increasing the diversity of tracks with different levels of difficulty to allow for rider skill progression.

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Item No. 7 continued

The Trust Manager noted that Council submitted a Park Activity Assessment (PAA) for the highest priority tracks in the "Riding the Mountain" plan (Tracks 1a & 1b) in November 2020 and this was considered at the Trust meeting on 3 December 2020. In the PAA Track 1a was proposed as a shared use track linking the O'Gradys Falls Fire Trail with Shoobridge Bend and Track 1b as a downhill only, mountain bike only track running roughly parallel to Track 1a. Council proposed to construct both tracks to an 'easy' grade to provide a loop ride for beginner riders.

Track 1a was approved but it was considered that there needed to be more discussion regarding the need and function of Track 1b and the proposed 'beginners loop', as well as consideration of alternative locations.

Council officers provided Trust members with a short presentation on the need and proposed function of the tracks and answered Trust members' questions. The following matters were noted:

- Council officers explained that Track 1a was suitable for shared use as long as it was restricted to bike riders going uphill. It was noted that riders prefer "easy" grade ascending tracks and it is best practice to provide riders with a correspondingly graded descent track so they can return to their starting point.
- The only proposed alternative descending track route from The Springs, Track 2 in the "Riding the Mountain" plan, would be far more expensive and have a greater impact on natural and heritage values than Track 1b.
- A new descending track would allow the current route used by riders for ascent and descent via Radfords Track, upper Middle Track and Reservoir Trail to be closed and revert to walking only.
- The S56 Track will be upgraded to an "easy" grade to provide better access to the Park from Halls Saddle.

It was agreed that, although Track 1b would be constructed to an "easy" grade, it would not be promoted as a destination for beginner riders as this would set the wrong expectation and may raise liability issues.

The Trust Manager noted that new Tracks 1a and 1b require a planning permit under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA). The Wellington Park Management Plan 2013 allows new recreation tracks in the Recreation Zone "when endorsed in a Recreation Strategy, Walking Track Strategy or Bike Strategy prepared in accordance with the Management Plan". Track 1a is included in the Wellington Park Bike Strategy but not Track 1b.

**RESOLVED**

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Wellington Park Bike Strategy be amended to include proposed new Track 1b.
3. The Trust Manager be authorised to issue a permit for the works to construct Track 1b when he is satisfied that the track meets all the interim principles for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of mountain bike facilities in Wellington Park.

**8. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

This item was deferred until the next Trust meeting.

## 9. APPROVAL OF FERN TREE PARK INTERPRETATION SIGNS

The content of the report was discussed.

The Trust Manager advised that the Trust, at its meeting in June 2020, approved the wayfinding and regulatory signs for the Wellington Park entry points at Fern Tree Park and Fern Glade but deferred approval of two large, 3-panel interpretation signs for further discussion.

The Trust Manager gave Hobart City Council approval to erect temporary versions of the interpretation signs for the official opening of Fern Tree Park on 9 February 2021.

Trust members discussed a number of minor errors and improvements to the accuracy of the signs noted in the report. It was agreed that the Trust Manager will write to Hobart City Council noting that:

- The issues noted with the signs may have been avoided if the normal approval process had been followed and Trust staff had been able to comment on the final sign plan.
- All the suggested walks listed on sign panels 7, 8, 22 & 23 include sections that are shared use, however the shared use symbol is only used on some of them. The Trust considers that consistent advice should be given and recommends that the shared use symbol be removed from the table giving information on each walk and instead the shared use symbol be placed at the top of each walk table along with the following text: "All walks include at least some sections that are shared use (walking and bike riding). This is noted on the sign at the start of the track. Please watch out for other users on shared use tracks."
- The Trust recognises the cost of replacing the signs already erected and approves the erection of the panels on the understanding that the issue with the shared use warning symbols and other minor issues noted in the report will be corrected when any of the sign panels need replacing. However, any website or other electronic versions of the sign panels should be corrected immediately.

### RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust authorises the Trust Manager to issue a permit for the interpretation signs noting the errors and corrections agreed by the Trust and that these need to be made immediately to any electronic versions of the signs and to the panels already erected when they need to be replaced.

## 10. REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF DESIGNATED FIREPLACES UNDER THE WELLINGTON PARK REGULATIONS

The content of the report was discussed.

The Trust Manager advised that there was a small fire adjacent to a hut in the Park on 23 January 2021 started by embers in discarded ashes from the fireplace in the hut. This incident was discussed in the recent Management Advisory Committee meeting and the committee considered that the bushfire risk in the Park could be further reduced if use of all designated fire places was prohibited during the annual fire permit period.

The Trust Manager noted that the fire permit period varies from year to year. Trust Members discussed whether a fixed 'no fire' period would be easier to implement but agreed to using the fire permit period as it is well publicised in the media and the restriction on lighting fires would be effected by a notice under the Wellington Park Regulations which could easily be changed.

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Item No. 10 continued

Members noted that blocking fireplaces during the fire permit period could be considered for the next fire permit period if it was general practice in other reserves and could be implemented without affecting the heritage values of the huts with designated fireplaces.

It was noted that the change in use of the fireplaces in the huts needs to be included in the Bush Huts Management Policy Framework currently being developed.

RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust approves the amendment to the list of designated fireplaces under the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019* attached to the report.
3. In accordance with Regulation 22(2) appropriate fire safety signs be erected in each hut and shelter with a designated fireplace prohibiting the use of the fireplace during the annual fire permit period.

**11. PARK ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT FOR A RE-ALIGNMENT OF THE NORTH-SOUTH ASCENT TRACK IN THE GLENORCHY MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK**

The content of the report was discussed.

The Trust Manager explained that Glenorchy City Council (GCC) had submitted a Park Activity Assessment (PAA) for the re-alignment of an approximately 330 m length of the North-South (ascent) Track in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park. The proposed realignment was identified as a high priority in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Masterplan and would enable more riders to safely enjoy the track and reduce on-going maintenance requirements. The re-aligned section of the existing track would be closed and rehabilitated.

The Trust Manager considered that the PAA had adequately addressed all issues regarding protection of Park values. Glenorchy City Council will need to issue a planning permit for the works as required under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust approves the Park Activity Assessment for the re-alignment of a section of the North-South Track attached to the report.
3. The Trust authorises the Trust Manager to issue a permit for the re-alignment under the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019*.

**12. AGENDA PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TRUST MEETING**

The content of the report was discussed.

Trust members noted that the deferred review of the Terms of Reference of the Management Advisory Committee should be included as a high priority for the next Trust meeting.

Members present agreed on the proposed scheduled of meetings for 2021 but asked the Trust Manager to confirm the dates with the members who were not present at the meeting.

RESOLVED

That: 1. The report be received and noted.

2. The Trust agreed on the priority items for the next Trust meeting listed in the report with the inclusion of a review of the Terms of Reference of the Management Advisory Committee.

**Item for discussion**

**13. VISITATION AND RECREATION STRATEGY SUMMARY AND RESOURCING OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The content of the report was discussed.

The Trust Manager explained that, as requested by Trust members at the meeting on 3 December 2020, a consultant had been engaged to help to the Project Manager VRS prepare a short policy/strategy statement and summary of the Visitation and Recreation Strategy (VRS).

The draft VRS policy/strategy statement was discussed and the following matters agreed:

- The VRS is on the right track, but more input is needed from other Trust members, the project steering committee and the Park management agencies.
- With the resignation of the Project Manager VRS the Trust Manager will assume responsibility for completion of the VRS with the assistance of consultants where required.
- The VRS policy/strategy statement and summary should be the document presented for public comment. A separate, complex, background report is not needed for public comment.
- Once the VRS is approved by the Trust, and prior to public release, Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils and PWS staff will be provided with briefings. These will be for information only, not comment.
- The VRS will require a suitable person to coordinate its implementation and undertake any actions that are the responsibility of the Trust. These will include: engaging stakeholders, integrating the VRS with agency strategies, preparing plans for specific recreation activities (walking, mountain biking, running, climbing etc) and advocacy. This will be incorporated into an implementation plan and position description to be considered when the VRS is complete.
- Key strategic actions and proposed implementation need to be incorporated into the VRS.
- “A Park for Everyone; The Wellington Park Visitation and Recreation Strategy” should be used as the ‘working’ title.
- Building a ‘brand’ for the Park should not be a high priority action as this is already in the Trust’s vision statement and will emerge further as the VRS is implemented.
- A number of specific comments on the text of the draft policy/strategy statement were noted that will be incorporated into the draft before it is sent out for further consultation.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

**14. PROGRESS WITH RENEWAL OF THE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TRUST AND AGENCIES REPRESENTED ON THE TRUST.**

This item was deferred until the next Trust meeting.

**Items for information**

**15. TRUST PLANNING CALENDAR FOR 2021**

The content of the report was discussed.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

**16. FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31 JANUARY 2021**

The content of the report was discussed.

Members asked if a full balance sheet, rather than a statement of income and expenditure, could be provided every 6 months so that members are aware of the Trust's actual financial position.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

**17. PROGRESS WITH REVIEW OF THE TRUST'S STRATEGIC PLAN.**

Verbal report by the Trust Manager.

A draft report on the two strategic planning workshops held in 2020 has been received from the workshop facilitator. This will be circulated to members after some corrections have been made and comments addressed.

**18. REPORTS ON OFFICE ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

Item for information only, no discussion.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Correspondence received and sent was noted.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

21 April 2021

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:10 pm.