INFORMAL NOTES OF MEETING

Notes of informal meeting of the Northcliffe Forest Park Management Committee (NFPMC) Members, held on Wednesday 16 November 2022 at Northcliffe Information and Visitor Centre Northcliffe.

1. Opened 5:30 pm.

Chaired by Wendy Eiby.

The Shire of Manjimup respectfully acknowledges the Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work and gather as we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and in the future.

2. In Attendance:

Melanie Blieschke
Carole Perry
Wendy Eiby
Graham Evans

Apologies:

Cheryle Macaulay
Spencer Roberts
Glynne Jones

3. Terms of Reference

Wendy Eiby discussed John Bailey's comment that developing Forest Park as per the Management Plan, within the available budget, was not realistic.

Carole and Wendy discussed that since the Management Plan was the operational basis of the committee, as stated in the Terms of Reference, the only realistic solution to this conundrum was to raise money for improvements.

4. Governance

Nil.

5. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

6.1 Gardner River Adventure Trail

Melanie Blieschke said Shire had not yet been able to look at Gardner River walk trail issues. Wendy Eiby raised the possibility of closing the trail or reducing its scope, and mentioned that unless recent works had occurred, other Forest Park trails should also be closed to the public.

6.2 Karri Loop and Other Signs

Leon Wilcox has been commissioned to create this sign and it should be finished shortly.

There are also three new trailhead signs (identical) being created by Wiseman Signs, 1.4m x 1.2m, with a map of forest park.

6.3 Grant Acquitted

Wendy Eiby said the grant for Forest Park had now been acquitted. Grant fund usage included purchase of battery operated pruning and chain saws, new gates, signage and other items.

Melanie Blieschke confirmed that chain saw certificates are need for operating chain saws.

The Gate erected on the firebreak below the Bibbulmun track has been broken twice already since installation, including by DBCA during burning. Melanie Blieshcke will look into options for strengthening the gate.

6.4 Trail Clearing Sessions

Wendy Eiby said she planned to organise a few working bees now the weather has improved.

6.5 Weed Issues

Arum Lillies, Watsonia and Sydney golden Wattle infestations were discussed.

Wendy Eiby said she might need to renew her Chemical Use Certification to assist with control and suggested other volunteers could also do their certification. Melanie Blieschke said the Shire could provide the PPE for volunteers.

6.6 Burn

The burn plan provided was discussed.

Wendy Eiby suggested Bardi Creek Boardwalk area could be placed on the ‘No Burn’ manifest due to wet areas, and sensitive fauna. Recent regular burns have changed the vegetation mix.

6.7 State Government Forests Management Plan

Wendy Eiby said committee members should make submissions to the State Government’s Forests Management Plan to ensure there is more funding for feral animal and weed management.

7. Financial Report

Melanie Blieschke said there was $5,630 left in the budget. Track maintenance is ongoing with contractor when possible to work.

8. General Business

8.1 Mappt GIS Mapping tool

Wendy Eiby will suggest the Shire purchase licenses for this mapping tool which will allow vegetation to be maps and weeds to be reported and mapped. We would need to purchase several Android tablets as well.

This would be a Shire wide asset and should be considered as an addition to the Shire capital expenditure budget for 2023/24.

Melanie Blieshcke asked that this be added to the Agenda for next meeting. Wendy Eiby said committee members should take the chance until then to play with the free version of the application.

8.2 New potential committee members

For consideration to approach: Mark Batty (Southern Forests Consulting), Richard Marver. Wendy Eiby will ask Mark if he would like to attend the next meeting.

9. Next meeting

4pm Wednesday 8th February 2023 at Northcliffe Information and Visitor Centre.

10. Closed 6:17pm

bSHIRE OF MANJIMUP

NORTHCLIFFE FOREST PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACTION SHEET

MEETING DATE	ITEM	ITEM OF ACTION	ACTION REQUIRED	ACTION
18/8/2021	8.2	Works need on Gardner River Adventure Trail.	Stair rail down from bridge log and stairs down to creek need work. If this can't be undertaken in reasonable time the committee should consider closing the walk.	Wendy Eiby Spencer Roberts
18/8/2021	10.1	Sydney Golden Wattle and other Weeds	Spencer Roberts to investigate Sydney Golden Wattle adjacent to Forest Park around the Recreation Ground and Gardner Drive park entrance. Wendy Eiby and Graham Evans to organise a Karri Pigeon article to be written about dumping of garden waste (and alternatives). Graham Evans to remove Arum Lilly flowerheads and speak to others to see what could be achieved.	Spencer Roberts Wendy Eiby Graham Evans
12/1/2022	9.2	Arum Lilly infestation	Spencer will investigate the possibility of council providing herbicide and proper instruction to community members willing to spray control Arum Lillies.	Spencer Roberts
12/1/2022	12.2	An implementation plan is needed so that Forest Park Management Plan ambitions can be realised	Council to be advised of the committee's intention to create an implementation plan. Committee to meet to work on implementation plan.	Wendy Eiby John Bailey Committee
12/1/2022	12.2	Shire Fire Officer to present future burning plans for the park to the	Todd Ridley to be invited to attend the next Forest Park Committee meeting.	Spencer Roberts

		committee.		
12/1/2022	12.3	Blackberry weed outbreaks on Gardner River need controlling	Spencer Roberts to work with DBCA on a solution.	Spencer Roberts DBCA
12/1/2022	12.4	Cattle Encroachment into Gardner River needs to be curtailed.	A detailed map of park boundaries in relation to the river should be obtained. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation need to be asked to assist with the situation.	Spencer Roberts
16/11/2022	6.3	Gate on firebreak below Marri Meander, to prevent 4wd access, has been repeatedley broken.	Gate to be significantly strengthened.	Melanie Blieschke.
16/11/2022	6.4	Volunteers to assist with trail clearing sessions	Working bees to be organised.	Wendy Eiby
16/11/2022	8.1	Mappt GIS is a software tool with the potential to improve management of Forest Park and map weed outbreaks.	Committee members to download and play with the free version of Mappt GIS (on Android) to assess its suitability for use in Forest Park. Agenda for next meeting to include an item for committee to discuss whether to recommend that Shire include Mappt GIS licenses and Android tablets in 2023/24 Shire Capital Expenditure budget.	Committee members
16/11/2022	8.2	New committee members required for Forest Park Committee	Approach Mark Batty to attend next Forest Park meeting.	Wendy Eiby

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