

Boroondara BUG Meeting, Wednesday 15th July 2015

Function Room, Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

MINUTES

Attendance and Apologies

Present: David Farrow, Julia Blunden, Glennys Jones (Chair), David Hall, Gordon Macmillan, Mal Faul, Graham Ellis, Peter Campbell

Apologies Alister Huth, Ken Parker, Peter Carter, John Parker

Correspondence:

In

- Sundry commercial offers
- Sundry notices of events
- Letter from Council re planning meeting for Harp Junction

Out

- Nil

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** David F reported that David Balding, and David Blom from the Whitehorse Cyclist Advocates have become involved in this project. It was agreed that we need to have a route proposal ready for the next BAC meeting, scheduled for Friday 11th September. This proposal may provide more than one option for some sections, eg Cookson St/Victoria Rd. The current project is for wayfinding through Boroondara only but there was some discussion of new bridges. A new bridge will be needed over the Yarra; two possible locations are across Pridmore Park to Crown St, or adjacent to Hawthorn Bridge. The idea of a bridge at Elgar Rd has also been raised but this is beyond the scope of the Boroondara project.
2. **Darebin-Yarra Link:** **David H** volunteered to ring Tracy Grosby for an update on this.
3. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Nil to report.
4. **North East Bicycle Corridor:** It was agreed that the relevant authorities now have a good awareness of this and Bicycle Network is supportive. The northeastern group of councils need to be pushed to include it in their network planning.
5. **Stonnington Matters:** Nil to report.
6. **Domestic Animals Management Plan:** Nil to report.
7. **Outer Circle Trail at Harp Junction:** The planning application for the Harp Hotel parking area was discussed at the Council meeting on Monday 6th July. Four BBUG members spoke about the issues relating to the Outer circle Trail and the High St pedestrian crossing. Council had little room for manoeuvre but insisted on some minor modifications. There is still some hope of improvement to the pedestrian crossing if/when the old driveway to the wood yard is deleted. Council needs to work with VicRoads and the applicant.
8. **Jacka Trail/North Balwyn Leisure Trail:** No new developments. The possibility of a centre refuge on Balwyn Rd, as an interim step until a pedestrian crossing is obtained, was raised.

9. **Proposed ramp from Mont Albert Rd to Anniversary Trail:** Nil to report.
10. **California Inn site between Barkers Rd and Hawthorn Grove:** It was agreed that this item be dropped from the agenda and replaced with 'Bluestone policy' as this will be relevant to making the lane to the west of the development more bike friendly.
11. **Grade Separation Opportunities:** David H reported that the WC Advocates will be meeting with their local MP Dee Ryall to discuss the planned Blackburn Rd and Heatherdale Rd grade separations. David believes that cycle advocates need to get involved in all planned grade separations.
12. **Boroondara Sport and Recreation Strategy:** It was agreed that there is a tendency not to include walking and cycling in such strategies despite the fact that they are the most popular
13. **Treasurer's Report:** Mal Faul tabled a statement of the BUG's income and expenditure for the year ended 30th June 2015. This showed that we currently have \$5,084.47 in the bank. It was agreed that donations of \$200 each would be made to 3CR for the Yarra BUG program, and to the Planning Alerts service which is very useful for monitoring the progress of property developments that may have an impact on cycle routes. **Julia B** agreed to email a link for this service to members.

New Business

1. **Tacks on the Kew Boulevard:** A police officer spoke on this at the June BAC meeting. Police are pursuing various strategies but have run into various difficulties. Commuter riders are now riding on the road outside the bike lane to avoid the tacks. A suggestion was made to offer a reward, funded by crowd-sourcing.
2. **Chandler Hwy Bridge:** A *Sydney Morning Herald* article showed plans for a new bridge to the west of the existing bridge, and a widening of the highway into the AMCOR site. It was agreed that BBUG needs to be involved in planning for this project. Clare Davey has agreed to push for this. It appears likely that there will be a signalized crossing at the intersection of the Chandler Hwy with the Boulevard and that the nearby pedestrian crossing will go.
3. **Rushall Reserve:** David H reported that he had attended two workshops on the proposed shared path through the Rushall Reserve which would mean cyclists no longer have to use the station underpass. There is a lot of opposition from current park users. David has developed an alternative route which would keep path users out of the park but which would require a new underpass under the rail line. He plans to attend the next Yarra Council meeting to put his proposal. It was agreed that David's proposal has merit but the extra cost and the need to deal with Victrack are against it.
4. **Review of Victorian cycling related road rules:** It was agreed that BBUG should make a submission before the deadline, the end of August. David F has already written up and circulated some proposed changes and Glennys J had some additional suggestions related to footpath riding and the current rule restricting towing to those under 10 years old. There was some discussion of whether the 1/1.5m rule and strict liability should also be included in our submission. It was agreed that **David** would incorporate suggestions from Glennys and others and circulate a draft proposal for approval by three other BBUG members. **Julia B** also agreed to register BBUG's interest as a stakeholder.
5. **Victoria Walks proposals re shared paths:** David H advised members to read publications by Victoria Walks for which he has sent links.
http://www.victoriawalks.org.au/Assets/Files/Shared_Paths_Position_Statement.pdf

http://www.victoriawalks.org.au/Assets/Files/Shared_paths_the_issues.pdf

Peter Campbell questioned the authority of this organization.

6. **Draft Laneway Strategy:** Boroondara Council is currently calling for feedback on their draft Laneways Strategy. See <http://bulletin.boroondara.vic.gov.au/have-your-say-on-our-draft-laneways-strategy/> It would be useful for members to identify any laneways that may be used as cycle routes and comment accordingly.

Other Business

1. **Anniversary Trail at Camberwell High School:** Glennys J reported that she had attended the Council meeting on Monday 13th July where the officers presented a report on proposed changes to parking in Riversdale Park. This is a necessary first step in closing the gap in the Anniversary Trail by routing it past the tennis club and along the western boundary of the school. Glennys agreed to a request that she speak in favour of the officers' proposal for public consultation on the proposed changes. Cr Kreutz also urged that the consultation process should make clear that the status quo is not an option. It was agreed that BBUG needs to get involved in the consultation process. There is a danger that the locals, many of whom will oppose any changes to the parking, may dominate the process. **Julia B** agreed to email Jim Hondrakis to ask how we can do this.
2. **Bicycle Network initiatives:** Peter Campbell reported seeing a BN statement in the news recently calling for separated facilities for cyclists and suggested that congratulations are in order. Glennys J reported that BN has employed an engineer to work on schools involved in the Bike Ed program to make them safer for riding to school.
3. **Combined BUGs meeting, Tuesday 8th September:** It was suggested that Aiden McGann from VicRoads Southeast Region be invited to speak at this about the PBN and network planning. It was also agreed that Craig Richards be invited to send one of BN's infrastructure staff to the meeting and that a reminder of the meeting be sent out to group members. **Julia B** agreed to do these things.

Next meeting: Wednesday 12th August

Notes by Julia Blunden