



CITY OF HOBART

MINUTES ATTACHMENT

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING

TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2020
AT 4:30 PM

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ELECTED MEMBERS' ROOMS

Town Hall
Hobart, Tasmania

In accordance with the Council's policy titled *External Bodies – Representation and Reporting on Activities*, the following summary is provided in respect to the verbal presentation provided to the Finance and Governance Committee meeting of Tuesday, 15 September 2020.

1. UTAS Governance Forum –

This Committee was formed as a high level liaison between the University and City of Hobart. Along with the Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the Finance and Governance Committee, I was appointed as member of the UTAS Governance Forum from 17 September 2019. The purpose of this Forum is to keep the City abreast of the impact of the integration of the University into the City and in recent times, the impact of COVID-19.

In conjunction with current discussions surrounding movement into the City and COVID-19, other topical discussions have focused on improvements to public spaces and how these will be of mutual benefit to both organisations into the future.

2. Hobart Active Travel Committee (formally Hobart Bicycle Advisory Committee (HBAC)) –

I was appointed as Chairperson of the Hobart Active Travel Committee (HATC) as of 6 July 2020, due to the resignation of Councillor Ewin from this position.

As a result of a review of the previous HBAC in October 2019, a new energy has been created due to the creation of additional member appointments to the Committee (being pedestrian representatives) and in turn having more scope on how both pedestrians and bicycle users access and move throughout the City.

In COVID-19 times, as with most Committees, the HATC has now embraced Zoom to conduct meetings, with meetings being convened on an ad-hoc basis.

One of the main challenges identified by the HATC at present, in the current COVID-19 environment, is how to incorporate physical distancing in Hobart streets. The HATC has been involved in a presentation which was submitted to the Premiers Physical Activity Committee to provide information on how the HATC and the Council is responding to the current epidemic.

It has also been noted by the HATC, the increase of bike infrastructure being implemented as part of the New Town Road upgrade, and a further accessibility point has been created to access the City via the Rose Garden Bridge.

3. Hobart City Council Access Advisory Committee –

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Alderman Behrakis to the Hobart City Council Access Advisory Committee as Chairman after the resignation of former Alderman Denison.

Again, this Committee has been impacted through the course of the last few months by COVID-19, and while Zoom has been a successful addition to some members of the Committee, unfortunately it has been challenging for others.

One of the first actions that occurred after the appointment of Alderman Behrakis, was for the Committee to discuss the Disability Support Pension and Carers Pension. It was identified that this form of income support was not indexed over the COVID-19 period, unlike most other pensions, and it was discussed how this has impacted members of the Committee and the demographic they are representing. This resulted in correspondence being drafted in relation to this matter, with the correspondence to be forwarded to the appropriate Federal Ministers in due course.

This is an extremely hard working Committee, particularly when its sub-committees are investigating specific infrastructure changes and / or recommendations for various events when they resume.

It has really been telling to see what type of impact there has been on members of the Committee and the persons of whom they represent in regards to their response to COVID-19, and demonstrates how important it is to be in-touch with the most vulnerable of our population in times of pandemics.

4. Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority –

I currently hold the position of Deputy Chair, under the leadership of the current Chair Rebecca Enders – Mayor of the Huon Valley Council. As you would be aware, minutes in respect of these meetings are currently distributed to the Elected Members via the Hub.

From these notes, it is evident that the STCA is currently a busy regional Authority, looking at various climate change initiatives and undertaking this project in conjunction with the University of Tasmania, with positive outcomes stemming from this work.

The Authority lobbies the Government (at both a State and Federal level), for funding for important projects throughout the southern region in relation to public transport infrastructure and other major projects which impact on the Southern Councils which have not been picked up by the Hobart City Deal.

5. Wellington Park Management Trust –

I currently hold the position as Deputy Member to Alderman Briscoe and have attended only a couple of meetings and planning sessions, however a more concise report on the activities of the Wellington Park Management Trust has been provided by Alderman Thomas.

Councillor Helen Burnet
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR