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INTERCULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 8 April 2021 at 6.30 in Caroline Springs Library and Learning Hub

Present:

Cr Bob Turner	Councillor
Cr Lara Carli	Councillor
Cr Moira Deeming	Councillor
Cr Steve Abboushi	Councillor
Gary Verma	Local Intercultural Community representative
Vonivate Tawase Druil	Local Intercultural Community representative
Altaf Ali Mohammed	Local Intercultural Community representative
Dal Khadka	Local Intercultural Community representative
Durba Dhiman	Local Intercultural Community representative
George Oliapuram	Local Intercultural Community representative
Liuvao Logo	Local Intercultural Community representative
Madhvi Tandon	Local Intercultural Community representative
Sana Zia	Local Intercultural Community representative
Vera Mitrovska	Local Intercultural Community representative
Dongling Ye	Local Intercultural Community representative
Dayane Mardesich	Community Capacity Coordinator Ex Officio
Essan Dileri	Team Leader Diversity & Intercultural Ex Officio

Quorum: *Quorum will consist of two (2) Councillor, one (1) Council Officer, plus six (6) Local Intercultural Group and Community Services Organisation representatives.*

Chairperson: Cr Lara Carli

1. Welcome

D. Mardesich welcomed all attendees to the meeting and proceeded with the Acknowledgment of Country. *'Melton City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.'*

2. Apologies

Abe Dunovits	Community Service Organisation representative
Laura Di Pasquale	Community Service Organisation representative
Christina Akon	Local Intercultural Community representative
Patrick Kariuki	Local Intercultural Community representative
Kimberly Stephens	Access & Support Outreach Officer Ex Officio

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3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**Motion/Noted**

Mover/Seconder

No previous meetings was held because this was the first meeting of the current IAC two-year term.

5. Business Arising**5.1 Chair of the Committee**

D Mardesich explained the selection of Chair process - under article 6.1.3 Method of Appointment of the Terms of Reference which reads:

The Mayor of the City of Melton is automatically appointed as the Chairperson. In the event that the Mayor is absent or not an appointment to this committee, a Councillor will be selected as chairperson by the Councillor delegates on the committee.

Cr Turner highlighted the agreed protocol among Councillors with regards of selection of the chair. The most recent previous Mayor will automatically assume the position of Chair for the IAC.

Recommendation

Cr Carli selected as Chair.

Moved by Cr Turner. Seconded by Cr M Deeming.

6. General Business**6.1 Introduction to IAC**

The Chairperson presented an introduction of the Intercultural Advisory Committee (IAC) to the new Committee members. The IAC will work together with communities to support the City of Melton to be inclusive of all people, valuing and acknowledging the contribution of Cultural diversity and the role of diverse communities within the municipality.

The IAC is responsible to:

- advise Council on issues and barriers that affect people from diverse backgrounds who are either living, working, recreating and/or learning in the City of Melton
- advise Council on issues and barriers that affect people from diverse backgrounds who are either living, working, recreating and/or learning in the City of Melton
- respond to relevant documents including policies, reports, research documents and plans provided by Council officers for comment
- receive and comment on reports on Council's progress in implementing specific strategies to increase inclusion by all members of the diverse communities in Council facilities, programs and activities
- raise concerns for Council to consider on behalf of the community



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- assist Council to promote the benefits of diversity within the City of Melton and region.

6.2 Term of Reference and Structure of IAC's meetings

E Dileri talked about IAC's Terms of Reference and mentioned that there would be a minimum of four meetings per year alternating between two main libraries of the City. He also discussed the structure of IAC's meetings which will include inviting internal and external guest speakers to present on relevant and emerging matters related to diversity, interculturalism, inclusion and social cohesion.

6.3 Discussion on Key areas of focus for the IAC

The Chairperson facilitated a brainstorming session asking Committee members the following questions:

- What are some of the key areas of concern related to diversity, inclusion and interculturalism you would like IAC to focus on in the coming two years?
- Any suggestions for guest speakers?

The members provided ideas on areas of focus for the next two years for the IAC. These ideas included:

- addressing the issues of misunderstanding of between communities which stem from ignorance and lack of understanding.
- negative media representation and portrayal of certain communities in mainstream media and social media.
- focus on newly arrived communities and how IAC can assist those communities in that space.
- promoting events, programs and initiatives of members to wider community through Council's website/calendar of invites
- developing short videos filming representatives from different communities
- developing resources for schools in the space of diversity and interculturalism
- signboards to celebrate diversity
- working with the wider community through faith communities such as local temples, mosques, churches etc joining their initiatives. For example, their Place of Worship Tours.
- cultural nights where people could share their food and culture
- initiatives focusing on engaging young people
- Guest speakers
- Council officers presenting on matters relevant to IAC
- Local service providers who would like to promote their services to IAC
- Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation

6.4 African Communities Working Group (ACWG)

E Dileri briefly talked about the ACWG and explained that the group sets under the auspice of IAC. A summary of their meetings will be presented in every IAC's meeting.

6.5 Updated from members

Chairperson invited members to provide any updates from their respective communities.

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G Verma – Sri Durga Temple will organise a major event in April. He will send an invite to the Committee to attend.

A Mohammed – Ramadan will start on 13 April. It is a holy month for Muslims around the world.

E Dileri – Melton Interfaith Network will organise an Iftar Dinner program on 29th April.

M Tandon – Let's Chat, a program about Covid-19 vaccine rollout is run by the organisation she works for. She can attend community events and programs to run information sessions on Covid-19 vaccine rollout.

V Tawase – Pacifica Community Night to be held in June.

D Khadka – Bhutanese Community Melton in partnership with other community groups will organise a major event in the coming months.

Action/Recommendation

Committee members to send flyers and information about their community events to E Dileri to circulate.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 30 June 2021 commencing at 6.30pm at Melton Library and Learning Hub

8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 8.07 pm.