

MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday 20 November 24
6pm – 7:30pm



1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by Councillor Nemes.

Present

Councillors	
Clr Will Nemes	Mayor/Chair
Clr Dov Fraser	Councillor
Clr Ludovico Fabiano	Councillor
Council Officers	
Ben Thompson	Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience
Annette Trubenbach	Executive Manager, Community Programs
Madly Bodin	Diversity Community Development Officer
Rebecca Rodwell	Manager, Community Planning & Partnerships
Community Member/Organisations	
Anna Friedman	Community Member
Lana Kofman	Jewish Care
Emily Bogue	Community Member
Marcia Monje de Castro	Community Member
Raphael Crowe	Community Member (online)
Linda Deutsch	Expert
Rozy Dorizas	Community Member
Valentina Baú	Community Member (online)

2. Apologies

Margaret Teed, Baris Atayman, Emily Scott, Clr Lewis, Clr Westwood, Clr Spicer

3. Acceptance of previous minutes & business arising

The minutes were accepted by Anna and seconded by Lana.

No business arising.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

NIL

5. MAC membership update and introductions

The Councillors and Committee members introduced themselves to the group.

6. Mayoral Minutes

Support for the Jewish Community - Collaboration with Woollahra Council on Public Artwork

The Mayor informed the Committee of his Mayoral Minute. The Mayoral Minute was unanimously accepted by Councillors.

See page 5 of the Minutes of the 29 October 2024 Waverley Council Meeting:

https://waverley.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/10/CM_20241029_MIN_794.PDF#page=5

- The process is just starting with initial discussions between the 2 Councils. Officers will report back to Council with a budget, timeframe, scope and location
- The public art will help show the Jewish community that they are valued and their pain and suffering felt with the rising antisemitism is acknowledged
- This will be a long process with several opportunities for feedback and input
- Advisory Committee members asked questions and provided feedback to the Mayor on his Mayoral Minutes, and there was a discussion about topics such as safety, security and consulting the community.

Antisemitic Graffiti

The Mayor informed the Committee of above Mayoral Minute. Unfortunately there has been a significant rise in antisemitic graffiti in the Waverley area on private and public infrastructure. The police have established a taskforce to respond to this as it is very targeted and creating a lot of fear in the community.

This has had significant cost to Council who have worked very hard to tackle the issue, with the public cleansing team attending to and removing the graffiti within 24 hours.

The police are taking this very seriously and have committed resources to identifying the perpetrators.

See page 6 of the Minutes of the 29 October 2024 Waverley Council Meeting:

https://waverley.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/10/CM_20241029_MIN_794.PDF#page=6

The Mayor informed the Committee about a Mayoral Minute he would be putting forward at the next Council meeting around Council working on an antisemitism strategy and a round table with local leaders.

7. Culture Waves (Youth Social Cohesion Project) Update

The background of the project has been shared at previous meetings.

Since August, the Youth Reference Group has met 6 times and they are a group of incredible young people who want to make a difference. Council Officers have been engaging with schools and young people directly to encourage them to join the program which will run between February and March next year. The young people want to create a space where they are not being patronised. A lot of work takes place between sessions to refine the model.

We are currently recruiting for mentors and have interviewed 6 to date. They will assist the participants by exploring strengths and building supportive environments and relationships. None of

these mentors have previously been connected to Council so it is positive to enhance engagement with a diverse group of community members.

The committee were pleased with the level of engagement with young people.

8. Cultural Diversity Strategy 2021 – 2031

- Summary of actions completed under focus areas since 2021
- Discussion on priorities and additional actions required

At each MAC meeting, Council officers have summarised and reported to the committee about what has been achieved in connection to the Cultural Diversity Strategy. There have been a number of achievements as a result of the implementation of the strategy.

Implementing the strategy has ensured Council is more active around diversity and inclusion.

The committee requested information about the demographics of Waverley, which can be accessed via Profile ID <https://profile.id.com.au/waverley> or the Australian Bureau of Statistics <https://www.abs.gov.au/>.

The committee congratulated Council Officers on the work that has been achieved including the events and activities that create connections and bring the community together.

The committee spoke about music bringing people together and promoting cohesion and queried if Council could do more to enable musicians to share their culture through events and busking.

Waverley Council has a Street Performance Policy available on

https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/218017/Waverley_Council_Street_Performance_Policy_and_Guidelines_2023.pdf.

The Arts and Culture team feature world music in their programming – the program for 2025 will be shared with the committee.

The committee wanted to acknowledge former MAC member S. Marie, who has resigned from the committee and is working for Council in the Customer Experience team.

9. Events Coming Up

Council officers share upcoming events:

- Mark & Evette Moran Nib Literary Award
- Head On Photo Exhibition
- The Carols by the Sea
- The Mayor's Festive High Tea

A Chanukah event will be held in the Boot Factory courtyard on 17 December, and the information will be shared with the MAC.

10. Other Business/Correspondence

A documentary is being made about Ukrainian refugees coming to Australia – Lana will share the details for Council as an option to participate and share the support that Council has provided. Lana also wanted to share that Jewish Care runs a Shabbat dinner every Friday night and members of the community are invited to join.

The meeting ended at 7:22pm and the Chair thanked everyone for coming and looks forward to meeting next year.

11. Next Meeting

The meeting dates for 2025 will be shared early in the new year.