

Metropolitan Area Recreation Advisory Group

Minutes

Online Meeting
Wednesday 5 May 2020

1.0 WELCOME

Attendees:

David Bruce – Chair
Jenni Hess – Vice-Chair
Marissa MacDonald – Secretary

Aaron Morse - Mandurah
Aalia Visram - Joondalup
Adam Lang – Canning
Andrea Clark - Rockingham
Anthony Macri - Swan
Carina Whittington - Armadale
Claire Taylor - Mandurah
Craig Bartlett - Wanneroo
Dan Barber - Bayswater
Dean Burton – Cockburn
Dean Williams – Squash WA
Glenn Hitch – Squash WA
Jess Fordham - Wanneroo
Jessie Burke – Kwinana
Juliana Scilipoti - Subiaco
Julie-Anne Pettit – Swan
Katherine Birch – Vincent
Kent Burton - DLGSC
Leith Fradd - PLAWA

Matt Plummer - Rockingham
Matthew Emmott - Rockingham
Matt Fulton – SportWest
Michael Snart – Belmont
Nerisa Finau - Wanneroo
Nic Daxter – Kalamunda
Nicola Jordan - DLGSC
Renaë Parks – Melville
Sally DeLaCruz – Belmont
Salvatore Siciliano – Bassendean
Samantha Edwards – Nedlands
Sam Hegney – Fremantle
Sarah Perkins - Gosnells
Susan Butler – Canning
Tim Cronin – Victoria Park
Timothy Clark – Armadale
Todd Cahoon – Melville
Wayne Grimes – Vincent
Wendy Stanley – Armadale

Apologies:

Travis Moore
Robbie Watkins
Honni Jacobs
Gemma Chandler
Marta Makuch
Mitchell Davies
Karen Balm
Jason Parker

Renee McIntosh
Susie Moir
Stephen Handicott
Simone Pastor
Amanda Allan
Chloe Nella
Tony Giggs

1.1 Welcome from the Chair

David welcomed everyone and provided an Acknowledgement of Country. David acknowledged Squash WA, PLAWA and SportWest. Nominees from MARAG for the PLAWA Awards were acknowledged.

1.2 Confirmation of previous Minutes 25 November 2020

The previous minutes were endorsed as an accurate record.

Moved: Leith Fradd

Seconded: Jennifer Hess

1.3 Update from Chair and Vice-Chair

- At the previous meeting, there was a presentation from Fitness Australia on a proposal. There was limited feedback provided by MARAG members on the proposal and the Chair has decided not to progress with the proposal at this stage.
- FootballWest have understood the challenges about engagement with Local Governments and are willing to work with MARAG and Local Governments moving forwards.

2.0 PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES

2.1 Presentation from Squash WA, President Glenn Hitch

- Glenn provided an overview on the future direction of Squash WA – presented as per Powerpoint slides.
- With the old ownership model for Squash, a lot of squash centres were privately owned. As the owners sell, the facilities are converted into residential dwellings. It's not so much as the sport is declining, but the lack of availability of facilities is declining, thereby impacting numbers. Less places to play = less players.
- Squash WA is seeking to find a way they can work with Local Governments regarding investment into squash infrastructure.

2.2 Update from PLAWA, Leith Fradd

- Awards of Excellence – The event will be streamed live on Facebook. Limited tickets available.
- [PLAWA State Conference](#) – deconstructed conference with 6 streams over 6 dates.
- Working group for fees and charges met on 26 February. The group was set up from volunteers from MARAG. Aiming to get the project up and running in next financial year.
- Leisure centre fees and charges project – commences in July.
- Sport benchmarking project.
- Sport and Fitness benchmarking project. Working group to be set up.
- Looking at seeking funding for mapping tool community infrastructure. Applications have been submitted to obtain funding.

2.3 Update from SportWest, Matt Fulton

- Matt Fulton has been appointed as new CEO and Rob Thompson retired.
- Acknowledgement that LG are the biggest stakeholder in sport.
- Discussion regarding governance of sport at Commonwealth level. The Australian Sports Commission is the Commonwealth body. AIS, SportAus, Sport Integrity Australia and National Sports Tribunal all interrelate.
- SportWest is looking for collaboration instead of competition to drive forward the Strategic Plan objectives. There is a need to work together as an industry to create a stronger voice and be clearer on what we need.
- [Strategic Priorities for WA Sport](#) – presentation can be made on this.
- There has been a lack of ability to articulate the benefits of sport, whereas for road and rail they are easily quantified and funded. DLGSC and SportWest are beginning work on the social return on investment into sport funding. Engaging external third

party to develop a benefits which will

model to demonstrate assist with advocacy work etc.

- Acknowledgement that there is a lack of understanding on how resource thin sport organisations are. Need to improve on efficiency and redirect funds where possible. For example, looking at co-location of sport.
- Craig at the City of Wanneroo mentioned that sports are looking for expansion. Local Governments are challenged with managing multi-purpose venues, when everyone has their own agendas. Matt answered - Different sports should be seeing each other as colleagues instead of competitors.
- Carina at City of Armadale raised the issue of gender equity. Will there be a push for SSA's to address gender equity in WA. Answer from Nicola at DLGSC- DLGSC are doing work on this –in 2018 at the National Sport and Recreation Ministerial Forum 40% was set as the national target. State Government committed to 50%. By June 2022 SSA's are required to have hit their targets and this is directly linked to their funding.

Action: Nicola to provide information to MARAG Secretary to share with MARAG regarding gender equity targets for SSA's in WA.

Action: MARAG Secretary to set up meeting with SportWest CEO, MARAG Chair and Vice-Chair to discuss SportWest Strategic Priorities for WA and potential workshop/presentation with MARAG.

2.4 Update from DLGSC

Clayton White & Kent Burton

- Club Night Lights program \$10 million over 4 years. Will run concurrently with CSRFF. Priority on training lighting at strategic locations. Looking for guidance from LG and SSA's on what some of those strategic locations will be.
- CSRFF is now \$12 million, an extra \$2 million to put towards extra projects and not being used by night lights.
- Election commitments: 400 smaller projects, 40 larger projects. DLGSC will be contacting LG's soon regarding projects.
- State Football Centre –Forward works commencing now. Clearing the site. Practical completion by April 2023. Perth Women's Cup June 2023.

Nicola Jordan

- Sport and Recreation Industry Priorities Project – October 2020 DLGSC started research around current priorities. A desktop review was finished December 2020. 17 consistent priorities across both sport and recreation were identified. A survey was conducted. Now testing the feedback from the survey through forums – LG's are part of the forums. Hope to release priorities by mid-year.
- All COVID sport queries can be sent to sportinfo@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

2.5 Update from WALGA

- New Manager and new Executive Manager appointed.
- The team has been focusing on providing support to Local Governments impacted by Tropical Cyclone Seroja. WALGA has been seeking Expressions of Interest from Local Government staff to assist these Local Governments over the coming months. Presently, support is required with rates and finance tasks, administration and customer service, rural outreach and a caravan park operator.
- In April 2021 WALGA filed a submission in response to the Discussion Paper on child safety officers in Local Government. The proposal for child safety officers in Local Government was a recommendation from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. WALGA's submission can be viewed [here](#).
- WAGA is also hosting an event on Tuesday, 18 May focusing on family and domestic violence.

3.0 REVIEW OF MARAG OBJECTIVES

The Chair discussed achievements of MARAG since first meeting in July 2019, in accordance with the objectives listed in the Terms of Reference (in table below). MARAG was asked the following questions:

- 3.1 Are there any objectives missing?
- 3.2 Are there any objectives that should be amended or removed?
- 3.3 Should MARAG be prioritising any particular objectives? Which ones?

The Chair then discussed with MARAG members the specific objectives (in red) which may need to be reviewed.

Objectives:	Achievements / Outcomes
a) To maintain an effective communication network between member organisations regarding sport and recreation issues impacting on the metropolitan area.	<p>Building relationships with SSA's, particularly through COVID-19.</p> <p>The MARAG Chair, Vice-Chair and a small working group of MARAG worked with the SSA's to develop the 'Agreement on Community Season Crossover Plans for Winter and Summer Sports'.</p> <p>MARAG also compiled information regarding ground availability in spreadsheet which was shared with SSA's.</p>
b) To provide effective coordination and delivery of diverse recreational participation opportunities.	<p>This objective may need to be re-worded. It could relate to obtaining accurate data from SSA's especially in regards to female participation. It can also relate to working with SSA's to ensure that they don't compete with eachother.</p>
c) To share information and initiatives, where appropriate, with the aim of reducing duplication of effort and fostering consistency across the metropolitan area.	<p>MARAG members regularly email the group to request feedback on a range on topics. WALGA can assist by setting up a Google Group account that will make it easier to share information.</p>
d) To assist with sport and recreation strategic planning across the metropolitan area.	<p>MARAG identified that this has crossover with PLAWA. MARAG could look into advocating for co-location of sport to improve return on investment. There was also a suggestion that there needs to be a portal where documents, studies and other information can be shared easily.</p>
e) To identify and address relevant sport and recreation issues and opportunities within the metropolitan area.	<p>Football Commission has LG reference group – Simone (Stirling). Jen to circulate – documents & next meeting date.</p>
f) To identify relevant professional development and training needs relating to sport and recreation.	<p>Assisted with working group to inform the PLAWA Leisure Planners Course.</p>
g) To optimise funding for metropolitan sport and recreation facilities from State and Federal Governments.	<p>MARAG members provided vital information for WALGA's State Budget Submission and State Election Advocacy Campaign to advocate for an increase to CSRFF funding to \$25 million.</p>
h) To undertake any other sport and recreation project that the membership decides is relevant.	<p>Advocacy on the update of the Liveable Neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Shared use agreements – advocacy to Dept of Education. Template of some sort.</p>

The group agreed that a survey of members should be developed to collect further feedback. Once the survey has been collated, a working group can develop a brief strategic document that outlines our vision and purpose. The following members were interested to assist with this:

- Wayne Grimes
- Carina Whittington
- Matthew Emmott

4.0 STRATEGIC BRAINSTORM – REVISED PRIORITIES

The Vice-Chair facilitated the discussion regarding MARAG priorities. The first MARAG meeting in July 2019 resulted in the identification of priorities.

Brainstorm session:

4.1 Are these priorities still applicable?

4.2 Are there new priorities not identified or as a result of COVID-19?

4.3 What are the top 3 priorities that MARAG can pursue?

4.4 Should there be break out groups to focus on different topics? e.g. facilities operations, facility planning, recreation officers, club development etc.

Funding	Fees and Charges	Funding and sponsorship
Facilities Planning	Leases and Licenses	Sport seasons & State Sport Associations
Women in Sport	Funding (State Election)	Professional development opportunities
Sport and Recreation Facilities	Use of technology	Facilities development
Parks and Reserves	Community engagement	Service delivery models
Training & development	Master Planning	Public open space and informal recreation facilities
Priorities for Sport & Rec Industry	Seasons, Competition, Club development	
Budgets	Governance and Risk (Incorporations Act)	

The group agreed that most of these priorities were still relevant. A survey of the MARAG group is required to further prioritise.

Action: MARAG Secretary to develop survey to collect feedback on both MARAG objectives and priorities and send this out to MARAG for feedback.

Action: MARAG Secretary to convene working group to discuss results from survey and development of MARAG strategic plan.

The Chair mentioned that if Local Governments wanted to continue the Sport Season Agreement then volunteers are required to continue work on this. MARAG members who may be interested in assisting are:

- Callum Warner
- Claire Taylor

5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Item from City of Armadale, Carina Whittington:

5.1 Expression of Interest (EOI) from members for a small working group to progress Department of Education (DoE) shared sites discussion items including:

- Liaison with DoE
- Types of agreements/facilities included
- Services crossing boundaries
- Any conditions – e.g. land only in LG name

Nominations:

- Julie-Anne Pettit, City of Swan.
- Matt Plummer or Matthew Emmott, City of Rockingham
- Rachael Rowcroft, City of Gosnells
- Possibly City of Cockburn

Action: MARAG Secretary to send out EOI to MARAG and collect nominations.

Action: MARAG Secretary to provide names to Carina Whittington to convene first meeting.

Item from City of Bayswater:

5.2 Expression of Interest (EOI) from members for small working group to discuss skateparks including:

- Graffiti
- Maintenance
- Community Engagement
- Acceptance / Resistance to new facilities
- Examples of good practice
- Commercial Experts in the Field

Nominations:

Katherine Birch, City of Vincent

Julie-Anne Pettit, City of Swan

Action: MARAG Secretary to send out EOI to MARAG and collect nominations.

Action: MARAG Secretary to provide names to City of Bayswater to convene first meeting & WALGA to be involved with discussions.

Other business raised:

- City of Bayswater - Noranda Netball courts have been upgraded. They are now to Netball Australia standards.
- Juliana at Subiaco - Fees and charges – City of Subiaco is reviewing their current fees process and are seeking feedback on how other Local Governments charge clubs and how fees are structured. If you have any advice please email Juliana julianas@subiaco.wa.gov.au

6.0 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed 1:33pm

Next meeting Wednesday, 11 August