5.1 AGENDA FOR THE CYCLONE TRACY COMMEMORATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE OUT-OF-SESSION MEETING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION CTCAC026/24

Moved: [redacted]
Seconded: [redacted]

THAT the report entitled Agenda for the Cyclone Tracy Commemoration Advisory Committee Out-of-Session Meeting be received and noted.

CARRIED 7/0

RECENT MEDIA AROUND CYCLONE TRACY

The Lord Mayor apologised to the Cyclone Tracy Commemoration Advisory Committee (CTCAC) members for comments made during an interview he participated in with Katie Woolf of Mix 104.9 radio station. The Lord Mayor advised he was trying to explain his opinion of what the difference is between a memorial and monument, as he sees these things as different, and is sincerely sorry for the confusion the dialogue has caused. The Lord Mayor advised the confusion was over his view of a monument and a memorial around the purpose of the sculpture at Bundilla Beach. The Lord Mayor acknowledged that it was a CTCAC recommendation, and he reiterated his support to the CTCAC and the decisions made, which was then ratified by Council.

[redacted] spoke about considering the communication and language that is being used and noted that the CTCAC is an advisory committee only.

[redacted] agreed with this position and reiterated that the CTCAC made the recommendation for the kinetic monument and that the decision was made by Council.

[redacted] confirmed the committee is advisory in nature with the recommendations going to Council for approval. [redacted] advised that confidential items discussed at the advisory meetings cannot be disclosed unless an item has been approved by Council and the decision moved into the open at the conclusion of such meeting, and then once on the City of Darwin website and in the public domain it can be spoken about.

[redacted] stated that he believes that the kinetic monument/structure for Bundilla Beach has not actually been put forward from the CTCAC. Further it has not been discussed at any length at any of the CTCAC meetings. He advises that a design/proposal was put forward to the CTCAC in January with three options to select from, and that since then he believes that it has been a process driven by council staff and not the CTCAC and that the CTCAC does not own that proposal.

[redacted] then raised that there are formal records and discussions and minutes that are contrary to [redacted] commentary. [redacted] then advised that there are minutes from the October 2023 CTCAC meeting and an extract from the minutes where the CTCAC endorse the Cyclone Tracy 50th Anniversary Commemoration Grants Program Guidelines.

[redacted] then advised that minutes from subsequent CTCAC meetings record the recommendation for the kinetic monument, and it was endorsed by CTCAC for it to go to Council.

After reviewing the recordings and minutes from each CTCAC meeting, [redacted] confirmed that all clearly state the committee endorsed the monument. It was endorsed by the committee and note the decision was unanimous. [redacted] was in attendance.

[redacted] agreed that it has been endorsed by the CTCAC.

[redacted] noted that [redacted] comments made at the time that he did not support the Bundilla Beach location have been noted in the subsequent minutes. Further, the CEO noted an additional report detailing the three design options for the monument, which was tabled at the 24 January 2024 CTCAC meeting, and that the third option was endorsed unanimously by the CTAC to be presented to Council.

[redacted] advised that he clearly recalls the report detailing the three design options for the monument being presented at the CTCAC January meeting, and that the CTCAC selected one design, noting that [redacted] did raise concerns about the location.

[redacted] commented on the special workshop held in September 2023 and recalls the suggestions for the type of sculpture being put to the committee by [redacted] and [redacted] of a kinetic type of sculpture and for officers to investigate and come back to the committee with different design options.

[redacted] confirmed that there were other monument options suggested at the 18 September 2023 workshop meeting, including wind organs, and that the committee requested officers bring back kinetic options. Officers then came back to the CTCAC at the October 2023 meeting, with options and three different kinetic designs for the CTCAC to consider, and for the CTCAC to advise on their preferred design.

[redacted] commented that, when considering the kinetic monument, no one at the CTCAC raised any issues or objections.

[redacted] acknowledged that he did not say anything or object at the time, however commented that indeed he should have.

There was some general discussion on the minutes with [redacted] commenting that the minutes of the meetings were not correctly recorded. [redacted] advised that if there are any discrepancies within the minutes of previous meetings, committee members have every opportunity to rectify and request an amendment to the minutes prior to them being confirmed by the committee.

[redacted] stated that his objections to the Bundilla Beach location were not recorded in the minutes.

[redacted] confirmed by reading directly from the 24 January 2024 minutes that the [redacted], [redacted] were all present at this meeting,

and voted unanimously, 8/0, on the following resolution, and that these recommendations then proceeded to Council for consideration.

2. THAT the Cyclone Tracy Commemoration Advisory Committee recommends progressing the design, construction and installation of a Cyclone Tracy commemoration monument at Bundilla Beach, Fannie Bay, subject to funding and community consultation.

3. THAT the Cyclone Tracy Commemoration Advisory Committee recommends the installation of approximately 10 interpretative signs across the municipality at key places of interest.

[redacted] further commented, that at the next meeting on the 24 January 2024, minutes were confirmed and carried 10/0 by all present, At the March 2024 meeting a record was made in general business to note that the community member [redacted] was not agreeable with the Bundilla Beach site.

[redacted] raised concerns that the mock renders/artist impression, with the orange paint colour and Bundilla surrounds, went into the public domain without the CTCAC seeing them beforehand.

[redacted] appreciated her concern and while the kinetic design option 3 was approved, and the artist impression are only a concept, the colour is yet to be confirmed and will be decided by the artist. [redacted] agreed people have reacted to the imagery of the design and again appreciate the concern raised.

[redacted] stated her major concern from the interview was the statement on it being a piece of public art not a monument or memorial to Cyclone Tracy. With no further clarification apart from [redacted] advising correspondence received from [redacted] confirming the kinetic monument is a permanent monument to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy.

[redacted] spoke about the media and misinformation that has been created from various area of public commentary and that there appears to be an absence of clarification by City of Darwin. Further, she suggested that there should be another public announcement with the full story, including that the memorial is being undertaken by the Remembering Cyclone Tracy Inc (RCTI) and that the kinetic monument is a Council initiative project.

[redacted] advised of a meeting held with [redacted] in November where the RCTI advised they are looking to hold events over the Christmas period. The [redacted] spoke about the coordination of these events and that out of respect for the RCTI planning to coordinate events between 23 December and 31 December, that City of Darwin, respectfully has not coordinated any events over this period. The Lord Mayor confirmed that the 29 and 30 November events planned were circulated with various stakeholders including the Northern Territory Government and the Federal Government with dates agreed, which have now been endorsed by Council.

[redacted] raised a query to [redacted] seeking confirmation that RCTI were still looking to hold their survivor events over the Christmas period, in particular the survivor event on 23 December. [redacted] advised this was still the intention.

[redacted] reiterated to the committee prior to departing the meeting, that the process of the meetings has been robust, and everything has been accurately recorded in the minutes. [redacted] believes the decision-making process and what has been fed through to the Council has been satisfactory.

[redacted] spoke about the memorial plaque out the front of the Civic Centre and that she would like to see this plaque preserved, not duplicated, and moved by the Royal Command at an appropriate time, to a suitable place.

[redacted] spoke that he would like to see an avenue of tree planted near the RCTI memorial

at East Point. [redacted] agreed that at an appropriate future time this would be a good initiative.

Various members of the CTCAC discussed the survivors Facebook page and [redacted], and [redacted] spoke and agreed that there are some inappropriate and ugly comments that they do not support.

[redacted] advised that any request for funding needs to be presented to Council for approval. [redacted] advised that a letter requesting funding is not going to be submitted to Council. [redacted] advised [redacted] that a letter would need to be presented to Council as it would be a decision for Council.

[redacted] advised that there is no further letter coming to Council from the RCTI.

[redacted] also advised that his understanding is that the RCTI memorial is going to be rejected by Council.

[redacted] advised that Council would make their determination based on the recommendation of the East Point Advisory Committee and the current concerns indicate that the proposed location is not appropriate due to biodiversity concerns, lack of space in the chosen location, that would mean tree clearing, and access and inclusion considerations. However, that there are location options in the vicinity and that Council will consider an appropriate location based on advice, subject to any permit and approval requirements.

[redacted] suggested that RCTI could always present directly to Council regarding the proposed memorial at East Point.

The CTAC members agreed that moving forward, the monument being constructed by Phil Price would be referred to as a kinetic sculpture and [redacted] activities for the survivors will be addressed as a memorial to ensure that there is distinction and to avoid further misinterpretation from the public.

The CTCAC members agreed it would be beneficial for further public communications regarding the works by Phil Price to be referred to as a kinetic sculpture to ensure that there will be no more additional confusion and miscommunication regarding the activities being organised by City of Darwin and the RCTI, which are two separate projects.

[redacted] advised that the RCTI memorial will just be the frangipanis and not the other part on the reef due to funding, and Aboriginal Area Protection Authority (AAPA) considerations.

CYCLONE TRACY MICROSITE/WEBSITE

[redacted] presented to the members some images of the Cyclone Tracy website that will include a program of activities, information, and interactive forms.

CYCLONE TRACY COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

[redacted] provided the members with a copy of the most recent collection of events that are currently being planned for the 50th anniversary, which included events from external members. This is being updated regularly and is reflected in the Monday.com matrix that has been previously shared with all members.