Community Reference Group Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday 5 July 2017
Time: 5.30pm for 6pm start until 7.30pm
Venue: Reception Room, Civic Centre, 128 Prospect Road, Prospect
Chair: Brendan Lott (Manager Community Development)
Note taker: Liz Gunn (Community Development Officer)
Attendees: Ali Blake, David Kilner, Cr Mark Groote, Frances McKenzie-Smith, Kym Whittington, Prue Blaikie, Reb Rowe, Sue Michael, Vicki Rigney
Other Attendees: Ben Footner (Manager Library Services)
Apologies: Caroline Ashmeade, Chandrika Balakrishna, Sharron Ward, Shaun Lyon, Melissa O’Kelley

1. Actions arising from previous meeting – Brendan Lott (Chair)
   Nil

2. Group Activity – “Emotional Brief”
   • The “emotional brief” activity is designed to get members thinking about how they want the new CLIC to look and feel.
   • A similar activity was undertaken by Brown Falconer Architects with Elected Members at a recent Council workshop and the Project Executive Group (PEG) asked that the CRG also participate.
   • A selection of images were provided by Council staff and CRG members brought along their own images according to the following invitation:
     “Please investigate, find and provide 3-4 images that represent your hopes and aspirations for the final CLIC facility. The images may be abstract and provide a more emotional reference or they may be examples of buildings and facilities that possess elements in their design or form that you would love to see replicated for CLIC. Images may be factual or fictional, literal or metaphorical, realistic or idealised and in various combination.
   • Members were asked to view a wall of over 100 images (mostly of contemporary library spaces from all over the world plus some more abstract images) and select their top 3 (those they most like and think reflect Prospect) and their bottom 3 (those they don’t like and wouldn’t want to see in the new CLIC).
   • Members then worked in 2 small groups with their selected images and as a group selected their top 3 and bottom 3 images. After much robust discussion and debate, a spokesperson from each group reported back to the larger group on which images they had selected.
   • Due to the visual nature of this activity, a separate exercise was done with Kym, a member of the group who has a vision impairment.
   • Ben showed the group his top 3 and bottom 3 images as an example of how the exercise works.
Outcomes from Group Activity (images and descriptions)

Top Three (Group One) - 1
Open, welcoming, warm. Like red brick work.

Top Three (Group One) - 2
Outside area – used by children and other groups. Atrium style indoor/outdoor space. Floor to ceiling glass - natural light. Louvres – cross flow of ventilation.

Top Three (Group One) - 3
Quiet, calm space with potential for interaction. Wall of books, armchairs, chess board.
Bottom Three (Group One)- 1
Old building, not reflective of today

Bottom Three (Group One)- 2
Old school – wall of floor to ceiling books

Bottom Three (Group One)- 3
Clinical, cheap looking, not accessible for people with a disability
Top Three (Group Two) - 1
Large expanse of glass atrium with garden elements. Special. Timeless – won’t go out of date, little things could be added as time goes by.

Top Three (Group Two) - 2
Central atrium with large bronze statue. Art is part of the space – not segmented and sectioned away.

Top Three (Group Two) - 3
Light, uncluttered, crisp, bright. Outdoors welcomed in, natural light and natural materials.
Bottom Three (Group Two)- 1
Too much money spent on architectural exterior. We don’t want to compromise on the interior.

Bottom Three (Group Two)- 2
Dark, gloomy, low ceilings.

Bottom Three (Group Two)- 3
Large, white, modernist
Although an image was not selected for the Geelong Library, group 2 had much discussion about it:

- History and new era appealing
- References taken from old
- Respectful and sympathetic

Feedback from Kym

Features would like to see in new CLIC:

- Sense of being **welcoming** – this comes mainly from the people who work there
- **Accessible** - Instant feel of accessibility, ease of access to enter building, somebody there to identify if someone needs assistance (ie reception staff), walkways wide enough, no obstacles in way, technology available so that people can search for an item independently or with minimal assistance (eg, audio program to help navigate, Zoomtext, tables with adjustable height capacity so wheelchairs can fit)
- **Natural** - Maximum use of natural light, water feature, nice smelling plants (not stuffy)
- **Prospect Feel** – heritage plus progressive, elements from the past plus elements of now and future

Features don’t want to see in the new CLIC:

- Difficult building to access
- Unhelpful staff
- Cold, dark/inappropriately lit
- Lack of technology to assist people with a disability (eg, adaptive software)
- Square box of a building which lacks character

Other

Prue requested to see the list that the Elected Members came up with for their emotional brief activity. Cr Mark Groote gave a summary of their list.

**Action:** Staff to check if Brown Falconer report can be made available to CRG members.

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3. **Yammer**– Brendan Lott (Chair)

Yammer, the networking/communication tool, was set up so that CRG members could share documents and communicate with each other in between meetings (Yammer is **not** a means to communicate with PEG or Council). However it has become apparent that there are some problems with Yammer (eg, it won’t accept gmail or yahoo accounts) which mean that some members are unable to use it.

**Action:** Brendan will explore other networking/communication platforms for the group to use.

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4. **CRG Terms of Reference**

Deferred until next meeting

Meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

Next Meeting on Wednesday, 2 August 2017 at 6 – 7.30pm **(refreshments available from 5.30pm)**