

Flower Industry Advisory Committee

MMA Boardroom, Epping

17 April 2018

In attendance: Greg Duffy (Chair), Cheryl Roehrich, Danny Malikovski, Nait Ragipi, Sue Friend, Mark Maskiell, Matt Elliott, Bryan Coyne, Nicola Pearl & Georgie Christerson (Minute Taker)

Apologies: David Whitchelo

Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting: The Advisory CONFIRMED the Minutes from 14 November 2017 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

CARRY FORWARD ITEMS

- **Advisory Vacancy:** The Committee has appointed Nait Ragipi from Maliku Flowers for this position, and Nait was welcomed to his first meeting.
- **Site Cleaning/ Mothers Day:** The entire stand area has undergone a thorough clean prior to and in preparation for Mothers Day trading. This standard of cleaning will be maintained at a high level, and will become a fortnightly clean to the entire floor. Designated storage area is being setup to cooperate with everyone and the cleaning needs. For operational needs, organising routine storage and for all stand holders to be accountable for their items.
- **Bird Control (Netting):** An air operated cannon has been deployed in the Flower Market and operates post trading 5 days per week (usually from 9:30am onwards). There has been a noticeable improvement in the reduction of bird numbers, however we recognise that the problem still exists. External contractors have been engaged to remove nests and eggs and additional cleaning services have been undertaken in the affected areas. The installation of the rapid roller doors has been well received by the Committee to assist with this issue and it was agreed that they have been extremely beneficial.

MARKETING

- **Drug & Alcohol Education Program:** The MMA continues to receive anecdotal feedback regarding drug use in the Market. The MMA in partnership with Melbourne Polytechnic will continue to run information sessions for business owners on Drug & Alcohol policy implementation and how to manage and handle employee behaviour relating to substance abuse. Program was run last November for all Managers. The feedback from this training session was very well received, which resulted in an additional training session scheduled this week (Thursday 19th April, 2018). The MMA Drug & Alcohol policy has been reviewed & updated accordingly.
- **Melbourne Polytechnic:** Following on from the Flower Crown workshops held in November 2017, the level of activity in the Flower Market has increased significantly. Including the lead up to Mothers Day. Media promotion for businesses has increased, including the incentives offered to stand holders who have been trading for four months (i.e, free parking offers, trolley vouchers, coffee vouchers). Flowers Association in QLD have now shown their commitment to the program. Committee agreed to invite Anthea (Flowers Vic) to our next Committee meeting. Site visits to Flower growers has been well received, and will continue.

OPERATIONS

- **Ring Road Speed Limit:** The Committee discussed the new Ring Road Speed limit, which has been well received at 40km p/h. The MRO's are still continuing to monitor the increase to the speed limit on the ring road, however it is noted that anyone who exceeds the new limit will be issued an infringement.
- **LED Lighting:** The LED Lighting Project is now complete.
- **ATM Replacement:** A new ATM is now located in the Espresso Café, operated by the Café
- **Coolrooms:** The Committee discussed the construction of another coolroom, which is a work in progress. The MMA will continue to inform the community of this progress. The MMA is continuing to work with the tenants and supplier to achieve a cost effective solution and optimal location.
- **Rapid Roller Doors:** The installation of the new Rapid Roller Doors are now complete, and are functioning for pedestrian traffic. Works undertaken are all done, and refurbishment of the adjacent walls and pedestrian doors is now complete.

- **Events Calendar** – The MMA have developed a 12 month rolling Events calendar which has been uploaded onto the MMA website & intranet. Planning is vital, and this is to ensure that the Market Community are aware of all events, payment due dates, kids in the market, Mothers Day, Daffodil Day etc. The feedback was well received by the Committee, to have more visibility and to be better informed.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Ring Road Extension / Toll Increases:** Will continue to remain on the agenda. The Committee agreed that the key success of the MMA is access to the South eastern suburbs.
- **Dandenong Market:** MMA understands that this Planning Application has been “called in” by the Victorian Planning Minister and the hearing is due to be heard in late May. The South East defenders of the Green wedge are still proceeding with their objection The MMA will be monitoring this with keen interest and will provide an update at the next Committee Meeting.
- **Overnight Parking:** The advisory requested that the MMA review the policy on leaving vans / trucks overnight at the site.
- **Change to Import Regulations:** There have been new quarantine laws for produce coming into Australia. The new levels of fumigation and the need for maintaining this has proven quite difficult for some, therefore have since left the Market.
- **Fees:** MMA looking at people who are using the site & not paying a fair rate to use the Market. MMA confirmed that we are working through a process with this.
- **Rodents:** Rodents is an issue in the market, and it was noticed that several mouse feeders are broken, or nothing inside of them, as a result of trolleys and trucks running into them & destroyed them. The MMA will review the rodent company
- **Bills:** The suggestions was discussed if Market Stand holders can be issued one bill with every item included on it. The MMA are aware of the 2 bank accounts has been a challenge, not a quick fix although it’s a work in progress.
- **Security:** The issue of security was discussed amongst the Committee. Several Stand holders (including the Chair) had stock stolen recently from trolleys and including empty trolleys. MMA will investigate potential options.