

Fruit & Vegetable Wholesalers Advisory Committee Meeting

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Tuesday 7th December 2021

9:30am – 10:30am

In attendance: Harry Kapiris (Chair), Thanh Truong, Brett Collins, Michael Barker, Mark Maskiell, David Power, Malcolm Lum, David Beatty, Lauren Kitchener, Amanda Flannery & Georgie Christerson (Minute Taker).

Apologies: Jason Cooper & David Whitchelo

Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting: MMA CEO welcomed all committee members to the Wholesalers Advisory Committee Meeting. Minutes were approved from the previous meeting held on 7th September 2021.

MATTERS ARISING

- **Advisory Committee Nominations 2022:** The Advisory Committee election for 2022 will commence in the new year.
 - Committee members to consider re-nominating and/ or recommending wholesalers to nominate to join the Committee.
- **Vaccination Hub – 2nd Dose:** The onsite vaccination hub is in its final week of administering the Covid vaccination. Management will keep the market community abreast of all communications relating to a potential future onsite visit by Austin Health to administer the 2nd vaccination.
 - The MMA worked with Austin Health in returning to the Market to administer the second Pfizer vaccination to the market community. Feedback received was positive.
- **Cultural Change/ Racism in the Market:** Management will continue to work with the market community on this issue.
 - Cultural change is an area of concern to the MMA, and together we are working towards achieving a better outcome for all involved.
 - The MMA have released a Cultural tender to appoint an external provider to assist in improving market culture.
 - Management confirmed of using the large TV screens in the market to display multilingual languages of advertising material.
- **Speed humps:** MMA to investigate the feasibility of speed humps at cross overs within the market.
 - After consideration, Management confirmed speedhumps will not be installed in the market, as a result of damage caused to produce when a forklift were to drive over them (bruised, damaged produce).
 - As an alternative measure, Management will shot blast the concrete on the forklift crossovers to create a non-slip surface.
- **Streamline Access card audit:** Management confirmed the action of cancelling access cards can now be performed through the new customer portal. Amanda Flannery has contacted all Advisory Committee members to assist them with the process.

OPERATIONS

- **Safety Issues and Matters raised at Safety Committee Meeting:** Amanda Flannery, MMA Operations discussed the newly formed Safety Committee. The first meeting was held in mid-November, and all safety aspects of the market were discussed, including lighting, forklift safety etc. The broader the range of people on the Committee, will distinguish the broader variety of topics discussed.
- **Solar Canopy Project – Update:** The Solar canopy construction is on schedule and progressing well. The initial build will be completed prior to Christmas, with the solar panels to be connected early in 2022. Management confirmed, once the MMA recover the costs of the solar canopy build, these costs will then be given back to the market tenants via discounted electricity costs.
- **Parking on hard stands:** Management confirmed this is a work in progress of reallocating the parking of hard stands. Operations have had drones to assist in the allocation.
- **Café relocation:** Moon Bean Café, now called Beanito's Café have relocated from their old premises into their new location of Tenancy 70-74 (opposite of Kapiris Bros). Feedback received has been extremely positive.



- **Warehousing Development Eastern Boundary:** Management are continuing to work with market tenants of whom have shown interest in additional future market warehousing. The eastern boundary is the only vacant parcel of land in the market, and to date there has been excess demand. Management confirmed the State Government are currently working on the vacant land project, known as MFiX (Melbourne Food Innovation Export Hub).

MARKETING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- **Longest Lunch:** As part of the Food & Wine festival, the MMA have a current tender released to host the Longest Lunch in November 2022 (tender will close at 5pm on Friday 17 December 2021). This will be held on one long table in Buyers Walk with 2500 people to attend and currently looking at the possibility to holding this event onsite.
- **Food Services Australia – Exhibition (February 2022):** Due to lockdown restrictions, the Exhibition will now be held in February 2022 at the Exhibition Centre. The MMA will reach out to the Market community (both Flower, Fruit & Vegetable) to see if they would like to be involved closer to the date. Following this event, will then transition into a **Melbourne Market Open Day (April 2022)**.
- **Certificate III in Greengrocery:** Management are continuing to promote the Greengrocer course and discussed the benefits of enrolling retail personnel in the course. The graduation (of the 3 students) will be held today at Melbourne Polytechnic. Management have promoted the employers involved in the program and will be highly pitched at the Retailer Advisory Committee. MMA will continue to work with career advisers to promote enrolling in the course.
- **A Better Choice (ABC) Update:** MMA confirmed Zac Egan commenced in his new role as State Program Coordinator recently and will be visiting Retailers to assist and promote the A Better Choice program. Victoria are leading the tally nationally with the highest number (175) of retailers signed up to the program. 60 Retailers are highly engaged in the program and Zac will continue to target the remainder amount signed up.
- **Fresho Overview:** Fresho promotions were rolled out in the Flower Market almost one year ago and will now extend to the Fruit & Vegetable market tenants. To date, Fresho have received 100 enquiries from Fruit & Vegetable tenants regarding the online trading platform.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Customer Portal Rollout:** Amanda Flannery, MMA Operations discussed the new customer portal for all market tenants. The portal is working well, and Amanda is available if any market tenants require assistance with the onboarding of the portal.
- **Christmas Trading Hours:** The MMA have released the details for all of the Christmas Trading hours for the Market.
- **Customer Service Satisfaction Survey:** The Customer Service Satisfaction Survey will be released later this week to the market community for completion. The MMA have condensed the survey to allow easier and more efficient completion.
- **Advisory Committee Nominations 2022:** The Advisory Committee election for 2022 will commence early in January 2022. Management will commence encouraging Committee nominations.
- **Gate Entries into the Market:** Committee requested when the other market entry gates will be re-opening. Once the Access card audit is completed, the gates will again re-open.

Meeting closed at 10:54am.