

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SENIORS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
ON 16 MAY 2018 at 4:00PM
ANDY MCNEILL ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, TODD STREET

1. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Mayor Damien Ryan
Deputy Mayor Jamie de Brenni (*Chair*)
Enid Harland, Probus Club of Alice Springs
Shauna Hartig, Country Women's Association (*arrived 16:06pm*)
Sue Jones, National Seniors of Central Australia
Fran Kilgariff AM, Council On The Ageing (NT) Inc.
Kathleen Nitschke, University of the 3rd Age
Lowell Wood, General Member

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rex Mooney, Chief Executive Officer
Biggi Gosling, Acting Director Corporate and Community Services
Clare Fisher, Alice Springs Public Library Manager
Jeanette Shepherd, Community Development Officer
Stephanie Dominguez, Executive Assistant (*Minutes*)

The meeting commenced at 4:01pm.

2. APOLOGIES:

Councillor Glen Auricht
Jill Deer, Alice Springs Senior Citizens
Kate Lewis, Anglicare NT
Geoff Sloan, General Member
Micheal Smith, Community and Cultural Development Manager

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved: Sue Jones

Seconded: Lowell Wood

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Concerns raised relating to Cancer Care Nurse Support in Alice Springs

The Chief Executive Officer confirmed he has made contact with Sue Korner, Chief Operating Officer from Alice Springs Hospital. He is waiting on a reply, and will advise at the next meeting.

ACTION:

This item remains in ongoing business.

5.2 Senior Safety – Bikes in the Mall

The Acting Director Corporate and Community Services confirmed she made contact with the Acting Manager of the Ranger Unit and advised him of this committee's concerns in regard to bikes in the Mall. She expressed the vital importance that the Rangers continue to patrol and enforce the Council By-Laws.

The '*Bikes and cycling in Alice Springs CBD Council Report 50/18ccs*' was presented to the committee for their information and discussion.

The Chief Executive Officer advised the Council Solicitor is due to present a legal report on Bikes in the Mall to the June Corporate and Community Services Standing Committee meeting. This additional report will be presented to the July Seniors Coordinating Committee for review.

Discussion ensued in regard to the committee's concerns, Council By-Laws and Public Liability Insurance.

ACTION:

This item remains in ongoing business.

6. DEPUTATIONS

6.1 Bre Parfitt, Victims Support Officer - Victims of Crime Chris Sanderson, Safe at Home Operations Manager - Victims of Crime

The Community Projects Officer presented brochures to the committee on behalf of the speakers from Victims of Crime NT. The scheduled speakers sent their apologies.

These deputations have been rescheduled for Seniors Coordinating Committee Meeting on the 18th July 2018.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

After the success of the event last year, the Community Development Officer is working with the Programs Team Leader from the Library to organise a 'World Elder Abuse Awareness' event at the Library. This event will include a free morning tea at 10.15am-11am on Thursday 14th June.

Central Australian Women's Legal Services have committed to come and speak. Catholic Care's new Aged Care Advocate has also been invited to come and speak.

ACTION:

This item remains in ongoing business.

7.2 Seniors Month

Mayoral morning tea had been scheduled for the 3rd of August 2018. Unfortunately, due to a conflict with the Mayors calendar, this date needs to change. The new date identified for this event is the 10th August 2018 (10.30am-12pm).

The committee were reminded to submit any suggestions for a guest speaker for the Mayoral morning tea to the Community Development Officer. The Mayor suggested an invitation be extended to local schools that might have musicians who could attend and perform.

The Community Development Officer confirmed Witchetty's had been booked for 'Seniors Still Got Talent' event in August.

The Manager Library Services asked for requests for workshops, training or informative talks the committee might like to see at the Library during Seniors Month.

Ms Kilgariff confirmed the COTA (Council On The Ageing) calendar will be distributed in mid-July 2018. The closing date for submissions to be confirmed as soon as possible and this committee advised. Discussion ensued in regard to distribution of the printed calendar.

ACTION:

Committee to report back to Community Development Officer – Jeanette Shepherd with any known clashes for major events for seniors – jshepherd@astc.nt.gov.au

ACTION:

Community Development Officer to extend an invitation to local schools to seek musicians to play at the morning tea.

ACTION:

Closing date for COTA printed calendar submissions to be confirmed and supplied to this committee.

ACTION:

This item remains in ongoing business.

7.3 COTA Australia National Policy Forum

The Community Projects Officer made the committee aware of the upcoming COTA Australia National Policy Forum.

'The 2018 COTA National Policy Forum brings together older consumers, consumer advocates, academics, regulators and sector experts to closely examine the challenges and opportunities facing older consumers in current and emerging markets; and to identify the priorities for ensuring their voices are heard in consumer policy, regulation and market practice.' More information can be found: <https://www.cota.org.au/policy/national-policy-forums/policy-forum-2018/>

Anything Alice Springs seniors want to add as a regional voice to the forum can be contributed via email: nationalpolicyforum@cota.org.au

7.4 50+ Community Centre

The Mayor provided an update to the committee about the actions relating to the 50+ Community Centre. He advised that the Chief Executive Officer secured funding from the Department of Territory Families to employ a consultant to work with the three main user groups of the Centre, (U3A, National Seniors and Senior Citizens). This was instigated after concerns were raised regarding the financial viability of the centre and the operation of the past committee.

After a significant delay the AGM was held, where a new chair and a number of new committee members were elected.

On the 15th May John Huigen, the consultant, held a session where about 15 people from the three groups attended to brainstorm. The consultant's recommendations will be presented back to the 50+ Community Centre committee and Council in the near future.

The work that has been done is moving towards a positive outcome in ensuring the Centre is utilised effectively.

7.5 Acting Director Corporate and Community Services meeting with the Assistant Minister for Youth and Ageing - Ngaree Ah Kit

The Acting Director of Corporate and Community Services advised the committee she had just stepped out of a positive meeting with the Assistant Minister for Youth and Ageing Ms Ngaree Ah Kit.

In this meeting the Acting Director of Corporate and Community Services and the Community Development Officer discussed Council initiatives, the cost of travel prohibiting senior's from visiting interstate family, and concerns in regard to senior's safety.

Minister Ah Kit apologised for not being able to attend today's meeting as she had to catch a flight back to Darwin this afternoon.

7.6 NT Seniors Concessions

Ms Fran Kilgariff discussed the Territory Families information session which about 80 people attended, in regard to the impending changes to the NT Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme. These changes come into effect on 1 July 2018. The two schemes will be:

The NT Concession Scheme (NTCS)

NT residents receiving an eligible Commonwealth pension or a Department of Veterans' Affairs payment can apply to the Northern Territory Concession Scheme for assistance with the following concessions:

- Glasses
- Electricity
- Water
- Rates and garbage
- NT Drivers licence and motor vehicle registration

NT Seniors Recognition Scheme (NT SRS)

NT residents who are 65 years and over and Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents can apply for the Seniors Recognition Scheme which provides \$500 payment to be used for:

- Travel
- Electricity
- Water

More information is available on the Council On The Ageing (COTA) Northern Territory website: <http://www.cotant.org.au/information/nt-seniors-concessions/>

Ms Kilgariff confirmed letters will be distributed to seniors annually to update and confirm their details.

The third card available is the NT Seniors Card, Any permanent Northern Territory (NT) resident who is 60 years of age or older is eligible for a NT Seniors Card. The Seniors Card is free and provides access to discounts at participating businesses. More information is available at: <https://ntseniorscard.org.au/> This scheme is administered by COTA.

7.7 Seniors Card Discount Directory Launch and Morning Tea 50+ Community Centre - 4th June Launch – 10-11:30am

Council on the Ageing Northern Territory and The Honorable Dale Wakefield, Minister for Territory Families are pleased to invite seniors and businesses to the launch of the 2018 NT Seniors Card Discount Directory.

Morning tea will be served.

Invitations will be distributed to this committee.

To register by phone, please contact Fran Kilgariff on 0438 635 354

7.8 NDIS information sessions in the Library

The Manager of Library Services made the committee aware that the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) currently has information and representatives in the Library. A representative from NDIS is available every Monday until the end of June from 10am – 12pm for people to talk to, and explain how the NDIS affects them.

A static information table about the NDIS is also on display until the end of June.

8. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, **20 June 2018** at 4:00pm

9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 4:33pm.