

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SENIORS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
ON 21 MARCH 2018 at 4:00PM
ANDY MCNEILL ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, TODD STREET

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:

PRESENT:

Councillor Glen Auricht
Deputy Mayor Jamie de Brenni (*Chairperson*)
Jill Deer, Alice Springs Senior Citizens
Enid Harland, Probus Club of Alice Springs
Kathleen Nitschke, University of the 3rd Age
Sue Jones, National Seniors of Central Australia
Geoff Sloan, General Member
Mayor Damien Ryan
Lowell Wood, General Member (Dementia Australia NT)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rex Mooney, Chief Executive Officer
Clare Fisher, Alice Springs Public Library Manager
Micheal Smith, Community & Cultural Development Manager
Jeanette Shepherd, Community Development Officer
Stephanie Dominguez, Executive Assistant (*Minutes*)

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Neck, Chris Neck Consulting - Regional Economic Development Committee
Anna Ryan, Senior Lawyer - Central Australian Women's Legal Service

APOLOGIES:

Kate Lewis, Commonwealth Home Support Program Manager - Anglicare NT

The meeting commenced at 4:00pm.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

An item was raised regarding the fact that Rosemary Goldner no longer works with Catholic Care NT so her name could be removed from the contact list, and a new representative from Catholic Care NT sought.

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

That the minutes of meeting held on 23 February 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved: Sue Jones

Seconded: Jill Deer

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Senior Safety

The Community Development Officer investigated an incident from 26th January 2018 that was brought to the attention of the Seniors Coordinating Committee at the previous meeting on 23rd February 2018.

Alice Springs Town Council Rangers confirmed they were not notified about the event, and suggested that antisocial behaviours and safety concerns like this should always be reported to Police. Rangers are able to assist with securing the building when systems fail, however public safety is a Police matter.

The Community Development Officer followed up with Police, who suggested the matter was most likely classified as a general disturbance, and not given a 'PROMIS' number. Kathleen confirmed she had spoken with the University of the 3rd Age member again who was told by Police at the time that they didn't need an incident report, as everyone involved in the incident was able to return home safely.

Concerns were raised regarding the function of the gate at the 50+ Community Centre, and that it doesn't always 'click' closed if the gate has been given a 'bash or a knock'.

The Chief Executive Officer confirmed a contact number for the Rangers could be provided for when there are issues with securing the gate, and investigation will take place as to whether the gate requires any remedial work or repairs.

ACTION:

Chief Executive Officer follow up on gate technical concerns.

3.2 Influenza Vaccine (Flu Shot)

The Community Development Officer investigated the possibility of publicising the new flu vaccine with the Media Department of Alice Springs Town Council. The Media Officer suggested it would be more appropriate for the message to come directly from Department of Health.

The Community Development Officer spoke to Sharon Murray, Public Health Nurse for Immunisations at the Centre for Disease Control, who confirmed;

- the new high dose influenza vaccine will be offered to adults aged 65 years and over for free
- should be available in the next week or two
- Centre for Disease Control highly recommends to have this vaccine
- no additional side effects, and
- once the vaccine is readily available there will be more publicity.

The Department of Health also revealed there is currently a free Shingles Vaccine available for seniors turning 70 years. Seniors aged 71-79 years are eligible for a booster through a catch-up program. Even if you have had shingles, you can access this vaccine with a check up with your General Practitioner (GP).

3.3 Role of Seniors Coordinating Committee

The Chief Executive Officer confirmed the charters of all advisory committees have been collated and reviewed, and that the Charter for the Seniors Coordinating Committee will be presented at the next meeting.

This item to be moved to ongoing business, with the current charter being circulated prior to the next meeting on 18th April 2018.

The Community Development Officer confirmed that an email address has been listed on the senior's page of the Alice Springs Town Council webpage as requested.

<http://www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au/living/living-alice-springs/seniors>

3.4 Seniors Month

Community Development Officer asked the Committee for suggestions on a guest speaker for the Mayoral Morning Tea during Seniors Month.

A new idea was raised for the committee's consideration in the form of 'Pass it On' workshops. The concept would be that senior's would be invited to teach skills in classes to 'up-skill' the community, and provide an avenue through Seniors Month to allow seniors to share skills. Discussion ensued regarding potential ideas.

ACTION:

Community Development Officer to investigate contacting Men's Shed regarding building/repairing skills, and Raelene Brown at Kunga's Can Cook regarding workshops.

4. **DEPUTATIONS**

4.1 Chris Neck, Regional Economic Development Committee Re: Seniors Lifestyle Village

Mr Chris Neck presented to the Committee on behalf of the Regional Economic Development Committee regarding the current stage of progress of the Seniors Lifestyle Village.

He highlighted the economic benefits of the project to the town (in addition to social development) and the Northern Territory Government's current status regarding the village.

The KPMG report came back and advised that there is an essential and urgent need to provide facilities for self-funded seniors in Alice to help retain seniors in Central Australia.

Following the KPMG report, the preferred site for the Lifestyle Village has been identified in the Mount Johns vicinity, although there are native title requirements involved here.

The Northern Territory Government is currently working through appropriate processes to confirm this location. The Regional Economic Development Committee believes that the Northern Territory Government is confident at getting the agreement and moving forward with the project.

4.2 Anna Ryan, Senior Lawyer - Central Australian Women's Legal Service

The Chair disclosed a conflict of interest related to this guest speaker, as his wife manages the Central Australian Women's Legal Service.

Ms Anna Ryan informed the committee of the free and confidential legal service that is available to women in Central Australia.

Central Australian Women's Legal Service can assist with:

- Child protection
- Superannuation
- Housing
- Domestic Violence
- Employment
- Family Law

They offer a drop-in domestic violence and victims of crime service, free advice sessions by appointment, and have a free call number.

Central Australian Women's Legal Service has a Community Legal Education Lawyer who is available, by appointment, to speak to organisations to raise awareness in the senior's community of the support that is available.

The committee thanked Ms Ryan for the presentation, and agreed that raising the profile of services like this is important to ensure seniors are aware of support available.

Discussion ensued relating to specific concerns the committee had witnessed in the community including elder abuse, carer, and economic abuse.

Central Australian Women's Legal Service can be contacted on: 1800 684 055 (freecall), their office is located at 1 Stott Terrace, Alice Springs.

Anna Ryan can be contacted on: 08 8953 4055 or enquiries@cawls.org.au to arrange a Community Legal Education Lawyer to come and speak to your organisation, or for any enquiries regarding elder abuse.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 COTA (Council on the Ageing) & NT Seniors Card

The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that recently Territory Families had outsourced the production of the NT Seniors Card and Directories to COTA (Council on the Ageing).

All new applicants of the NT Seniors Card will need to complete a new form, and return to COTA in Darwin. The Alice Springs Town Council Civic Centre, and 50+ Community Centre have some of the new forms, and they are also available on the website: <http://www.cotant.org.au/information/seniors-card/>

The Chief Executive Officer explained a letter had been received from COTA outlining a proposal to host a part-time position at the 50+ Community Centre.

COTA has also proposed a fundraising opportunity for the 50+ Community Centre Management Committee and its member organisations by signing up local businesses to the Seniors Card Discount Directory, and receive 50% cash back, with funds going into an account managed by the 50+ Community Centre Management Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding pending changes to the Territory Pension and Carer Concession Card.

ACTION:

Community Development Officer to ensure a link to the COTA webpage is listed on the ASTC website to draw attention to these changes.

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

Kathleen Nitschke spoke of the concerns that in Alice Springs, despite money raised locally at events such as the Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea, there was no Cancer Care Nurse support here in Alice Springs.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the committee was aware the lack of a Cancer Care Nurse, and what Council can do to support raising this issue

RECOMMENDATION

That is be a recommendation to Council

That the Council will inform the Senior Committee, as to whether any action can be taken to advocate for a Cancer Nurse to be based in Alice Springs.

Moved: Kathleen Nitschke

Seconded: Sue Jones

5.3 National Seniors Lawn Sale

The National Seniors in conjunction with Senior Citizens are having a Lawn Sale. It's on Saturday 14th April 2018, 7am – 11am at the 50+ Community Centre.

6. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 18 April 2018 at 4:00pm

7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 5:15pm.