

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SENIORS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
ON 23 FEBRUARY 2018 at 4:00PM
ANDY MCNEILL ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, TODD STREET

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:

PRESENT:

Rex Mooney, Chief Executive Officer - ASTC (*Chairperson*)
Deputy Mayor Jamie de Brenni - ASTC
Sue Jones, National Seniors of Central Australia
Jill Deer, Alice Springs Senior Citizens
Lowell Wood, General Member (Dementia Australia NT)
Kate Lewis, Commonwealth Home Support Program Manager - Anglicare NT
Shauna Hartig, Country Women's Association Alice Springs
Geoff Sloan, General Member
Kathleen Nitschke, U3A
Clare Fisher, Alice Springs Public Library Manager, ASTC
Michael Smith, Community & Cultural Development Manager - ASTC
Jeanette Shepherd, Community Development Officer - ASTC
Ash Field, Media & Communications - ASTC
Stephanie Dominguez, Executive Assistant - ASTC (*Minutes*)

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Damien Ryan
Councillor Glen Auricht - ASTC
Jenny Mostran, Council of the Ageing

ABSENT:

Enid Harland, Probus Club of Alice Springs
Rosemary Goldner, Aged Care Advocate - Catholic Care NT
Bronwyne Arnold, Australian Regional and Remote Community Services

The meeting commenced at 4:05pm.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

That the minutes of meeting held on 15 November 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved: Jill Deer
Seconded: Lowell Wood

3. STANDING ITEMS

NIL

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Seniors Month Calendar

Jeanette Shepherd, Community Development Officer discussed how the ASTC Seniors Month events have now been cross referenced with the printed version of the calendar. Agreement was made that these events need to be submitted earlier to ensure they can be printed.

Through Jeanette, COTA confirmed last year they had more of an uptake than they expected, and that they are planning on having a calendar insert in the Centralian Advocate which would detail all the events as they had limited funding for distribution.

Shauna Hartig entered the room at 4:08pm.

ACTION:

Council staff will aim to submit events to COTA earlier to ensure they can be printed.

4.2 Seniors Lifestyle Village

Jeanette Shepherd confirmed that KPMG (Consultancy Organisation) is undertaking their market analysis at the moment on behalf of the NT Government.

Actions dependant on what findings come out of their report, once it has been made available.

Deputy Mayor De Brenni, as Chairperson for the Regional Economic Development Committee, discussed a brief overview of where the process stands; with land allocated, native title checks being performed, and committee formed, with the Lifestyle Village being a high priority for the NT Government.

4.3 NTG Discussion Paper – Taxes in the Territory

CEO Rex Mooney mentioned Council has made a submission in response to this Discussion Paper.

One major point for Council and Rate Payers is that the NT Government is suggesting increasing its revenue base with a land tax. The land tax is a duplicate on rates. In other states a land tax would be applicable on an investment property, but the suggestion in the discussion paper is that land tax is payable on all residential properties.

Deputy Mayor De Brenni discussed the fact there would be no exempt properties. He requested assistance from senior organisations to support Council to dispute the introduction of this tax.

Discussion ensued regarding the fact there will be no exemptions.

CEO Rex Mooney suggested that responses should be made on the website.

<https://revenuepaper.nt.gov.au/home>

Or via email: RevenuePaper.DTF@nt.gov.au

5. DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Community Consultation – Bicycle Survey currently open for responses.

Ash Field, Media & Communications Officer for the Council addressed the Committee.

Council staff have been undertaking a random survey of Todd Mall users, to get a sample of their views regarding cycling in the Todd Mall.

Currently, it's an offence to cycle, use a scooter, and skateboard in the Todd Mall.

Alice Springs Town Council is interested in the community's views regarding bicycles and cycling in Alice Springs, particularly within the Alice Springs CBD.

Ash asked for the Committee to share the survey with their networks.

The survey is currently available online, at the Library, or at Civic Centre reception. Closing date for responses, Monday 12th March 2018.

<http://www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au/surveys/2018/bikes-alice-springs>

Craig Wilson A/DCCS entered the room at 4:14pm.

Discussion ensued regarding what the survey covered, and reasoning behind the survey.

Ash Field confirmed that the survey covers cycling in the Mall generally, but the main motivation for doing this was the specific issue of cycling in the mall.

Ash Field left the room at 16:16pm.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Review of Seniors Coordinating Committee's 2018 role

Jeanette Shepherd requested the committee have an open discussion about the Committee's role.

Discussion ensued regarding recommendations from this Committee being generally accepted by Council.

Lowell Wood asked if there was a specific section on the website for seniors to contact Council when they have an issue, and if there was an email address listed on the seniors page of the website specifically.

Jeanette Shepherd confirmed she will investigate this matter, took this item on notice, and will provide feedback to Committee.

Rex Mooney CEO confirmed that Council has;

A generic Alice Springs Inbox for email – astc@astc.nt.gov.au,

A Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AliceSpringsTC/> for informing the public about what's going on with Council,

An app called 'NeatStreets' <https://www.neatstreets.com.au/Issues/Index> is also available for reporting day to day Council maintenance concerns.

Discussion ensued regarding utilizing this Committee within members' networks, and to bring issues forward to the Committee, and to encourage Councillors to utilise this group as a reference group, as a way to collect a wider opinion than the one that they've been given.

Deputy Mayor Jamie De Brenni reminded the Committee that Councillors are always available for contact regarding any issue at any time, and suggested we have more presentations to this Committee by appropriate services.

Discussion ensued regarding the process of Committee members referring back to their organisations after each meeting, for comment on issues to bring to the following meeting.

ACTION:

Council to follow up to ensure an email contact is available on the seniors' page of the Alice Springs Town Council website.

RECOMMENDATION:

That it be a recommendation to Council that the Councillors be requested to provide information to our Chair that has come to them from Alice Springs residents, about seniors issues.

Proposed: Geoff Sloan

Seconded: Lowell Wood

Unanimously passed by the Committee.

6.2 Draft Strategic Plan

Jeanette Shepherd suggested at the meeting that the Committee review the Draft Strategic Plan, which is on the website and available for comment until Wednesday 28th February 2018 at 5pm, and submit a response.

Time for public comment on the Draft Strategic Plan has now closed.

6.3 Seniors Month 2018

Jeanette Shepherd, Community Development Officer for the Council requested feedback on the 'Seniors Still Got Talent', and 'Mayoral Morning Tea' events that the Council hosts so that any suggested or proposed changes can be considered in this years planning.

General Committee agreement determined that both events are valued, and should continue.

Jeanette Shepherd confirmed that 'Seniors Still Got Talent' has been booked with 'Witchetty's' at Araluen Art Centre for Wednesday 29th August 2018, depending on the Committee's discussion.

Kathleen Nitschke questioned if the National Seniors Expo would be on this year, and in the absence of an annual Expo, suggested that Council have a forum here.

Sue Jones, from National Seniors of Central Australia confirmed that there won't be an Expo held this year; however that it would be every second year, as the population doesn't warrant it an annual event.

Discussion ensued regarding 'World Elder Abuse Day' – Friday 15 June 2018.

Library Manager, Clare Fisher confirmed that it would be going ahead as an event this year, and that the Library had the item on the 2018 planning calendar.

6.4 Senior Safety in Alice Springs

Kathleen Nitschke addressed the Committee regarding an incident that occurred on 26th January 2018, at approx. 5pm outside the 50+ Community Centre on Wills Terrace.

Concern was raised for the safety of the seniors leaving the Centre, after a large concrete barricade/obstacle was built/intentionally placed across the access road into the Centre, so the attendees' cars were blocked from leaving.

The Coordinator of the Centre made a report with Police immediately after the incident.

Kathleen raised a number of questions:

- Who removed the obstruction, Council or Police?
- How safe are our seniors?
- How do we support their sense of safety?
- How safe are the disenfranchised young people that dreamt up a scheme like this?
- If Police haven't reported it to Council, why?
- Where was the public intervention?

CEO Rex Mooney stated that the incident was very distressing to hear about. Council had not been made aware of the incident, and will investigate.

Discussion ensued about review for the time of this activity being changed as a direct result of this incident.

The Committee agreed lifestyle changes shouldn't have to occur.

Discussion ensued regarding general safety concerns, and anti-social behaviour in Alice Springs.

ACTION:

CEO, Rex Mooney to investigate an incident of 'A barrier across the access road at the 50+ Community Centre' and to chase up the PROMIS note with NT Police. The incident occurred after 5pm on the 26th January 2018 and was reported to Police by a member of U3A.

ACTION:

CEO to alert Rangers Department of Alice Springs Town Council.

ACTION:

Council to report back to the Seniors Coordinating Committee regarding outcome of investigation.

6.5 Influenza Vaccine (Flu Shot)

Geoff Sloan addressed the Committee, to remind members that from April this year there will be a new trivalent flu shot, said to be far more effective than last year.

Geoff mentioned the statistics that suggested 11,000 Australian's died of the flu last year, of them 90% of those were over 65 years old, and urged the Committee to be active in recommending that people over 65 take advantage of the free flu shots.

Geoff discussed the terms of reference for the Committee and suggested the Council would be in a good position to raise awareness of the vaccine..

ACTION:

Council to publicise Flu Vaccine

6.6 Request for Invitation for Central Australian Women's Legal Services to address the Seniors Coordinating Committee

Deputy Mayor De Brenni declared that his wife is the Operations or Promotions Manager for Central Australian Women's Legal Services (CAWLS).

He addressed the lack of knowledge for senior women that this free service exists, and asked if the Committee was happy to be addressed by CAWLS?

The Committee agreed that this would be welcomed.

ACTION:

CEO to write letter to Central Australian Women's Legal Service, inviting them to address the Seniors Coordinating Committee at the next meeting on the 21st March 2018.

6.7 Smart Energy Grants

Geoff Sloan brought the Smart Energy Grants to the attention of the Committee, as seniors' contributions for the grant is only 25%.

Geoff suggested the funds can be used for replacement of solar hot water systems, to install smart energy lights, with a full list available on the website.

<http://smartenergy.nt.gov.au/homeowners/eligible-works.shtml>

Applications close 31st January 2019 or when funds run out.

6.8 'Connect to Tech' program at the Alice Springs Public Library

Clare Fisher from the Alice Springs Library was pleased to confirm that all places for the 'Connect to Tech' program for this term have been booked out.

Clare requested feedback from the Committee in order to review the program for next term. This is to determine if enough places were provided, and if the topics covered were meeting the needs of seniors.

Discussion ensued regarding the relationship between this program, and that of the NT Library's 'Be Connected Program'.

The Alice Springs Library 'Connect to Tech' program can be found here on the Alice Springs Town Council website;

<http://www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au/services/library/news-and-events>

Emails with any recommendations for the program can be directed to:

Attention: Clare Fisher, Library Manager.

Email: astc@astc.nt.gov.au

6. **NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 21 March 2018, 4:00pm**

7. **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING:** The meeting closed at 4:40pm.