

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2020, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, ALICE SPRINGS

Following an organisational restructure the committee previously known as Corporate and Community Services is now known as Community Development.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor D. Ryan (phone-in)
Councillor G. Auricht
Councillor M. Banks
Councillor J. Cocking (Chair)
Councillor J. de Brenni
Councillor E. Melky
Councillor M. Paterson
Councillor C. Satour

OFFICERS: Mr R. Jennings - Chief Executive Officer
Ms S. Duke - Acting Director Corporate and Community Services
Mr T. Charlie – Acting Director Technical Services
Ms S. Taylor – Director Corporate Services
Mrs T. Ocones - Executive Assistant (Minutes)

The meeting was declared open at 6:04pm

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor J. Price – Sick Leave
Mr S. Allen, Director Technical Services – Annual Leave

2. WELCOME TO THE PUBLIC VISITORS AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillor Melky – Agenda Item 11.1, Julian Assange Petition

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes – Corporate and Community Services – 11 November 2019

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council

That the minutes of the open section of the Corporate and Community Services Committee meeting held on 11 November 2019 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

(1 cd)

4.2 Business Arising

Nil

5. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Identification of items for discussion

The following items were identified for discussion:

Nil

5.2 Identification of items to be raised in General Business by Elected Members and Officers

- Councillor de Brenni - Alice Prize
- Councillor Melky – Community Safety

6. DEPUTATIONS

6.1 NT Writers Festival - SezzaJai Sykes

This Agenda item was brought forward and held in the Corporate Services Committee at 5:45pm.

SezzaJai Sykes gave a powerpoint presentation on the NT Writers Festival (NTWF) as part of their funding agreement for the Alice Springs Town Council's sponsorship provided earlier this year. The NTWF is a four-day festival shaped by place that speaks to and from the heart of Australia and the Northern Territory. The Festival emphasizes Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity and offers unique immersive experiences. Founded in 1999, it has hosted an impressive array of some of Australia's most distinguished writers, thinkers and storytellers, including Bruce Pascoe, Kim Mahood, Christos Tsiolkas and Alexis Wright. The Festival is held annually and the location alternates between Darwin and Alice Springs. With a thousand miles between them, the Festival shifts from the tropics to the desert, from coastal to inland, from Larrakia to Arrernte country, creating a character which reflects the environmental, cultural and social diversity of the Northern Territory.

In May 2019 the festival took place in Alice Springs. The theme was 'lyapirtneme' (returning). The Arrernte translates as something growing back or appearing again after an absence. For example, new shoots returning after fire. This can only happen when the roots are still alive and when seeds lie dormant. The theme was celebrated with a full day of rain on the Saturday of the program. The festival ran 48 events over 7 days. The program opened on Thursday night with a special welcome by Arrernte dancers and song holders. Across the festival there were 70 artists employed, 37% of whom were ATSI. Special guest speakers included nationally renowned children's author and 2019 children's laureate, Morris Gleitzman, Gurindji elders and writers, Violet Wadrill, Bidy Wavehill and Topsy Ngarjal presenting their book *Karu*, about Gurindji childrearing practices. Gunai poet Kirli Saunders, who is the founder of the national Poetry in First Languages project, brought her workshops to schools in Alice Springs and Santa Theresa during her visit.

The total audience was 2,249 people (2017: 2,871, 2015: 1,672). At an informed estimate, the festival's audience was about 19% ATSI and 19% were Under 25s. School events had the highest ATSI audiences. 6 school events were held in town and at Santa Theresa. One of the young poets performed in Arrernte language at the Festival opening night with support from her Arrernte teacher.

Other highlights included: A presentation from Children's Ground about their new self-authored, self-published bilingual children's picture books. Arrernte playwright Declan Furber Gillick's performed an extract from his new play *Bighouse Dreaming*. A special session was hosted by CSC graphic novelists on making graphic novels. Tanya

Heaslip's launched her memoir *Alice to Prague*. There was a special session on local collaborative writing projects and also launched the Australian Poetry Anthology NT edition, with readings from published writers, including myself.

SezzaJai Sykes thanked the generous support of sponsors, and funders, since 2015. The Festival has consistently offered the community nearly half its program for free. The NT Writers Centre and festival organisers would like to offer their huge thanks to the Alice Springs Town Council for continued support of this event.

Questions and answers followed with Elected Members.

The Chair thanked SezzaJai Sykes for her presentation and congratulated the NT Writers Festival for its work.

7. PETITIONS

Nil

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

9.1 Community Development Directorate Update
Report No. 19/20cd (A/DCCS)

This report provides an update of current Community Development projects, programs and events.

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

That the Community Development Directorate report be received and noted.

(2 cd)

10. REPORTS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

10.1 Minutes – Public Art Advisory Committee – 5 February 2020

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

That the minutes from the Public Art Advisory Committee held 5 February 2020 be received and noted.

(3 cd)

10.1.1 Michael Fikaris – Traeger Oval Wall Concept Proposal (Agenda
Item 5.1)

The design is an abstract expression of the sports played at Traeger Park, using colours, shapes and movements of these sports. Michael Fikaris has incorporated nature and geometry to compliment the area with a sophisticated

colour palette for longevity and discovery of the story in the design. Images are made from research of the area and three elements from each sport: hockey, footy, cricket, tennis, baseball, basketball, rugby and track and field.

The mural production will be led by Michael Fikaris, with assistance from a professional painter and selected community members sourced through community engagement workshops. The artwork will be painted with industry standard quality outdoor acrylic paints (“Dulux Weatherguard” or similar) using rollers and brushes as well as high quality muralists industry standard aerosol paints.

10.1.2 Hayden Williams and Gap Youth Centre – Traeger Oval Wall Concept Proposal (Agenda Item 5.2)

Artist Hayden Williams intends the work to be an inclusive perspective of the diverse, wide and varied range of sports played at Traeger Park. These sports are enjoyed by male and female athletes and spectators alike – both young and old – and are a vital part of the sporting life of Alice Springs.

Hayden Williams has chosen to depict eight sports being played. The figurative imagery of both competition and individual pursuit is meant to draw the passers-by into the composition. The patterned work pays respect to the art and artists of Central Australia. The following eight sports will be depicted: AFL, Women’s AFL, hockey, soccer, tennis, basketball, baseball and cricket.

The work will be fabricated with exterior house paints and aerosol cans. Methods of installation will include brushwork, stenciling, layering and cutting in. The Gap Youth and Community Centre will be engaged, and as many as 60 young people will help paint the wall.

An undercoated and air brushed Besa Block sample was presented to the Committee.

10.1.3 Alison Hittmann – Traeger Oval Wall Concept Proposal (Agenda Item 5.3)

Alison Hittmann proposed a mural painting, hand-painted with brushes and small rollers.

The materials and equipment will be sourced locally if possible, and using Viponds acrylic exterior gloss paints.

The imagery for the wall is bold and colourful, easily read by the public walking or driving by. The background series of colourful lines and negative shapes reflect the colourful nature of our community and natural environment, and give the appearance of movement. The individual stylised images depict many of the varied sports played in Alice Springs. The shadows add a 3D appearance as though the images come toward you. The designs will be projected onto the wall, and then traced before painting as the mural progresses.

Alison will paint the mural herself with assistance from a local artist and a local youth artist.

Discussion

The Committee discussed the three concept proposals presented. After careful consideration based on the end result, community engagement and proposed design, the Committee agreed to accept the application from Hayden Williams and Gap Youth Centre.

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

- A. That the concept proposal from Hayden Williams and Gap Youth Centre be accepted and advanced to the next stage of design development for the Traeger Oval Wall.**
- B. That Hayden Williams and Gap Youth Centre follow appropriate processes for approval to use images relating to Dreaming stories, keep sports depicted relevant to Traeger precinct, that sports figures reflect diversity of age, gender and background, and make sports figures more prominent.**

(4 cd)

11. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

11.1 **Julian Assange Petition**

Councillor Melky having declared an interest in Item 11.1, left the Chamber at 6:10pm prior to discussion of this matter.

That the Alice Springs Town Council calls on the Australian Federal Government to demand the release of Julian Assange and to arrange for his repatriation to Australia.

(5 cd)

Moved: Councillor Cocking
Seconded: Councillor Banks

Councillor Banks asked about the Council process relating to petitions.

The Chief Executive Officer referred to Section 9 (Petitions) of the Alice Springs (Council Meetings and Procedures) By-Laws. A petition may be presented to a meeting of the council by a member who identifies the subject matter of the petition. The petition has been referred to this Committee for consideration. Alternatively, Elected Members may ask Council officers to submit a report to Council.

Elected Members felt that this matter is a direct conflict of interest for Council to be involved in any way.

Councillor Melky returned to the Chamber at 6:15pm.

11.2 **Councillor de Brenni – Alice Prize Update**

Councillor de Brenni advised that entries for the Alice Prize closed midnight Friday, 7 February 2020. Alice Prize received a record number of entries, 534 so far and still counting today, from around Australia. The judge of the 41st Alice Prize will be Rhana Davenport, Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia.

The selection panel consists of Chips Mackinolty, Bruce Johnson McLean and Charlotte Day.

The official opening and announcement of the winner will be on Friday 17 April 2020 at 6:00pm at the Araluen Arts Centre. The exhibition dates are from 18 April to 8 June 2020. The People's Choice winner will be announced on 17 June 2020.

Councillor de Brenni thanked the Elected Members for supporting this event.

11.3 Councillor Melky – Community Safety

Councillor Melky put forward for discussion his concerns about the escalating problem of anti-social behaviour and youth related crime in Alice Springs and asked Council to step up and address the situation by sending a positive message that Council acknowledge the community safety concerns and that Council will do everything in its power to help ensure the safety and healthy future of our community.

Councillor de Brenni advised that Council has already done everything it can to help and asked the CEO if a response has been received from the NT Government.

The CEO advised that the Chief Minister had requested that questions relating to a perceived conflict of interest be addressed first before he could respond however the Deputy Chief Minister has since responded on behalf of the NT Government and addressed the questions from Council. In the meantime, Council officers are proceeding on youth matters where we can.

Councillor Banks asked where Council are at with the forum on community safety. The CEO advised that numerous meetings have been held with community groups and NT Government agencies to progress a joint solution. A number of projects have been identified and there has been an analysis of the legal framework associated with Council's options. All this will be discussed in the upcoming Council forum and in confidential sessions.

Discussion ensued on the issue and what Council can do to help:

- Councillor Auricht – the problem is not limited to town. Homes, shops and sports facilities in every community are broken into and smashed by out of control kids. Gangs are outdoing each other with damage. Council should work with the NT Government and NT Police advocating that legislation should change to hold these children accountable.
- Mayor Ryan suggested Council should arrange a public meeting with the NT Government and the NT Police in the Andy McNeill room to discuss the issue as soon as possible.
- Councillor Cocking suggested Council should include Lhere Artepe, Tangentyere Council and traditional owners in this public forum and hold it at a larger venue, like Anzac Oval. Neighbourhood Watch should also be invited to give a presentation at this forum. In the meantime, Council should ask the NT Police to provide a post summer report back to Council at the March meeting.
- Councillor Melky said the necessary humanitarian response to people in need has to be separated from dealing with the criminal element. He urged Council to meet with Aboriginal custodians immediately.
- Councillor de Brenni advised Council should act on the motion already in place plus demand answers from the Chief Minister.
- Councillor Banks suggested working at a more sincere partnership to set more structure going forward and start engaging with people of cultural authority (law holders of culture).
- Deputy Mayor Matt Paterson advised that the Chief Minister's refusal to deal with Council's correspondence is ridiculous. Council needs to demand that he address the issues, regardless of the Mayor running. Everyone wants to feel safe and it is a major issue on which the community wants bipartisan support.
- Councillor Sator was disappointed to see Elected Members playing into the politics of this issue. This is about getting the community back together. November 2017 was an opportunity missed. Now Council has a lot to do to build relationships with Aboriginal people. The missing piece is local Aboriginal people being in the conversation. As a local Aboriginal person, and more importantly as a community member, Councillor Sator wants to work towards solutions. First and foremost, that means engaging with local Aboriginal people, who want to be part of the solution.

Council to follow up response from the Chief Minister in relation to crimes in Alice Springs.

The CEO advised that the open letter that came out was a second demand for a response. Elected Members would be updated in the forum on 20 February 2020 about meetings already held to progress the resolution from 2017.

Councillor Banks left the Chamber at 7:19pm

12. NEXT MEETING: **Monday 16 March 2020**

The meeting stands adjourned and resumes in the Confidential Section.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19pm

Confirmed on _____

CHAIRPERSON _____

Date _____

UNCONFIRMED