

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SENIORS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
 ON WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2021 4:00PM
 ANDY MCNEILL ROOM

1. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Councillor Jamie de Brenni, ASTC (*Chair*)
 Councillor Glen Auricht
 Sue Jones, National Seniors of Central Australia
 Kate Lewis, Anglicare NT
 Geoff Sloan, General Member (*arrived at 4:15*)
 Fran Kilgariff, Council of the Ageing (COTA)
 Donna Roulston, University of the 3rd Age
 Marica Quitay, ARRCs
 Louise Banner, ARRCs
 Belinda Staniforth, Catholic Care
 Edna Saunders, Probus

GUEST:

Rae Finlay, Manager Economic Development, Northern Territory Government

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jeanette Shepherd, Manager Community and Cultural Development
 Kiri Milne, Community Development Officer
 Telly Ociones, Executive Assistant (*Minutes*)

13th Alice Springs Town Council Seniors Coordinating Committee	15 July - 20	19 Aug - 20	16 Sept - 20	21 Oct - 20	18 Nov - 20	17 Feb - 21
Mayor Damien Ryan	A		A	✓	✓	A
Councillor Jamie de Brenni	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Glen Auricht				A	✓	✓
Edna Saunders	--	--	--	✓	--	✓
Ian Towns	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A
Lowell Wood	✓					
Fran Kilgariff	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓
Shauna Hartig	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sue Jones	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kate Lewis	✓	✓	A	A	A	✓
Val Hoey	--	--	--	✓	✓	--
Geoff Sloan	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
Rhiannon Fletcher / Belinda Staniforth	✓	✓	✓	--	--	✓
Marica Quitay						✓
Louise Banner						✓

✓	Attended	A	Apology received
✓ Proxy	Proxy attended in place of committee member	--	No attendance and no apology recorded
	Non-member		

The meeting commenced at 4:00pm.

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Damien Ryan
 Ian Towns, University of the 3rd Age
 Robert Jennings, Chief Executive Officer
 Felicity Waldock, Acting Manager Library, Alice Springs Public Library

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Seniors Coordinating Committee meeting held 18 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Councillor Glen Auricht
 Seconded: Sue Jones

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

4.1 Draft Northern Territory Seniors Policy 2021-2025

Feedback on the Draft NT Seniors Policy was extended to 15 January 2021. Manager of Community Engagement from Territory Families, Kez Hall, noted that the Minister's Advisory Council will have another review of the document, the Minister will have a final review, then the design and publishing stage of the document will take place. It is likely there will be some public announcement of this, and where the Policy can be accessed. The document will be released sometime between April and June, with an online version on the NTG website and a link sent out to the SCC members.

4.2 Aged Pensioner Garden Waste Removal

Councillor Auricht asked when the period of application for the removal of garden waste for aged pensioners.

Community Development Officer advised that the garden waste removal occurs twice a year. The dates are posted in the Council Calendar and reminders are advertised on the Council website. The dates for the service for 2021 are as follows:

- Tuesday, 25 May to Thursday, 27 May – Applications close at 4.30pm on Friday, 21 May 2021.
- Tuesday, 23 November to Thursday, 25 November – Applications close at 4.30pm on Friday, 19 November 2021.

5. DEPUTATIONS:

5.1 Rae Finlay, Manager, Economic Development, Central Australia, Department of Tourism and Trade

Rae provided a brief update on the myAlice voucher scheme and the seniors lifestyle village.

myAlice Digital Discount Voucher Program

The myAlice is a scheme designed to stimulate the local economy that directly sustains both the community and local businesses by encouraging spending at businesses by providing discounts, subsidised by Council.

Alice Springs Town Council and the Northern Territory Government provided a combined contribution of \$400,000 to support the Alice Springs economy, via the myAlice Discount Voucher Program. The initiative commenced Friday, 11 December 2020 and the myAlice discount vouchers were released as follows:

- Round 1, \$150K released Friday 11 December 2020
- Round 2, \$100K released Monday 11 January 2021
- Round 3, \$150K released Monday 15 February 2021

There are 9,000 registered users and 119 merchants signed up. Local businesses reported the best trading period over the Christmas period. There were some issues with seniors having difficulty with signing up and downloading the application.

An information session tailored for seniors was held at the 50 Plus centre on Thursday 11 February. Mayor Ryan and the Small Business Champions presented a 'how-to' session on the discount voucher program. All 12 people that attended the session were aided in signing up and creating an account. The Small Business Champions are available to meet with any individual group to provide the same assistance.

Seniors Lifestyle Accommodation Update

- Like the rest of Australia, the Northern Territory (NT) is experiencing an increase in the proportion of seniors living or working in our community. As this occurs, Territorians are seeking a greater range of housing options to live independently, in a safe environment, and with access to care and community support.
- The NT Government engaged KPMG to undertake a market analysis (2016) into the development of seniors' lifestyle accommodation in Alice Springs, the Darwin urban area and the Darwin rural area. KPMG found that there is demand for seniors' accommodation in the Darwin rural, Darwin urban and Alice Springs areas.
- The NT Government undertook competitive market processes with a view to engaging proponents to develop and operate seniors' lifestyle accommodation in the three areas. This process was undertaken by the Major Projects Team, Darwin – now part of the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet. The NT Government's objectives were to develop new seniors' lifestyle accommodation that delivered value for senior Territorians while being commercially sustainable. The market process was designed to provide maximum flexibility for proponents to develop commercially sustainable models, including determining the type and number of accommodations, price points, delivery model and development site.
- In April 2020 the NT Government called for Expressions of Interest for the Alice Springs Seniors Lifestyle Accommodation Project. The EOI was the first of a two-stage competitive process to test market appetite and engage a proponent to develop and operate new seniors' accommodation.

- Following evaluation of EOIs, shortlisted proponents were invited to participate in the second-stage Request for Detailed Proposals process, to submit binding proposals to undertake the project.
- The market processes have concluded. Following detailed consideration, the proposals did not represent value for the Territory and the NT Government has declined all proposals.
- The proposals sought significant financial contributions to the development by the NT Government which has not been approved. The NTG Seniors-lifestyle-accommodation website has been updated yesterday with the outcome of the market process.
- While government through Major Projects will not be actively pursuing these specific development opportunities, it remains open to engaging with the private sector to facilitate sustainable development of new seniors' lifestyle accommodation options.

Fran Kilgariff registered her strong dissatisfaction about this outcome. Discussion ensued about the Committee's frustration and extreme disappointment in the outcome after considerable work undertaken by all parties concerned and all the process done over many years.

The Committee agreed to write a letter to the Chief Minister expressing its disappointment about the lack of support for a seniors' lifestyle village in Alice Springs.

ACTION:

Geoff Sloan and Fran Kilgariff to draft a letter to the Department of Chief Minister. Council officers to check the process with Manager Governance before sending a letter to the Chief Minister from members of the Seniors Coordinating Committee.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

6.1 Community Grants Program

Council's Community Grants program is open until COB Monday 22 February. The categories include Community Development (up to \$5k), Community Assistance (up to \$1500), Araluen Access (up to \$2k), Youth Development (up to \$5k) and Sustainability Initiatives (up to \$2500).

Sue Jones thanked Council for providing the Community Grants Information Session on 3 February to assist community members and organisations on the application guidelines.

6.2 Upcoming Community Projects and Events

- Community Development Officer provided an update on upcoming Council events and programs:
 - Movers and Groovers is back at the 50 Plus Centre, on Saturday mornings at 11am. The cost is still a gold coin donation, and due to interest, its recommended to arrive early.
 - Gentle Exercise and Movement classes are also taking place – here in the Andy McNeill Room, Tuesday's between 10 and 11am. The classes are the rebranded "Dancing with Dementia", with a focus on inclusion and exercise for all.

- The final pop up park concert for summer is taking place at Ross Park Oval Friday 26 February at 6pm with live music from Territory Formal, Yenny Chen, Desert Paradise (hula dancing). There will be crafts, mini golf, giant games and a BBQ.
- The mini gigs series is a new Council initiative to provide live music at local businesses in Alice Springs – including Yaes Yaes, Page 27, The Rediscovery Centre, Bean Tree Café, and Krazy Train Diner. EOI's are open for acoustic performers.
- Council is excited to announce the inaugural Alice Upcycle Art Prize! This addition to the Alice Springs arts calendar is an initiative from Council's Climate Action Plan that celebrates artistic innovation whilst promoting environmental awareness.

As a sculptural exhibition and art prize, the program will showcase the creativity and sculptural artworks of Central Australian artists, working with recycled and repurposed materials at a time where reducing, reusing and recycling is more important than ever before. The exhibition venue will be at the Rediscovery Centre – a retail recycling centre and salvage yard where you can drop-off, rediscover and purchase second-hand, reused and preloved goods. With a total prize pool of \$7,000, prize categories include: excellence in welded and non-welded pieces; a People's Choice Award; and, an award to the artist whose work most creatively and effectively communicates awareness of the impacts of climate change in Central Australia.

Entries close 5pm, Thursday 20 May, with the awards night on Friday 11 June 2021. Shortlisted works will be exhibited until Saturday, 26 June 2021, at the Rediscovery Centre, Commonage Road.

- Rachel Frearson, the Team Leader of Environmental Health, has offered to run a session for seniors on the Territory Check In app, as well as any other COVID-19 related questions.
- Probus will have its AGM on 11 March at the Gillen Club.
- COTA will be running a free information session on advanced personal care plans, last will and seniors' services on 25 February at the 50 Plus Community Centre from 2pm to 5pm. Bookings are required on www.eventbrite.com.au or call COTA NT on 16929707161.
- Seniors Month – Member for Braitling is inviting seniors for a senior's month lunch in August.
- ARRCs will be running an information session on 3 March about the services it offers. ARRCs is also seeking EOIs on the different group activities people are interested to attend.
- U3A activities –
 - 18 February, 4:30pm – meet new Cancer Council nurse
 - 4 March – Pam Collier talks about her trip to India
 - 18 March – morning tea/discussion at Connellan Airlines

6.3 Car Park Exit Gates at Ford Plaza

Sue Jones raised a safety concern on behalf of a community member relating to near misses at the exit gates from Ford Plaza.

ACTION:

Community Development Officer to raise the concern with Technical Services and provide feedback to Sue.

6.4 Information on the Roll Out of COVID-19 Vaccination

Councillor Auricht asked if Council could help disseminate information on the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccination.

ACTION:

Manager Community and Cultural Development will send information through the Seniors Committee as soon as information becomes available.

6.5 Motor Sports Volunteers

Councillor de Brenni informed the Committee that Motor Sports NT will have a volunteers and membership sign-on day on Saturday at Lasseters Casino.

7. **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, **17 March 2021** at 4:00pm

8. **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING:** The meeting closed at 5:01pm.