

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SENIORS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
 ON WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2020 4:00PM
 ANDY MCNEILL ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, TODD STREET

1. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Councillor Jamie de Brenni (*Chair*)
 Geoff Sloan, General Member
 Lowell Wood, Dementia Australia
 Fran Kilgariff, Council of the Ageing (COTA)
 Kate Lewis, Anglicare NT
 Sue Jones, National Seniors of Central Australia
 Val Hoey, Alice Springs Seniors Citizens Association
 Edna Saunders, Probus Club of Alice Springs
 Nerida Holmes, Relationships Australia (*Guest*)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Duke, Acting Director Community Development
 Jeanette Shepherd, Manager Community and Cultural Development
 Clare Fisher, Manager Library Services (arrived at 4:03pm)

13th Alice Springs Town Council Seniors Coordinating Committee	17 Jul - 19	21 Aug - 19	18 Sep - 19	16 Oct - 19	20 Nov - 19	19 Feb - 20	18 Mar - 20
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	A	Meeting cancelled – no quorum	✓	✓	✓	A
Councillor Jamie de Brenni	✓	A		✓	✓	A	✓
Councillor Catherine Satour				✓	✓	A	A
Councillor Glen Auricht	✓	✓					
Edna Saunders	✓	✓		--	✓	✓	✓
Ian Towns	✓	✓		✓	✓	A	A
Lowell Wood	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Fran Kilgariff	✓	✓		A	A	✓	✓
Shauna Hartig	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	A
Sue Jones	A	A		✓	✓	✓	✓
Kate Lewis	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Val Hoey		✓		✓	✓	--	✓
Geoff Sloan	✓	A		A	✓	A	✓
Rhiannon Fletcher / Belinda Staniforth		✓		✓	A	A	A
Bronwyn Arnold	✓ Proxy	✓ Proxy		--	--	--	--

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

The meeting commenced at 4:00pm.

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Damien Ryan
Councillor Catherine Satour
Belinda Staniforth, Catholic Care NT
Ian Towns, University of the 3rd Age
Shauna Hartig, Country Women's Association
Robert Jennings, Chief Executive Officer
Kiri Milne, Community Development Officer
Telly Ociones, Executive Assistant (*Minutes via recording*)

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting held 19 February 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting, subject to amendment to Item 4.1, the date should read 24 March 2020, not 26 March 2020.

Moved: Sue Jones
Seconded: Fran Kilgariff

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**4.1 NT Concession Cards**

Geoff Sloan gave the following information on the NT Concession cards:

- In 2018, the NT Government introduced the NT Concession Scheme (NTCS) and the NT Seniors Recognition Scheme (NTSRS), which is transitioning to a prepaid card
- The administration of the scheme is being set, such as rules for renewals, etc.
- The prepaid card will be provided to all members of the NT Seniors Recognition Scheme who have confirmed their details from 1 July 2020.
- Eligible members will receive a \$500 payment each financial year (*payment is non-accrual*). Members will be issued with a prepaid card that can be used for travel, accommodation, fuel, electricity or water.
- Members should always check the merchant category codes who can accept the NTSRS prepaid card before making a purchase.
- If an item or service being purchased costs more than the balance on the prepaid card, for example travel, check that the business offers multiple (or split) payment options.
- Any clarification on the three cards relating to senior (NT Seniors Card, NT Concession Scheme and NT Seniors Recognition Scheme), please refer to COTA through Fran Kilgariff

Fran Kilgariff advised that Territory Families have asked her to assist seniors wanting to register their NTSRS prepaid card at the 50 Plus Centre.

ACTION:

Manager Community and Cultural Development to put information on the Council website Seniors webpage advising that assistance to seniors NTSRS prepaid card is available through COTA at the 50 Plus Centre.

4.2 Walking Netball

Fran Kilgariff advised that the Walking Netball social competition has been cancelled today, until further notice.

Councillor Jamie de Brenni advised that the Parrtjima Festival on 3 April has been postponed to 9 - 20 September 2020.

5. **DEPUTATION:**

5.1 Marilyn Kleeman, ASTC Healthy Communities Coordinator

Marilyn Kleeman introduced herself to the Committee and her role with seniors in keeping them fit, active and connected with the community, especially those with chronic health concerns. Marilyn created an exercise program that can be done at home, in line with the public health advice suspending all current programs and events due to COVID-19. In the interim, this is the first step to encourage and support ongoing activities in the coming months. Copies of the program were distributed to the Committee.

Val Hoey asked if the ASALC facility will be closed. The Acting Director Community Development advised that Council officers conducted a risk assessment on the facility resulting in a low risk result. Research from the Center for Disease Control and World Health Organisation shows that the level of chlorine (with proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection) in swimming pools is more than enough to remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19, however, it is still essential, in all public facilities, to observe social distancing and personal hygiene. At ASALC the water in the pools are tested every four hours that they are open to ensure they comply with water quality guidelines. At all Council facilities there is strict protocol in relation to disinfecting surfaces.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

6.1 Upcoming Council and Community Events

The Manager Community and Cultural Development reported the following:

- Council is currently evaluating its upcoming events against risk assessment documents provided by Secure NT and making the necessary preparation in accordance with the advice from the Australian Government, NT Department of Health and the NT Chief Health Officer in regard to COVID-19
- To date the following non-essential events have been cancelled: Multicultural Fitness month, Heart Foundation Walks on Saturday mornings, Twilight in the Mall

6.2 Update from Manager Library Services

The Manager Library Services gave the following update:

- In terms of COVID-19 risk mitigation, all the soft furnishings in the Library have been stripped out so that all the chairs can be wiped down and disinfected. Every second PC has been disabled to observe social distancing.
- Started double loans double time program (40 items for two months) to encourage less interaction and less visitation to the Library.

- Borrow box is a safe way to access the Library system. All you need is an internet connection on your computer, tablet, smartphone or e-book reader. You can download free library books, magazines and audiobook.
- Looking at click and collect type program, where people who are not able to come to the Library can send through a request form and will organise delivery of items.
- Regular Library programs and events have been suspended for the time being.
- The library youth hub pilot program due to launch on 6 April next to the Adelaide House is still happening, at this point in time.

6.3 Pensioner Pruning Service

Council's Pensioner Pruning Removal service is a free green waste collection which occurs twice a year in May and November. For the month of May, this service will be carried out from 26 May.

Aged pensioners who would like to use this service should complete an application form which can be downloaded from the ASTC website and lodge it at the Civic Centre on Todd Street. Application closes 24 May at 4:30pm. This service is advertised on the Council website and on social media.

6.4 Seniors Month Planning

Council officers are still progressing with planning programs for the seniors events in August at this point in time.

6.5 COTA Cost of Living Survey

The COTA NT 2020 Cost of Living Survey of Seniors has been launched and is being distributed across the Northern Territory from March 2020. The survey will help draw the best possible picture of how seniors are feeling about the cost of living in the NT.

You can choose one of four ways to complete the survey by visiting the webpage at <https://www.cotant.org.au/news/cota-nt-cost-of-living-survey-launched/> or by calling telephone number 08-8941-1004.

ACTION:

Manager Community and Cultural Development to email further information to the Committee advising closing date and where survey forms can be picked up.

6.6 COVID-19 Virus

Geoff Sloane would like to emphasize that people need to control other diseases that may occur, such as flu, in order to reduce the stress on hospitals.

Young people should be aware that while they might be less likely to become severely ill, they can just as easily spread the virus to others, most specially to older people or those with chronic medical condition, who are at higher risk.

6.7 Alice Springs 50 Plus Centre

Val Hoey advised that the 50 Plus Management Committee have taken the decision to close the Centre from Saturday, 21 March to 5 April and re-assessing the situation at that particular time. The national body of Seniors U3A and Bridge Club have cancelled all their activities immediately.

Seniors Citizens have been trying for some time to do a pop-up Op Shop at Ti Tree community but has failed twice. This will take another two months to try again as everything at the moment is on hold.

Probus activities are suspended until 1 April.

6.8 Relationships Australia

Nerida Holmes advised that their office is still open for business but following government advice on social distancing and increased cleaning regime. Events through Family Legal Pathways network have been cancelled.

6.9 Dementia Australia

Lowell Wood advised that their office is still open and providing face to face support but following the Department of Health's advice on COVID-19 safety measures. However, this may change next week. Dementia Support Australia, which is separate from Dementia Australia, are no longer doing home visits, unless it is an absolute emergency. Memory Clinic with the Department of Health also ceased doing home visits.

6.10 COTA NT

Fran Kilgariff advised that all COTA NT activities for March and April have been suspended.

6.11 Anglicare NT

Kate Lewis advised that Anglicare NT is still operating as per government advice. The social support group has been cancelled as most of them are older and have underlying health conditions.

6.12 Supporting Local Businesses

Councillor de Brenni would like to note the effect of COVID-19 to the mental health of people and to the local economy. Please support local businesses through your organisations as much as you can at this current situation. Discussion ensued about ways to help support those experiencing hardship in one way or another. The Manager Community and Cultural Development advised that Council is looking at ways to support the community especially those experiencing social isolation. Teleconferencing was suggested to help interact with people.

7. **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, **15 April 2020** at 4:00pm via teleconference

8. **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING:**

The meeting closed at 4:50pm