

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SENIORS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021 4:00PM
ANDY MCNEILL ROOM

1. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Councillor Jamie de Brenni, ASTC (*Chair*)
Sue Jones, National Seniors of Central Australia
Ian Towns, University of the 3rd Age
Kate Lewis, Anglicare NT
Geoff Sloan, General Member
Fran Kilgariff, Council of the Ageing (COTA)
Edna Saunders, Probus Club of Alice Springs
Shauna Hartig, Country Women's Association

GUEST:

Belinda McCulloch, Central Australian Representative, Volunteering NT

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kate Walsh, Acting Manager Community and Cultural Development
Kiri Milne, Community Development Officer
Felicity Waldock, Acting Manager Library, Alice Springs Public Library

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	17 Mar - 21	21 Apr - 21
Mayor Damien Ryan	A		A	✓	✓	A	A	A
Councillor Jamie de Brenni	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Glen Auricht				A	✓	✓	✓	A
Edna Saunders	--	--	--	✓	--	✓	--	✓
Ian Towns	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓
Lowell Wood	✓							
Fran Kilgariff	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓
Shauna Hartig	--	--	--	--	--	--	✓	✓
Sue Jones	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kate Lewis	✓	✓	A	A	A	✓	A	✓
Val Hoey	--	--	--	✓	✓	--	--	A
Geoff Sloan	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓
Rhiannon Fletcher / Belinda Staniforth	✓	✓	✓	--	--	✓	--	A
Marica Quitay						✓	✓	--
Louise Banner						✓	✓	A

✓	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
Councillor Glen Auricht
Belinda Staniforth
Louise Banner, ARRCs
Val Hoey, Alice Springs Senior Citizens
Robert Jennings, Chief Executive Officer
Sabine Taylor, Director Corporate Services
Telly Ociones, Executive Assistant (*Minutes*)

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Seniors Coordinating Committee meeting held 17 March 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Shauna Hartig
Seconded: Sue Jones

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

4.1 Community Safety Grants Program

The Community Development Officer advised that the Community Safety Grants program is still in the planning stage at present. A report will be presented to Council regarding the program. A feedback will be reported to this Committee on a future meeting.

4.2 Senior's Policy NT

The Community Development Officer has touched base with Kez Hall, Manager Community Engagement at Territory Families on the Senior's Policy and advised that the policy draft is sitting at Cabinet sub stage, awaiting Ministerial approval to release to Northern Territory Government agencies for one more final review, not public review. Pending the Ministerial approval, the policy is still on track for quarter 2 release (end 2021).

Geoff Sloan added that the Seniors Advisory Council had a few choices of cover designed.

4.3 Seniors Lifestyle Accommodation Update

The Community Development Officer has spoken with Rae Finlay and advised that the NTG have spoken with individual contractors regarding their proposals and will keep the Seniors Coordinating Committee (SCC) updated with any further information.

A report on the feedback from this Committee will be submitted to the 8 June 2021 Ordinary Council meeting.

ACTION:

- A. Geoff Sloan to report back with any updates from Ministerial Council.
- B. Seniors Lifestyle Accommodation Project to be a standing item for SCC.

4.4 Reimagining the Alice Springs Public Library

An action from the previous seniors meeting was to ask Peter Moeck, the architect engaged on the Library project, to seek feedback and consult with members who were not present at the last meeting. After a review of community feedback received thus far, the consultation is on hold, and the consultation strategy will be revisited. Seniors will have an opportunity to provide targeted feedback at a later stage.

The Committee enquired about use of the Library meeting room?

The Acting Manager Library Services will provide the SCC with an update as to when it will be reopened.

4.5 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2021 Inclusive Strategies NT

Barbara Quick, Census Inclusive Strategies Manager, and a team from the ABS will be visiting Alice Springs the week of 17 to 23 May. Barbara will present a deputation at the next SCC meeting. Community Development Officer can provide Barbara's contacts if any of the SCC's group or organisation would like to meet with her during those dates.

There is a focus from the ABS on improving participation in the 2021 CENSUS, specifically from Central Australia. The Census provides data on important topics such as populations, rents, mortgages, incomes, religion, languages, housing and more. It helps governments, businesses, researchers, not for profit and community organisations make informed decisions.

5. DEPUTATION:**5.1 Belinda McCulloch - Volunteering NT**

Belinda McCulloch provided an overview on how people can connect and and how it can best support the seniors' community with the different organisations.

Volunteering NT is part of Volunteering Australia. It is a not-for-profit organisation, the peak body for volunteering and a volunteer support service, leading the sector in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

- Services include advocacy, promotion, consultancy, training, mentoring and research.
- It provides free and low-cost training for volunteers, volunteer managers/co-ordinators and volunteering-involving organisations. Sessions cover general topics on volunteering and volunteer management as well as mentoring, grant writing, communication, effective recruitment and governance.
- VNews NT newsletters provides up to date information on volunteering
- Volunteering Resource Hub, an initiative of Volunteering Australia, brings together useful, evidence-based and current best practice resources, tools, research and information to support effective volunteer management. It includes over 350 relevant, useful and accessible resources including policies, procedures, tools, videos, templates, guides, research and factsheets.

- Volunteering Australia has a national database to put up volunteer positions and advertise to prospective volunteers.
- The NT Volunteer of the Year Awards held in October/November highlight exemplary volunteer work and recognise the outstanding contribution of NT volunteers, volunteer involving organisations, corporate volunteering programs and volunteer managers who make an invaluable contribution to our communities.
- National Volunteering Week (17 to 23 May) – 18 May in Alice Springs at the Star of Alice.
- Feedback on what is volunteering and issues surrounding being and how to become a volunteer.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

6.1 Disability Royal Commission Information Session at ASALC

Sue Jones provided feedback that the attendance for the Disability Royal Commission information session on 28 March 2021 was poor. Some of the people at the pool are not aware that this session is happening.

6.2 New Changerooms at ASALC

Sue Jones commended Council for the new refurbished changerrooms at the pool. They were very nice and clean and would like Council to keep them that way.

6.3 ARRCS Open Day Presentation

Sue Jones attended the Open Day and advised that the information presented was very valuable and important for seniors in the community to be aware of, especially regarding elder abuse.

Discussion ensued about the gap in information provision to seniors and others who need them post Centralian Advocate. What is the best way to disseminate/communicate information?

Community Development Officer mentioned that Kathy Fritz from National Seniors has started a project called Red Centre Post to create printed newsletter for seniors, but will provide update on its status at the next meeting.

The Acting Manager Community and Cultural Development advised that Council's eNewsletter called Council Connects is moving to a magazine style format enabling a wider distribution of information. This is a hard copy of Council and community events printed monthly available from Council reception, Library, Seniors 50 Plus Centre and other locations around town.

Councillor de Brenni asked about the price for printing the Red Centre Post newsletter for seniors. Council officer to provide cost at the next meeting.

Ian Towns advised that Asprint has offered to assist with the printing of the Red Centre Post, but this needs to be clarified with the 50 Plus Committee, whether this cost is free of charge or at a reduced price.

ACTION;

- A. Community Development Officer to invite the speaker at the ARRCS Open Day to an SCC meeting in the future.

- B. Community Development Officer to provide intel on best engagement method of information sharing for seniors
- C. Community Development Officer to liaise with Imparja regarding commitment to local community service more broadly.

6.4 Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Elder Abuse Awareness Day is on June 15 2021. Last year, an interagency campaign was launched to highlight Elder Abuse in the community with Catholic Care NT, Relationships Australia, Coles, COTA and Council.

A meeting will be held to acknowledge the importance of the Elder Abuse Awareness day in the next few weeks. Any organisations that would like to be included can contact the Community Development Officer.

6.5 Seniors Month

Council is holding Still Got Talent on Wednesday 26 August 2021 and the Seniors Morning Tea will be held on Friday 6 August 2021.

COTA's Health and Wellness Seniors Expo will be held on 27 August 2021 on the Council lawns.

6.6 Upcoming Community Projects and Events

Community Development Officer provided the following update:

- Anzac Day Commemorative Services – 25 April at the Garden Cemetery
- Anzac Day Dawn Service – 25 April at 6am with the march at 9:45am, midmorning service at Anzac Oval at 10am and reunion at the Alice Springs Golf Club from 11:30am
- Pets on Parade – 30 May 2021 from 9am to 11am on the Council lawns. The theme this year is aliens versus monsters
- Big Day Out in Harmony – 8 May 2021 from 12pm to 4:30pm on the Council lawns

6.7 Update from the Alice Springs Public Library

- NT Heritage Festival Trivia Night – 20 May, 6:30pm to 9:00pm at the Jump Inn Bar and Restaurant, Traeger Avenue
- Alice Springs Public Library is celebrating Library and Information Week, 17 to 23 May, with some activities being planned

6.8 The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Act

Geoff Sloane reported that the NDIS Act is being rewritten and there have been significant changes to the NDIS Act that could be disastrous for people with disability.

ACTION:

Community Development Officer to invite Annette Hiscox from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to provide a deputation at the next meeting regarding the changes to the NDIS Act.

6.9 Aged Care Royal Commission

Geoff Sloan noted that the recommendations from the Aged Care Royal Commission have not been undertaken/actioned. How could Council encourage the government to do something about it?

ACTION:

Community Development Officer to send Aged Care report to the SCC and find out its status.

6.10 Seniors Recognition Scheme (SRS)

Geoff Sloane reminded Committee members that the \$500 card for the SRS is due for renewal at the end of this financial year. Participants will need to reapply prior to June 30 2021.

ACTION:

Community Development Officer to send form to SCC members.

7. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, **19 May 2021** at 4:00pm

8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: The meeting closed at 5:05pm.