

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SENIORS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
ON WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2021 4:00PM
ANDY MCNEILL ROOM

1. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Mayor Damien Ryan
Councillor Jamie de Brenni, ASTC (*Chair*)
Councillor Glen Auricht
Sue Jones, National Seniors of Central Australia
Ian Towns, University of the 3rd Age
Geoff Sloan, General Member
Fran Kilgariff, Council of the Ageing (COTA)
Val Hoey, Alice Springs Senior Citizens
Louise Banner, ARRCs
Maricar Quitay, ARRCs
Meredith Graham, NT Catholic Care

GUESTS:

Barbara Quick, Australian Bureau of Statistics
Veronica Larson, Neighbourhood Watch NT

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kiri Milne, Community Development Officer
Anthony Geppa, Acting Senior Media and Communications Officer
Alyssa Reid, Community Projects and Events Officer
Eleonor Hogan, Special Collections Coordinator, Alice Springs Public Library
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	17 Mar - 21	21 Apr - 21	16 June - 21
Mayor Damien Ryan	A		A	✓	✓	A	A	A	✓
Councillor Jamie de Brenni	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Glen Auricht				A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
Edna Saunders	--	--	--	✓	--	✓	--	✓	A
Ian Towns	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Lowell Wood	✓								
Fran Kilgariff	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓
Shauna Hartig	--	--	--	--	--	--	✓	✓	--
Sue Jones	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kate Lewis	✓	✓	A	A	A	✓	A	✓	A
Val Hoey	--	--	--	✓	✓	--	--	A	✓
Geoff Sloan	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓
Rhiannon Fletcher / Belinda Staniforth	✓	✓	✓	--	--	✓	--	A	A
Maricar Quitay						✓	✓	--	✓

Louise Banner						✓	✓	A	✓
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✓	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:

Kate Lewis, Anglicare NT
 Belinda Staniforth, NT Catholic Care
 Edna Saunders, Probus Club of Alice Springs
 Robert Jennings, Chief Executive Officer
 Sabine Taylor, Director Corporate Services
 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 21 April 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Geoff Sloan
 Seconded: Ian Towns

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

4.1 Seniors Lifestyle Accommodation Update

There are no further updates yet. The Community Development Officer will keep the Seniors Coordinating Committee (SCC) updated with any further information.

Geoff Sloan attended the Minister's Advisory Council for Senior Territorians meeting in March and advised that all the members were disappointed with the decision not to proceed with seniors' lifestyle village in Alice Springs, south of Darwin and Darwin itself. The group expressed to the Minister for Seniors Lauren Moss, that they would like to work with the government in order to see what could and would be done in the future. The meeting also discussed that the project, in relation to the EOI, was positioned wrongly inside the government, which was under Industries and Business, where it should have been better handled by Territory Families and Housing where senior issues are dealt with.

4.2 Aged Care Royal Commission

The recent Royal Commission into Aged Care in Australia has released four basic recommendations:

1. There is a strong need for a new Act that should determine the rights of older people, including their entitlement to care and support based on their needs and preferences
2. The system needs stronger governance to ensure the rights of the elderly
3. Aged care workers need better conditions & training
4. More funds should be made available for the Aged Care sector

In response to the Aged Care Royal Commission, the Australian Government will invest \$272.5 million to support senior Australians to access the aged care services they need and navigate through the system. Investment will support new face-to-face services for senior Australians to make it easier for people to use My Aged Care. This was recently announced in the 2021-2022 Federal Government announcements.

A printed copy of the report is made available for members, as the report is too large to email. Copies of the report will also be made available at the 50 Plus Centre.

4.3 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

An interagency awareness campaign regarding Elder Abuse in the community has been released. The campaign included assistance from COTA, Relationships Australia, CAWLS, Catholic Care NT and Council. The campaign included:

- a vinyl banner, displayed on Larapinta Drive, paid for by COTA
- an advertisement on Alice Springs News Online
- a radio advertisement on 8CCC created by and paid for by CAWLS
- a television commercial on Imparja, with key messaging from Relationships Australia
- and an awareness poster - Relationships Australia also assisted with the poster distribution

The Community Development Officer thanked all organisations that assisted in creating the key messaging. The banner and TVC have been designed to use for years to come. The ad can be viewed on the Council Facebook page.

Fran Kilgariff acknowledged the Alice Springs Town Council and the Community Development Officer for putting this campaign together.

4.4 Seniors Month

Council's two seniors' month activities are occurring again this year.

1. Seniors Morning Tea

Traditionally this has taken place on the first Friday of August, but, due to Council caretaker period, this will now occur Tuesday 3 August.

2. Seniors Still Got Talent

The 10th year of Still Got Talent is taking place Wednesday 25 August. To celebrate this special occasion, the event will be held at the Convention Centre again, and photos from previous years will be displayed. The event will be held mindful of COVID-19 health precautions, so RSVPs will be essential.

Fran Kilgariff advised that the seniors calendar will be printed in the next few days. The seniors grants will be announced soon.

5. DEPUTATION:

5.1 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2021 Inclusive Strategies NT

Barbara Quick, Census Inclusive Strategies Manager, provided an overview on the next national census on Tuesday, 10 August 2021. The last one was held in 2016.

The census team is currently doing different engagements around what it means to complete the forms correctly, looking at supported accommodations and ensuring that all dwellings are covered in the system.

From 26 July, people can start completing their census form. This is different to past years when people had to fill in the form on census night. This year you can complete your Census as soon as you receive your instructions, if you know who will be home on Census night. A mail out will be sent to Alice Springs households from 26 July. People can fill in their form online, on paper or with help from census team.

Census staff will be working in remote communities. They can do face to face interviews with people living there between July and August 2021.

There are job opportunities for seniors who are interested.

Accredited tourist bureaus will also be an outlet for pick up and drop off points for census forms.

Copies of Supporters Census Pack were provided to the Committee. For more information visit the Census 2021 website.

Questions and answers held about travelers who will participate in the census; information engagements at different events; liaising with various stakeholders and support workers (e.g. CONGRESS) to disseminate census information; completion of census form for elderly parents in aged care/nursing home.

The Chair acknowledged Ms Quick for her presentation.

5.1 Veronica Larson, Southern Community Development and Engagement Officer, Neighbourhood Watch NT

Veronica Larson overviewed the role of Neighbourhood Watch NT (NHWNT) to the community by providing a number of safety resources to help the general public to reduce the opportunity for crime. NHWNT provides relevant crime prevention and community safety information to Territory residents through newsletters which include events and statistics applicable to Alice Springs.

Veronica thanked the Alice Springs Town Council for providing grant funding to run safety workshops for seniors and the community later in the year.

NHWNT has an online portal where people can stay connected and feel safer. NHWNT is partnering with stakeholders to assist the community in responding to issues and concerns.

Veronica distributed copies of a book called 'The Little Black Book of Scams' which has been produced by the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission. It is a practical guide to spot, avoid and protect yourself against scams.

Veronica circulated a sign-up sheet for members of the Committee to receive email updates from Neighbourhood Watch NT.

The Committee thanked Veronica for her time and presentation.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

6.1 Protect Alice – My Town, My Home Initiative

This initiative was mentioned in a recent SCC meeting. At the 9 March 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council approved the partnership of Alice Springs Town Council (ASTC) with Victims of Crime NT (VoCNT) and Neighbourhood Watch NT to implement the Protect Alice initiative. The Protect Alice program comprises of four elements, which can be accessed individually or together, to meet the safety and security needs of community members:

1. Free Home Security Assessments (HSA), delivered face to face or online.
2. Funding for eligible home security improvements, after VoCNT staff have assessed based on a point rating system.
3. Personal Safety workshops delivered for free to residents.
4. Crime prevention messaging to educate and build better community awareness and attitudes.

An internal Project Manager, Stephanie Dominguez, has been appointed to manage the rollout of the initiative. The Community Development Officer will provide update to SCC members once firm dates are available.

6.2 Terms of Reference and Committee Membership Update

At the 16 April 2021 Risk Management and Audit Committee meeting, it was noted that the Seniors Coordinating Committee Terms of Reference notes the Mayor as being ex-officio on Committee. The Mayor was elected as one of three Elected Members for the Risk Management and Audit Committee and is therefore considered a voting member.

The Risk Management and Audit Committee proposed that the term 'ex-officio' be removed from the Seniors Coordinating Committee Charter (section 4), to align with all other Council Advisory Committees.

A review of the Committee membership term and composition were also noted.

ACTION:

The SCC will review the Committee Terms of Reference at the next meeting.

6.3 Upcoming Community Projects and Events

Community Projects and Events Officer provided the following update:

- Finke night markets recorded 5,000 attendees
- Alice Springs Show – Council will be located in the old Parks and Wildlife area. Council staff will be on site from 9am to 5pm on Friday and Saturday. There will be a large display for the 50th anniversary of Council.
- Pop Up Gallery closes tomorrow. An artist talk was held today, with 34 people in attendance.
- Todd Mall entrance sign has been completed

- NAIDOC Week celebrations is going ahead. The NAIDOC Committee is working rigorously to finalise the agenda and the week of activities, which include Congress Family Fun Run, Family nights at Tangentyere and Gap Youth Centres and Super Eight Cricket Match. The National NAIDOC Awards will be held in Sydney. All information can be found on the NAIDOC Facebook page.
- The Upcycle Art Prize will kick off on Friday 18 June at 5:30pm at the Rediscovery Centre. The exhibition has 22 entries and will run from 19 June to 3 July.
- Heart Walking Foundation Group every Saturday morning. The group will celebrate their 10 years in October.
- Keep You Moving classes are still being delivered monthly at the Health and Wellness Centre.
- Healthy Communities in collaboration with CONGRESS will be offering additional fitness classes for Aboriginal men and women with chronic health conditions in the next financial year.
- The Administrator of the NT Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO, visited the 50 Plus Centre on 7 June, with 34 people in attendance.

6.4 Update from the Acting Senior Media and Communications Officer

Anthony Geppa spoke about the Alice Springs Town Council newsletter called Council Connects e-newsletter. Council are always looking at better ways to engage with the community and ensuring they are kept regularly updated with Council matters via various channels. Council has moved to a new website-based digital magazine format that can be read online, or downloaded as a PDF.

Council Connects will be published directly on Council's website on a monthly basis and will include all of Council's most up to date and important information for ratepayers. Hard copies will be available from Council's facilities, including the Civic Centre front desk, Alice Springs Public Library, Regional Waste Mgmt. Facility, and the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

Anthony Geppa would like to get feedback from this Committee on what content would be valuable for seniors and how this newsletter could best reach the seniors community, where printed copies can be distributed.

Fran Kilgariff suggested to include sports and community news.

Councillor de Brenni suggested to include the Census information and employment news.

6.5 Update from the Alice Springs Public Library

The Alice Springs Public Library's Special Collections Coordinator provided the following update:

- NT Heritage Festival Trivia Night on 20 May was well attended by seniors and young people. There were 50 to 60 people in attendance.
- For seniors month, the Library is planning to have High Tea Bingo and Tall Tales event.

6.6 Community Development Officer Resignation

Councillor de Brenni, on behalf of the Seniors Coordinating Committee sincerely thanked Kiri Milne for all efforts and support to this Committee and wished her all the best in her future endeavours.

6.7 Seniors Recognition Scheme (SRS)

Geoff Sloane reminded SRS members that renewal of membership is due before 30 June 2021. The new card for the next financial year, coming out in July, covers more services to spend the \$500 card.

6.8 Cancer Council

Barbara Hasenoehrl has been appointed and taken up duty of Cancer Council office in Alice Springs.

6.9 Seniors Coordinating Committee Minutes

Ian Towns acknowledged the attention to detail of the minute taker, and requested if it is possible for a copy of the draft minutes or even dot points could be available within seven days of the meeting so he could report back appropriate information at the U3A meeting.

ACTION:

Community Development Officer to look at how draft minutes can be processed in a timely manner, within the Council process, to accommodate this request.

7. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, **21 July 2021** at 4:00pm

8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: The meeting closed at 5:15pm.