

## **CITY OF JOONDALUP**

### **MINUTES OF STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE – SENIORS INTERESTS CONFERENCE ROOM 2, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE, JOONDALUP WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2002, COMMENCING AT 1:00PM**

#### **1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

##### **Committee Members:**

Cr. Alison Walker

Cr. Mike O'Brien

Cr. Donald Carlos

Caroline Evans – Team Leader, Department for Community Development

Pamela Richardson – Australian Property Institute WA

Allyn Bryant – Association of Independent Retirees, Inc.

Jane Heilkema – Community Representative

Kevan Rowe – Community Representative

##### **Other Attendees:**

Mike Barry – Manager Community & Health Services

Nerida Clifford – Manager Library Services

Seisha Fogarty – Local Area Development Officer

Wayne Grimes – Recreation Development Officer

##### **Apologies:**

Sharon James – Manager Aged & Disability Services, Community Vision Inc.

Graeme Hall – Manager Leisure & Ranger Services

#### **2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2001 was moved by Cr. O'Brien, seconded by Cr. Carlos. All were in favour.

#### **3. INTRODUCTIONS**

Cr. Walker declared the meeting open at 1:10pm.

Round table introductions were conducted.

#### **4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING**

## **2.1 Whitford Senior Citizen's Centre Running Costs**

Wayne Grimes gave Committee members a handout summarising the general day to day running costs of Whitford Senior Citizen's Centre based on the 2000/2001 financial year.

Cr. Carlos questioned if the Maintenance & Work Orders cost of \$48,715 was an excessive amount.

Wayne Grimes stated that the figures were not compared with previous year's figures.

Cr. Walker stated that she viewed the cleaning costs as being excessive.

Wayne Grimes stated that the majority of the costs were for wages and materials and these costs were based solely on the Whitford Senior Citizen's Centre and did not include the Library costs.

Jane Heilkema stated that she was at the Whitford Senior Citizen's Centre almost every day and that she rarely saw maintenance been carried out and therefore could not understand why the costs were so high.

Cr. O'Brien and Committee Members requested that there be a further breakdown of the running costs associated with Whitford Senior Citizen's Centre to be put forward at the next meeting.

Wayne Grimes stated he would provide these figures at the next meeting.

## **2.2 Subsidies and fees for Seniors Card holders**

Wayne Grimes explained the subsidies and fees for the 2000/2001 period as shown on the handout. He also stated that the figures for the current financial year show that Senior Citizens use of City of Joondalup facilities has increased considerably.

Wayne Grimes explained the additional subsidies as shown on the handout. It was explained what the GOLD programme was, "Growing Old and Living Dangerously".

Cr. Walker requested clarification on the types of activities conducted for GOLD.

Wayne Grimes listed an array of activities, some of which included cycling, walking and horse riding. The January theme is “Fit & Healthy” and includes activities such as yachting, aerobics, sailing and aqua aerobics. Participation rates for attendance to the activities is high.

Cr. Carlos requested a flyer to be provided listing all the activities for GOLD and requested information on where the programme was advertised.

Wayne Grimes explained that advertising was done by way of newspaper advertisements, and locating flyers at Senior Citizens Clubs.

Jane Heilkema stated that she had never seen any information on the GOLD programme and had not seen any flyers at the Whitford Senior Citizen’s Centre.

Wayne Grimes explained that he had indeed placed flyers at the Whitford Senior Citizen’s Centre, and would supply more.

Cr. Carlos raised a question about why his neighbour, who is a City of Joondalup resident, was being collected weekly by a City of Wanneroo Bus for an outing.

Mike Barry explained that it was more than likely that the neighbour had a long standing arrangement with City of Wanneroo for this service, regardless of the neighbour being a City of Joondalup resident.

Cr. Carlos wanted to state for the record that there was a Pensioner Discount for Rates within the City of Joondalup. That provided residents over the age of 60 holding a seniors card to be eligible to receive a 25% discount and residents over the age of 65 with a pension card or Commonwealth health card to receive a 25% discount. These discounts applied to those who were income geared however, those who were not income geared could forgo their rates by 100%.

Cr. Carlos stated that the State Subsidy could be folded in with the rates. This would mean seniors, pensioners and Commonwealth health card holders would receive a 25%, 50% and 100% off the current seniors cost of \$119.00. The downside of introducing the State Subsidy would be that once the costs are folded in with the rates, the people that have a high GRV (gross rental value) on their property will probably pay more.

Cr. Carlos asked the Committee of their thoughts on the State Subsidy scenario.

Julie Heilkema stated that she believed that pensioners need as much help as possible. Especially in relation to the GST impact on pensioners, the GST has affected all pensioners, not just seniors.

Cr. O'Brien stated that the impact of GST on pensioners is the exact reason that other councils use the State Subsidy for rates. The Claremont & Vincent councils have adopted this approach.

*Cr. O'Brien left the meeting at 1:40pm*

*Cr. O'Brien returned to the meeting at 1:45pm*

Caroline Evans stated that this would affect a great number of people who will have a high GRV but not a high income to cover the associated costs.

Cr. Carlos stated that the advantage to pensioners is that they can forgo 100% of their rates or receive a 50% discount on them. Pensions are subjected to an Income and Assets means test.

Kevin Rowe was concerned that this proposal would have a negative affect on a large amount of people residing in areas other than the ocean side of Marmion Avenue.

Cr. Carlos stated that financial modelling would be required and that Rhonda Hardy, Manager Accounting Services may be of assistance with this.

### **2.3 Council outcome from previous minutes**

Cr. Carlos stated that he had not seen any work commenced on the Senior Citizen Centres as per the last meeting.

Mike Barry stated that he would follow this up and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Nerida Clifford stated that Whitford Senior Citizen's Centre may not go ahead immediately, as other issues are required to be finalised.

## **5. SENIORS CITIZENS MASTER PLAN – SOCIAL & LEISURE NEEDS**

Wayne Grimes stated that Leisure Services had submitted the report to council and it was recommending that there be additional facilities for seniors. One of the roles of the Strategic Advisory Committee – Seniors Interests includes making formal recommendations to Council on this issue.

Cr. O'Brien stated that not all issues had been canvassed by the consultant contracted to undertake the study into Senior's social and leisure needs.

Wayne Grimes stated that he reviewed the report and it stated that 400 surveys were sent out and only 74 were returned. Clubs were sent 80 surveys and only 33 were returned.

Jane Heilkema stated that in her opinion, in order to get a better study result, it would be better for clubs to be consulted in person rather than mailed out surveys.

Cr. Carlos stated that the study results were shown to three (3) groups and none of them had heard of the research or surveys that were posted and they knew nothing of the research at all.

Mike Barry explained that it would be prudent to hold off discussing the consultant report, as some Committee members do not have copies of the document. Copies of the document will be included with the Committee minutes for discussion at the next meeting.

*Cr. Carlos left the meeting at 1:35pm to attend another meeting.*

Wayne Grimes stated that the City's Leisure Services co-ordinates a similar process, which he believes is very efficient. The City of Joondalup officers engage groups to assist them with issues such as funding issues, use of grounds and clubrooms. All sporting and recreation groups are entitled and encouraged to contact the relevant City officers.

Wayne Grimes stated that he finds the groups can talk and have meetings with him, so communication is working well. He is there for the groups to help or refer them onto other areas as the City of Joondalup has a far superior resource base than the Recreation Associations.

## **6. DRAFT SENIORS ACTION PLAN**

Seisha Fogarty stated that a report had been put to the Business Unit Managers and she was awaiting feedback on this. Further information will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

Cr. Walker requested that all Committee members have a copy of the Draft Action Plan for discussion at the next meeting.

## **7 & 8. WANNEROO AGED PERSONS' HOMES TRUST INC. & COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGED CARE FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR SENIORS**

Mike Barry stated that he felt that Cr. O'Brien should speak on the Wanneroo Aged Persons' Homes Trust Inc. Mike also stated that administration had presented two reports to Council relating to the Trust recommending there be no representation on the

board and the City take a more strategic role in addressing the future needs of the growing seniors population.

Cr. O'Brien provided background on the Wanneroo Aged Persons' Trust Inc. Cr. O'Brien suggested that the City can utilise the experience and expertise gained through the development of Barridale, Elderbloom and Belgrade Homes to plan for the future accommodation needs of the City of Joondalup's elderly population. Further to this Cr. O'Brien suggested the lack of suitable land might hinder the City ability to cater for senior accommodation requirements. To draw on this expertise Cr. O'Brien would like to bridge the communication gap between the Committee and the Trust.

Mike Barry stated that the trust has recently made changes to its constitution that does not allow for the City of Joondalup to have representation on the Trust's board but does have representatives from the City of Wanneroo. For the City of Joondalup to have representation on the board, the Trust would be required to alter their constitution accordingly. As stated in the relevant Council report, legal advice sought by administration on this issue indicated that the City has no legal standing in requesting representation.

Pamela Richardson queried what the long-term goal and benefit of establishing a relationship between the Committee and the Trust.

Cr. O'Brien stated that the long-term goal would depend on the limited amount of land that is available to City of Joondalup. This Trust has a great amount of expertise and is a not-for-profit organisation that will offer the Committee a good explorative option in relation to senior's accommodation needs.

Allyn Bryant asked if City of Joondalup has plans for an aged person's home in addition to Barridale Lodge.

Cr. Walker stated that the Committee would have to consult with planning, though the City has a very limited amount of land on which such development could occur. The City would need to explore opportunities for regional resource management.

Mike Barry stated that as per the Council report, the City would facilitate other groups to ensure that aged persons facilities were provided.

Seisha Fogarty stated that the Draft Seniors Action Plan identified the need to engage with other groups including relevant State departments on what they can provide local seniors and the need for a regional focus, inclusive of neighbouring Local Government Authorities.

Cr. Walker stated that the City only has Barridale Lodge in the City of Joondalup, but there are facilities for seniors in City of Wanneroo, so the City will have to work with the City of Wanneroo on this issue.

Jane Heilkema stated that she felt there needs to be activities for seniors to do for enjoyment and not to treat seniors as frail and unable but that the City should encourage recreational activities.

Cr. O'Brien moved that the Committee attempt to have a trip to Elderbloom, Belgrade and Barridale in order to establish a link between the Wanneroo Aged Persons' Homes Trust and the Strategic Advisory Committee – Seniors Interests.

Moved by Cr. O'Brien seconded by Allyn Bryant.

## **9. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Cr. Walker stated that she sent a letter to Nerida Clifford regarding a funding opportunity for a Grandparents Programme. This was forwarded onto Community Vision for them to pursue. Cr. Walker wanted to know what the outcome was and if the application for the funding was put forward and accepted.

Mike Barry stated that he had followed this up and was under the belief that it was resolved, however he will touch base again with Jan Nicol of Community Vision to find out the outcome. Seisha Fogarty informed the Committee that Meerilinga in Woodvale runs a support program for Grandparents who are full time guardians for their grandchildren.

- Mr Allyn Bryant questioned what would happen with his proxy as he will be absent for a period.

Seisha Fogarty explained that Mr Bryant should contact the Community Representative deputy, Audrey Pool to advise her of his absence and the need for her to attend in his place. Ms Fogarty further explained that all deputies receive agendas and minutes with accompanying documentation and that if a representative knows they will be absent for a meeting it is their responsibility to organise the appropriate deputy's attendance. A contact list will be forwarded to all committee members to assist this process.

- Cr. O'Brien stated that at a recent council meeting it was agreed to subsidise Silver Chain in Kingsley and the outcome was for council to reduce the lease for 6 months.
- Mike Barry asked the Committee for submissions for the Agenda for the next meeting to be forwarded within reasonable time to Seisha Fogarty.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2002 at 1:00pm**

**Conference Room 3, Joondalup Civic Complex**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2002 at 1:00pm**  
**Conference Room 3, Joondalup Civic Complex**

Cr. O'Brien stated that the meeting for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April would be a bus trip to view Wanneroo Aged Persons' Homes Trust properties.

**THE MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 2:55PM BY CR. WALKER**