

CITY OF JOONDALUP

MINUTES OF STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE – SENIORS INTERESTS CONFERENCE ROOM 2, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE, JOONDALUP WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2002, COMMENCING AT 1:00PM

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Committee Members:

Cr. Alison Walker

Cr. Mike O'Brien

Cr. Donald Carlos

Allyn Bryant – Association of Independent Retirees, Inc.

Jane Heilkema – Community Representative

Kevan Rowe – Community Representative

Graeme Hall – Manager Leisure & Ranger Services

Other Attendees:

Mike Barry – Manager Community & Health Services

Seisha Fogarty – Local Area Development Officer

Rhonda Hardy – Manager Accounting Services

Apologies:

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

Caroline Evans – Team Leader, Department for Community Development

Pamela Richardson – Australian Property Institute WA

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Cr. Walker declared the meeting open at 1:14pm.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr. Carlos stated that he would like the previous minutes to accurately reflect the statements in regard to rate discounts for seniors. The following paragraphs have been amended to reflect his comments.

Cr. Carlos mentioned that there was a Pensioner Discount for Rates within the City of Joondalup. It provides residents over the age of 60 holding a senior's card to be eligible to receive a 25% discount, residents over the age of 65 with a Pension card or Commonwealth Seniors Health Card to receive a 25% discount and residents with both a Seniors card and a Commonwealth Seniors Health card with up to a 50% discount.

The state government compensates the Council for the interest on deferred rates, on an annual basis. The council recoups the total outstanding rates at the time the property is sold.

Cr. Carlos stated that if the refuse subsidy could be folded in with the rates, it would mean seniors, pensioners and Commonwealth Health Card holders would receive 25% or 50% off the current seniors costs of \$119.00 or defer 100%.

The down side of folding the refuse charge in with the rates is that some property owners that have a high GRV (Gross Rental Value) on their property could pay more than the \$119.00. Cr. Carlos stated that the advantage to seniors is that they can defer 100% of their rates or receive up to a 50% discount on them.

Allyn Bryant questioned item 9 on the previous minutes, stating that he had not yet received the list of contact details for committee members and deputies. Allyn Bryant also stated that he thought his proxy (nominated deputy) should be someone from his association and not someone who does not know anything of his association or what they represent.

Mike Barry stated that the proxy (nominated deputy) details were decided at the initial meeting on the 28th November 2001 and that changes to a specified proxy would require an amendment to the Terms of Reference.

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting Wednesday, 6th February 2002, with recorded changes was moved by Allyn Bryant and seconded by Kevan Rowe. All were in favour.

4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

Cr. Walker asked Mike Barry what was happening with the funding application for a Grandparents Programme that was forwarded to Community Vision some time ago.

Mike Barry stated that he had discussed the matter with Community Vision and was informed that an application for funds was not submitted as the programme was not considered to be a priority in comparison to other community programmes currently being undertaken by Community Vision.

Cr. Walker questioned if a visit to Elderbloom had been arranged for the committee.

Seisha Fogarty stated that the visit to Elderbloom Lodge was in place for the meeting to be held Wednesday 10th April.

Cr. Walker questioned what the status was on the repair to the fire damaged areas at Craigie Leisure Centre.

Graeme Hall stated that the insurance claim for this had been submitted and was currently being processed.

4.1 Whitford Senior Citizen's Centre Running Costs

Cr. Walker questioned what the status was for the running costs for the Whitford Senior Citizen's Centre.

Graeme Hall stated that he was in the process of collating the required information.

Jane Heilkema enquired if the figures for work maintenance on the Whitford Senior Citizen's Centre included the work undertaken in 1999 to the brick wall, as the figure appeared high. Ms Heilkema also wanted to be provided with a complete breakdown of the maintenance figure.

Cr. O'Brien entered the meeting at 1:20pm

4.2 Progress report on Capital improvements at Whitford Senior Citizen's Centre and Beaumaris Community Centre

Cr. Walker asked what the progress was on the Capital improvements to Whitfords Senior Citizens Centre and Beaumaris Community Centre.

Mike Barry explained that the work at Beaumaris had been scheduled for a time when the centre would be least affected by the disruption.

General discussion ensued with regard to the lack of storage facilities in senior citizen centres.

Graeme Hall stated that there was a proposal in the budget for fencing to create more storage facilities.

4.3 Seniors rate subsidies update

Rhonda Hardy presented to the committee, information regarding the rate subsidy and Gross Rental Value (GRV). Examples were given on how the subsidies are calculated, together with the subsidy eligibility criteria. It was explained what percentage rebate was given to each of the respective Seniors Cardholders, Commonwealth Health Cardholders and Pension Concession Cardholders.

Cr. O'Brien left the meeting at 1:50pm

General discussion ensued with regard to the use of GRV to calculate rates.

Cr. O'Brien returned to the meeting at 2:00pm

5. SENIORS CITIZENS MASTER PLAN – SOCIAL & LEISURE NEEDS

Jane Heilkema stated that Whitford Senior Citizens have not been included in the surveys that were sent out by the consultant. According to the details in The Seniors Citizens Master Plan, the survey was sent to a Mr Walter Grubb. This person has nothing to do with Whitfords Senior Citizens Centre.

Members of the committee questioned the validity of some of the content and requested that further comments be sought from some seniors groups that were not consulted during the consultation process for the report.

It was agreed that the original copy of the survey would be forwarded to all senior groups that had missed out. This new information will be collated and added to the existing information, in a way that matched the information gathered in the original study.

The committee discussed alternative ways of seeking input from the senior community. It was suggested that the committee pursue this first stage then move onto a second stage of addressing individuals, if the need is still apparent.

Cr. Walker left the meeting at 3:03pm

Cr. Walker returned to the meeting at 3:07pm

6. DRAFT SENIORS ACTION PLAN

Seisha Fogarty made a presentation on the Draft Seniors Action Plan.

Population Statistics from 1996 was raised as an issue. The committee was informed that the figures will be updated in June/July this year with the new statistics from the recent Census.

Jane Heilkema commented on Key Issue 2 (investigate the needs of seniors born overseas to overcome existing problems in accessing aged care and other services) stating that the Whitfords Senior Citizens Centre already make allowances for those with an overseas cultural background and language.

Seisha Fogarty clarified for the committee that the “life long learning” mentioned in the Draft Seniors Action Plan related to using community members as resources for providing training/courses etc to the community as a whole.

Mike Barry stated at the conclusion of the presentation that the committee would need to consider the Draft Seniors Action Plan and submit any amendments considered necessary to the Strategic Advisory Committee - Seniors Interests.

Cr. Carlos recommended that each of the committee members takes a copy of the Draft Seniors Action Plan back to their organisations and has them view it and submit any comments.

7. MEETING TIMES FOR 2002

The Committee agreed on the 2002 meeting times that had been included with the last minutes.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Mike Barry submitted for acceptance to the committee, the resignation from Kevin Houson, Deputy Community Representative.

Graeme Hall explained the Whitfords Senior Citizens Centre cost breakdowns with Jane Heilkema. Graeme Hall stated that the wages figure consisted of the wages for the booking officer and part of the maintenance costs were for vehicle running costs for the maintenance crew vehicles.

Cr. Carlos stated that a pilot program was being introduced to City of Joondalup Pension Card and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card residents in July. The pilot is being run by the Australian Taxation Office and is directed at providing training on preparing personal taxation returns.

Jane Heilkema questioned if the training by the Australian Taxation Office was going to be conducted at the Whitfords Senior Citizens Centre.

Cr. Carlos stated that the Australian Taxation Office wanted to do the training via a programme called Etax, therefore a computer would be required at the venue as well as a private location.

Cr. Walker stated that in her view the Whitfords Library conference room would ideal for this training as they already had facilities for computer use as well as the privacy.

Cr. Carlos stated that there was already someone doing manual returns at that venue and the ATO need to do their training on line.

Cr. O'Brien asked if Graeme Hall knew if the Beaumaris bowling club had been rejected for the Community Sports & Recreation Facilities Funding, by the Ministry of Sport & Recreation.

Graeme Hall stated that he had not officially heard anything on this subject.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday 15th May 2002 at 1:00pm
Conference Room 3, Council Chambers**

Cr. Carlos and Kevan Rowe stated that they would have to put in apologies for the bus trip to Wanneroo Aged Persons Homes Trust facilities Wednesday 10th April 2002 at 12:45pm, outside the City of Joondalup Administration Building.

The meeting was closed at 3:20pm