

CITY OF JOONDALUP

MINUTES OF THE SENIORS INTERESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM 3, CIVIC CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE JOONDALUP, ON WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2002.

1. ATTENDANCES AND APOLOGIES

Elected Members:

Cr Allison Walker
Cr Mike O'Brien
Cr Don Carlos

Officers:

Graeme Hall Manager Community Development Services
Julie Eaton Co-ordinator Community Services

In Attendance - Committee Members:

Allyn Bryant Industry Representative – Association of Independent Retirees Inc
Kevan Rowe Community Representative
Audrey Poole Industry Representative – Australian Red Cross
Jane Heilkema Community Representative

In Attendance - Other Attendees:

Stephen Boylen Director – Office of Seniors Interests, Department for Community Development

Apologies:

Caroline Evans Department for Community Development
Seisha Fogarty Local Area Development Officer (Seisha is no longer employed by the City of Joondalup.)

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 1.05pm

8. POUSTIE CONSULATATION

Cr Walker commenced the meeting with Agenda Item 8 the Poustie Consultation Presentation. Cr Walker conducted the presentation outlined research conducted with three major groups of people – those living in Retirement Centres, families of hostel residents and the staff of hostel accommodation for the elderly. Cr Walker presented the findings of the consultation, which outlined perspectives of Independent Living for seniors into the future.

There was much discussion after the presentation; Cr Carlos spoke of the need for good facilities in the northern suburbs. He gave the example of two high quality multi-functional centres on Mandurah and Merriwa.

Cr Walker discussed looking for land in the City of Joondalup to build such a facility.

Cr O'Brien discussed a senior's facility called Elderbloom on five hectares of land. He said that Elderbloom had seventeen acres in total and the seniors bought accommodation on a "lease for life" basis.

Cr Carlos informed the meeting of his visit to Melbourne in July 2002. He then spoke of the fact that the Merriwa facility was finished two and a half years ago and that a five-year waiting list now existed.

Graeme Hall discussed the existing possibility of the Currambine Community Centre joining to a senior's accommodation facility.

MOVED Cr O'Brien, SECONDED Kevan Rowe that this committee recommends and requests that Council incorporates up to ten hectares for an "Elderbloom" type development as a seniors retirement opportunity in the coastal strip at Ocean Reef.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

Note - The Association of Independent Retirees supported this motion.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Cr Walker introduced Stephen Boylen, who is the Director of Planning, Policy and Research from the Office of Senior's Interests. Stephen attended the meeting in the place of Caroline Evans from the Department for Community Development. Cr Walker explained that Stephen was asked to talk to the committee about the State Government's planning process for seniors in WA.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE – SENIORS INTERESTS MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2002.

There was some discussion about the distribution of the minutes. Some members of the committee did not receive a copy of the minutes prior to the meeting. Julie Eaton apologised for this matter. She did not send the minutes because she thought they could not be distributed until they had been presented to Council. Minutes will be distributed to all members in the future.

Minutes will also be published in the Desk of the CEO unless they contain recommendations to Council, in which case they will be forwarded to Council in report format.

MOVED Cr Carlos and SECONDED Allyn Bryant that the minutes of the Strategic Advisory Committee – Seniors Interests held on 10 July 2002 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Pamela Richardson

Julie Eaton reported that a letter had been sent to Pamela Richardson accepting her resignation from the committee and acknowledging her contribution. It was recognised by the meeting that Audrey Poole was now a member of the committee, thus taking Pamela Richardson's place.

4.2 Terms of Reference

Graeme Hall reported that the Terms of Reference report regarding the membership and date changes for membership renewal had been to a Council briefing session and would be presented at Council on Tuesday 24 September 2002.

4.3 State Government Planning for seniors

Stephen Boylen outlined the following points for the meeting –

- The State Government was reviewing all services to seniors
- The review into health services was being conducted by Dr Penny Fletcher
- The target of review was people over 60 years of age

- Only 10% of people live in hostels or nursing homes, so the greater seniors population is independent in their living
- At present 14 to 15% of the population are over 60 years of age. In the year 2025 one in five or 20% of people will be in that age group
- The State Government want to ensure that seniors participate in the community
- The government wants to provide support to ensure that seniors are active in the community
- The Commonwealth Government is increasing their financial commitment to seniors and the State Government wish also to respond.
- The State Government set up the “Active Ageing Taskforce” in March 2002.
- A report will be put the Premier in March 2003 setting strategic direction for the next 5 to 10 years.
- There have been a number of consultations organised around the state
- There is a consultation on 24 September at Mirrabooka for the northern suburbs
- The Terms of Reference for the Taskforce are to consult with the community, gather information, develop positive strategies for positive ageing, address physical activity, address the fact that women will outnumber man by two to one in the 75 to 80 year age bracket and to address involvement in the community
- Other issues that require attention are the respite needs of older parents of disabled children, respite for carers of older people, mature age employment strategies and Elder Abuse
- The taskforce wishes to promote a positive image of seniors in the community
- There are a number of issues around the financial planning for retirement
- The taskforce has identified issues around life-long learning

Stephen completed his talk by commending the City of Joondalup for the existence of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee and it’s advocacy role for seniors in the community.

Cr Walker asked the member if there were any questions for Stephen.

Cr Carlos spoke about a Centrelink meeting he had recently attended where the organisation asked the community for suggestions how they could improve their service. During the discussion Cr Carlos suggested that it would be a good idea to hold an “Expo” for seniors. Members of the committee agreed with this concept and discussed a number of possibilities. Lakeside and Whitfords shopping centres were put forward as possible locations to hold displays. Senior Week in late October was suggested as an appropriate time to host such an Expo.

MOVED Cr Carlos and SECONDED Cr Walker that the possibility of a “Seniors Day” or expo be explored, where state and commonwealth governments and local agencies join with the City of Joondalup to promote services to seniors in the community.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Cr Walker tabled the list of incoming and outgoing correspondence and invited questions or comments. Cr O’Brien requested that the letter from Elderbloom be forwarded to all Councillors and be published on the Desk of the CEO.

MOVED Cr Carlos and SECONDED Allyn Bryant that the correspondence be accepted by the meeting.

The Motion was PUT and

CARRIED

6. SENIOR CITIZENS MASTER PLAN – SOCIAL AND LEISURE NEEDS

Graeme Hall reported that the second draft of this plan had been received. The consultant Jill Powell has been asked to re-format the report, as it was not presented in the agreed manner. Jill has been overseas and not been able to attend to this request. Graeme will report on the progress at the next meeting of this committee.

7. DRAFT SENIORS ACTION PLAN

Graeme Hall reported that his report had been deferred to the Executive Team prior to being presented to Council. Graeme will report on the progress of this report at the next meeting of this committee.

8. POUSTIE PRESENTATION

Cr Walker presented this information as the first item of business for this meeting.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Call For Nominations

Audrey Poole raised the issue of the “call for nominations” for the new members to the committee. Graeme Hall informed the members that after the Terms of Reference report had been accepted by Council an advertisement would be placed in the local newspaper for one community representative and one non-profit organisation representative. The selection process would follow.

Audrey Poole and Jane Heilkema established that the existing members would not need to reapply for their positions. This was confirmed after discussion.

Whitfords Senior Citizens Centre

Cr Walker has visited the Whitfords Senior Citizens Centre recently and has some issues raised regarding the use of space and maintenance of the building. Graeme Hall negotiated to meet Cr Walker at the centre to investigate the issues.

Centrelink Benefits

Cr Carlos informed the meeting about Centrelinks free financial seminars for seniors. He also informed the meeting about some arrangements that the Commonwealth Government has with overseas countries regarding pension payments to seniors. He said there are many people who were not aware of claims they could be making from their country of origin.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of this committee will be on **Wednesday 11 December 2002** at 1.00pm.