

MINUTES

Seniors Interests Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE SENIORS INTERESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 6 AUGUST 2008

MEETING DATE



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City of
Joondalup

CITY OF JOONDALUP

MINUTES OF THE SENIORS INTERESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM 3, JOONDALUP CIVIC CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE, JOONDALUP ON WEDNESDAY, 6 AUGUST 2008.

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members:

Cr Brian Corr	<i>Presiding Person</i>	South-East Ward	
Cr Fiona Diaz	<i>Deputy Presiding Person</i>	South Ward	
Ms Valerie Corey		Community Member	
Ms Patricia Geary		Community Member	
Ms Margaret March		Community Member	
Mr Patrick Wyburn		WA Retirement Complexes	
Mr Allyn Bryant		Association of Independent Retirees	<i>from 0938 hrs</i>
Ms Lynda Waterman		Senior Community Liaison Officer	
Ms Anne Pike		Advocare Inc	
Mrs Joy Coleman		Community Member	<i>from 0949 hrs</i>
Ms Maria Bunn		Multicultural Aged Care Services WA	<i>from 0949 hrs</i>

Officers:

Ms Julie Forrester	Coordinator, Community Services
Mrs Jill Hewison	Administrative Secretary

In attendance:

Ms J Garret-Reid, Community Vision
Mr B Dufty, Concordia Lutheran Church

DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Person declared the meeting open at 0932 hrs.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apology: Mr Alex Cilia La Corte

Mr Allyn Bryant entered the Room at 0938 hrs.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE SENIORS INTERESTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2008

MOVED Mr A Bryant SECONDED Mrs M March that the minutes of the meeting of the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee held on 4 June 2008 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (9/0)

In favour of the motion: Crs Corr & Diaz, Mr P Wyburn, Ms L Waterman, Ms A Pike, Mrs M March, Mr A Bryant, Mrs V Corey & Mrs P Geary

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The Presiding Person advised that he had attended the recent opening of the Platinum 50 event held at Craigie Leisure Centre and advised that it had been a success and that the programme was going well.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

IDENTIFICATION OF MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY SIT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil.

PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

REPORTS

ITEM 1 VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROGRAMS – [55511]

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: Mr Clayton Higham
Planning and Community Development

PURPOSE

To provide the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee (SIAC) with information about models of Community Transport Programs that engage volunteers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting on 4 June 2008, the SIAC requested that a report be provided on successful Volunteer programs run by other organisations that offer services to seniors. This report outlines examples of volunteer programs offered by other local governments in WA and other States and some that operate in the United States of

America. The report outlines the provision of affordable transport for seniors in communities.

It is recommended that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee NOTES the information provided in this report.

BACKGROUND

The request for this report was the result of discussions at the last SIAC meeting about the provision of affordable transport for seniors. Although the request was to provide information about models of volunteer programs in general, the specific focus was Community Transport.

DETAILS

The provision of Community Transport to assist seniors in the community that experience difficulty using public transport is common throughout Australia and other western countries. Most Community Transport programs are co-ordinated by the local government or a community organisation and rely heavily on volunteers to implement the service.

The City of Joondalup offers a community transport program that has 15 volunteers and 2 buses.

Features of the Volunteer Community Transport program models are:

- Local governments or community organisations provide co-ordination, administration, volunteer recruitment and insurance cover;
- Volunteers drive buses, council cars and/or their own vehicles;
- The service is provided at low cost to the clients;
- Clients are provided with door to door service to shopping centres, senior citizens clubs or medical appointments and sometimes social excursions;
- Volunteers receive a small reimbursement for travel and meal expenses.

The Beverly Foundation in California in the United States implements its community transport program with one difference – the seniors wishing to use the service recruit their own volunteer driver – who is usually a neighbour or friend. The neighbour or friend registers with the program so they have insurance cover, training and support from the Beverly Foundation. The program achieves higher levels of success because the senior person has an established relationship with their driver, thus eliminating stranger and trust issues.

Community Transport Programs that utilise volunteers have more similarities than differences. Information about programs provided by sampled Local Governments and community organisations in WA, other states of Australia and the US are summarised in the table below:

LGA or Organisation	Co-ordinator	Volunteers	Cost to Client	Vehicles	Shopping	Medical Appointments	Social
Bayswater	yes	yes	\$4.50	Council vehicles	yes	yes	yes
Cockburn	yes	yes	\$2.50 - \$3.50	Council vehicles	yes	no	yes
Fremantle	yes	yes	\$2.50 - \$3.50	Council vehicles	yes	no	no
Joondalup	yes	yes	\$2.50	2 buses	yes	no	yes
Swan	yes	yes	\$3-\$14	Council vehicles	yes	yes	yes
Stirling	yes	yes	\$5.00	3 buses 2 cars	yes	yes	yes
Wanneroo	yes	yes	\$4.50	4 buses	yes	no	yes
Benalla Victoria	yes	yes	\$5-\$33	Council vehicles or volunteers own car	yes	yes	yes
Onkaparinga South Australia	yes	yes	Gold coin donation	Council vehicle (5 buses)	yes	no	yes
LINK Community Transport (Coburg North, Victoria)	yes	yes	\$1.50- \$4.00	Organisation own vehicles	yes	no	Yes
King County - Seattle US	yes	yes	Free	Volunteers use own cars	no	yes	no
North Hills Pennsylvania US – church - based community organisation	yes	yes	Free	1 bus and volunteers own cars	yes	yes	yes
Anoka County – Minnesota US	yes	yes	Free or donation	County vehicles	no	yes	no

Issues and options considered:

Whilst the City provides a Community Transport program that enables seniors to go to shopping centres and senior citizens clubs, there is no provision for assisting them to attend medical appointments. There is one program in the northern region that provides a taxi-booking service at a subsidised cost, however, the eligibility criteria is restrictive and subsidised places limited.

This issue is identified as a gap in service provision. In order to address the gap, a feasibility study would need to be conducted. This study could identify how many seniors experience difficulties accessing affordable transport for medical appointments, community organisations that may wish to provide a service and

funding avenues for service provision. The City could facilitate such a process and advocate on behalf of seniors in the community.

Link to Strategic Plan:

The Seniors Interests Advisory Committee is linked to the Key Focus Area – Community Wellbeing.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

Not applicable.

Risk Management considerations:

Not applicable.

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not applicable.

Policy implications:

Not applicable.

Regional Significance:

Not applicable.

Sustainability implications:

Not applicable.

Consultation:

Not applicable.

COMMENT

It has been identified that seniors in the community experience difficulty accessing affordable transport when they need to attend medical appointments. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some seniors have not received their treatment because they could not access transport to attend their appointments.

Further work would need to be undertaken to understand the extent of this service gap and whether the City has any role in facilitating a solution. Additional services, whether provided by the City or some other provider have implications which need to be understood. The options and implications will be considered as part of the City's Seniors Plan review.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority.

Mrs Joy Coleman and Ms Maria Bunn entered the Room at 0949 hrs.

The Coordinator, Community Services provided an overview of the Report.

Discussion ensued.

MOVED Mrs V Corey SECONDED Mrs P Geary that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee NOTES the information provided in this report.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (11/0)

In favour of the motion: Crs Corr & Diaz, Mr P Wyburn, Ms L Waterman, Ms A Pike, Mrs M March, Mr A Bryant, Mrs V Corey, Mrs J Coleman, Ms M Bunn & Mrs P Geary

ITEM 2 ADOPT A PENSIONER WEBSITE – [55511]

RESPONSIBLE Mr Clayton Higham
DIRECTOR: Planning and Community Development

PURPOSE/ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee (SIAC) with information about the new Adopt a Pensioner website.

It is recommended that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee NOTES the information provided in the report.

BACKGROUND

The Adopt a Pensioner website was initiated in May 2008 after the Commonwealth Government announced its budget. The website was promoted on national television and currently has 6,927 registrations.

DETAILS

The Adopt a Pensioner website is located at www.adopt-a-pensioner.yourwebsite.com.au. Pensioners who need help with shopping, transport, getting to medical appointments or just want someone to talk to, can register by filling out a simple form online. Members of the community who want to provide support and assistance to a pensioner can also register.

Once parties are registered they can access the database and make contact with someone that lives close to them and matches their needs. It is a self-selection process.

Whilst the website could be seen as a well intended initiative, there are potential risks for seniors. The website creators take no responsibility for anything. There are no warnings on the website to remind seniors that the people they are connecting with may not be genuine. Vulnerable seniors could be exploited by individuals with ulterior motives.

The concept behind the website, however, could be really worthwhile if a community organisation were to take it up as a project. Community organisations which provide services to seniors would interview the person before placing their name forward for assistance. There would also be a process for screening potential helpers, insisting on Police clearances and ensuring the person has a genuine interest.

Issues and options considered:

Not applicable.

Link to Strategic Plan:

The Seniors Interests Advisory Committee is linked to the Key Focus Area – Community Wellbeing.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

Not applicable.

Risk Management considerations:

Not applicable.

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not applicable.

Policy implications:

Not applicable.

Regional Significance:

Not applicable.

Sustainability implications:

Not applicable.

Consultation:

Not applicable.

COMMENT

Many seniors in the community are isolated, experience difficulty with accessing affordable transport or just want some company. There are also many people who would like to help someone and do not know how to go about finding the right person

to help. A service that can bring together people who need help and people who want to help could be worthwhile as long as it is professionally and ethically organised.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee NOTES the information provided in the report.

Discussion ensued.

MOVED Ms M Bunn SECONDED Mrs M March that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee RECOMMENDS to Council that the City of Joondalup EXPLORES the possibility of providing a similar service to the Adopt a Pensioner Website.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (11/0)

In favour of the motion: Crs Corr & Diaz, Mr P Wyburn, Ms L Waterman, Ms A Pike, Mrs M March, Mr A Bryant, Mrs V Corey, Mrs J Coleman, Ms M Bunn & Mrs P Geary

ITEM 3 ART OF AGEING EVENTS UPDATE - [55511]

RESPONSIBLE Mr Clayton Higham
DIRECTOR: Planning and Community Development

PURPOSE

To provide the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee (SIAC) with an update on the City of Joondalup Art of Ageing seniors events.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Art of Ageing events reflect the objectives of the Seniors Plan 2004 –2008 to hold an annual seniors event for residents of the City. The events continue to promote the principles of holistic positive active ageing, with a theme, activities and a name complementing this concept.

Interested members of the SIAC Committee are involved in the organising team on a voluntary basis.

The Art of Ageing in 2008 comprises of two half day senior events held four times a year in May, August, October and December:

Tuesday 13 & Thursday 15 May
Tuesday 12 & Friday 15 August
Monday 13 & Wednesday 15 October
Thursday 4 & Friday 5 December

It is recommended that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee NOTES the information provided in this report.

BACKGROUND

The recent Art of Ageing event was held in May at Kingsley Park Clubrooms. The City received positive feedback from over 200 seniors in attendance. The May event highlights included special guest former MLA and solicitor Cheryl Edwardes who hosted an informative session on Wills and Power of Attorney. The Salvation Army's Silver Threads band delighted over 120 seniors with a live music performance. An educational Money Matters session was given by Ray Lane, Department of Consumer Protection and covered the pros and cons of Door to Door Sales. Popular comedian and musician Patrick O'Hooligan created hilarity and was well received by the audience. The Art of Ageing May Mini Expo featured Community Services agency displays.

DETAILS

Promotion is currently underway for the August Art of Ageing events.

Tuesday 12 August 9:30am – 12:30pm

Art of Ageing will be hosted by the Woodvale Senior High School. The event will feature a special performance by the music students from Woodvale Senior High School followed by morning tea. An African Drumming Workshop will provide seniors a unique cultural experience. The event will conclude with a free sausage sizzle.

Friday 15 August 9:30am – 12:30pm

Art of Ageing will be held at the City of Joondalup Reception Centre. The event will commence with a performance by the singing performer James Dee followed by morning tea and a screening of classic feature film Roman Holiday starring Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn. The event will include a mini expo in the foyer

Planning is in progress for October and December Art of Ageing Events.

Issues and options considered:

Not Applicable.

Link to Strategic Plan:

The Seniors Interests Advisory Committee is linked to the Key Focus Area – Community Wellbeing.

Legislation – Statutory Provisions:

Not Applicable.

Risk Management considerations:

Not Applicable.

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not Applicable.

Policy implications:

Not Applicable.

Regional Significance:

Not Applicable.

Sustainability implications:

Not Applicable.

Consultation:

Not applicable

COMMENT

The new two half day format has proved to be a good format for seniors and has been well received by the community.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

Discussion ensued.

MOVED Mrs V Corey SECONDED Ms A Pike that the Seniors Interests Advisory Committee NOTES the information provided in the report.

The Motion was Put and

CARRIED (11/0)

In favour of the motion: Crs Corr & Diaz, Mr P Wyburn, Ms L Waterman, Ms A Pike, Mrs M March, Mr A Bryant, Mrs V Corey, Mrs J Coleman, Ms M Bunn & Mrs P Geary

MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil.

REQUESTS FOR REPORTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The following reports were requested:

- A report on the update of the progress of the proposed Performing Arts Centre within the City of Joondalup;
- A report on the number and locations of retirement villages within the City of Joondalup.

CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Presiding Person declared the Meeting closed at 1050 hrs; the following committee members being present at that time:

Cr Brian Corr
Cr Fiona Diaz
Ms Joy Coleman
Ms Valerie Corey
Ms Patricia Geary
Ms Margaret March
Mr Patrick Wyburn
Mr Allyn Bryant
Ms Maria Bunn
Ms Lynda Waterman
Ms Anne Pike