

# KNOX ACTIVE AGEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**16 September 2020**

**Time: 5.00 to 6.35pm**

## **Zoom meeting**

*As this Advisory Committee has been established by Council and includes at least one Councillor and a staff member it is an Assembly of Councillors in accordance with the Local Government Act.*

*Councillors and staff are required to declare any conflict of interest that they may have in regards to any item discussed that is intended or likely to be the subject of a report to Council or a decision of an officer under delegation. In declaring a conflict of interest the Councillor or staff member must leave the meeting whilst the matter is being discussed. A definition of conflict of interest in accordance with the Local Government Act is provided in the Active Ageing Advisory Committee Folder.*

*Community representatives on the Committee are not subject to these provisions; however they are required under their terms of appointment to declare any conflicts of interest that may arise for them from time to time. It will be a matter for the Chair to determine if the community representative is required to leave the meeting whilst a particular matter that is subject to a conflict of interest is being discussed.*

## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Attendees – Eddie Atacador, Rachel Bast, Sharon Buxton, Lynda Carroll, Evelin Martin, Rita Lang, Bronwyn Stephen, Cr. Seymour, Cr. Mortimore, Judy Chalkley, Stuart Ireland, Linda Keenahan.

Apologies – Catherine Balaz, Sonja Pedell, Edmond Wong.

## **2. Conflict of Interest Declaration**

None were declared.

## **3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Moved by Evelin Martin / Seconded by Eddie Atacador.

## **4. Items for Discussion**

### **4.1 Key community engagement activities – key findings to-date, progress and next steps**

- **Municipal Wide Survey 2020**
- **COVID-19 Household Survey 2020**
- **Community Vision Forums 2020**
- **Age Friendly Knox Survey 2020**

Facilitators: Judy Chalkley, Manager Active Ageing & Disability Services, KCC  
Stuart Ireland, Senior Active & Healthy Ageing Strategic Officer, AA&DS KCC

Some important key takeaway messages:

- Several key community engagement activities have been/ are being undertaken over the past six months to help Council understand what is important to our older community, how satisfied they are with those things, how accessible and inclusive our community is, and as a result of this pandemic, what their immediate needs are and what impact it has had on their life.
- These activities will be completed by other data and information inputs to guide and inform the development of our Community Plan 2021-31 and Council Plan 2021-25.
- The Age Friendly Knox survey and focus group discussions will see us hear from ~1200 older residents over the coming months and critically inform the specific focus and activities of the AA&DS Department over the next three to four years.

Committee member comments and responses:

- Bronwyn
  - There are marked differences in older persons aged 70+ years when it comes to their level of satisfaction with key aspects of the city.
- Evelin
  - Our older persons place incredible importance on Bushland and Natural spaces. Whilst some of the municipal wide survey results are surprising, particularly those relating to satisfaction, I wonder if there is a sense of entitlement in our community?
- Lynda
  - In a recent Vision for Knox – Community Forum, I was surprised by the general lack of awareness within the community as to what Council has done/ is doing in the renewable energy and sustainability space. I wonder if Council needs to reflect on this and revisit how they promote what they are doing. Most of my neighbours only ever talk about rates.
- Sharon
  - Most residents have no idea what Council actually do – many people just keep coming back to rates and rubbish collection.
- Cr. Mortimore
  - Referring to Lynda’s observation, there is a considerable amount of thought and effort going into the development of the Climate Change Response Plan and this needs to be better promoted to our community.
- Cr. Seymour
  - We need to ensure that for all of the community engagement activities we undertake, that we close the feedback loop with our residents. We need to get better at this so that the community recognises what we have heard and acted/ not acted upon.

**ACTION:** Stuart to circulate a copy of the Key community engagement activities September 2020 PowerPoint presentation to KAAAC members for their information.

**ACTION:** KAAAC members to review the Presentation and provide feedback/ additional feedback to Stuart (with no specific timeframe – this is an open and ongoing dialogue).

## 5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting (Actions)

- 5.1 Climate Response Plan – consultation on draft plan.  
**ACTION:** Stuart to circulate a copy of the Climate Change Response Presentation to Active Ageing July 2020 PowerPoint presentation to KAAAC members for their information.  
**ACTION:** KAAAC members to review the Presentation and provide feedback/ additional feedback to Stuart (with no specific timeframe – this is an open and ongoing dialogue).  
**COMPLETE (Thanks to Lynda for her additional thoughts and suggestions).**
- 5.2 Occupational Therapy – refining and strengthening our approach to reablement.  
**ACTION:** Ellie to discuss with Bronwyn in the first instance, the potential need for and value of establishing a Knox OT think tank/group/network (recognising that there already is an Outer East OT group that meets on a regular basis).  
**ACTION:** Ellie and Stuart to review how current OT data is reported on and used within Council, particularly in light of future municipal health and wellbeing planning.  
**UPDATE:** Ellie has not yet followed up with Bronwyn, but will do so in the next two weeks. Stuart meeting with key internal Council staff to discuss whole of Council data warehousing and reporting on 17 September. Stuart to report back at next meeting.
- 5.3 Basketball at Carrington Park  
**ACTION:** In progress - Rachel advised Falcons are still keen. Rachel to email Sharon to discuss.  
**UPDATE:** Rachel and Sharon have not yet discussed, but given the current pandemic situation, this will now be revisited once Metropolitan Melbourne moves to Step 4 under the State Government’s Roadmap to Reopening. Rachel and Sharon to report back at next meeting.
- 5.4 Age Friendly Cities - discussion around where people are going to live when they can’t maintain their property/garden and are trying to avoid moving into a retirement village. Cr. Seymour advised there are some developments in the Maroondah area (Market Forces) doing this and being advertised as living for the over 55’s.  
**UPDATE:** This action will be informed and progressed as part of the current AFC project.  
**Bronwyn:** noted that in many respects many residents are not able to maintain and manage their gardens and by the time they get guiding and supportive information it is often too late. That, in addition, there are often cultural and physical barriers, and or people don’t understand the benefits of being outside and physical activity  
**Evelin:** noted that many 55+ are no longer interested in retirement villages and that these may become a thing of the past in the future. That perhaps we are moving to ‘Care Villages’.  
**Cr. Seymour:** suggested that AA&DS could explore partnering with our Biodiversity/ Sustainability teams and groups such as the Knox Environment Society to create an ‘Active Ageing in the Garden’ type program and or a ‘Gardening for older persons Expo’.  
**Stuart:** noted that the Age Friendly Knox survey will collect important data and insights into the ‘gardening’ interests of older people and how best Council and others can respond.  
**ACTION:** Judy and Stuart to feed the topic of ‘Gardening and the Environment’ into the upcoming AA&DS Planning Workshop on 21 September and report back at next meeting.
- 5.5 (Eddie) Unclear where to get specific information in relation to the Knox Community Chess Enthusiasts Club.  
**ACTION:** Judy / Stuart to follow up with Samantha Mazer re: Westfield Knox and what information is being provided to tenants/users of the Centre.  
**COMPLETE:** Eddie has since received additional information from Westfield Knox.

- 5.6 Knox City Council COVID-19 Household Survey.  
**ACTION: Stuart to circulate the COVID19 Household Survey information and link to Committee members for their completion, and further promotion and sharing. COMPLETE.**
- 5.7 AA&DS staff in Eastern Regional Libraries Project.  
**ACTION: Stuart to circulate a copy of the AA&DS staff in Eastern Regional Libraries PowerPoint Presentation to KAAAC members for their information. COMPLETE.**

## 6. Other Business

- 6.1 **Emerging issues from Committee Members – round the room discussion**
- Eddie
    - The KCCE has successfully delivered its first online chess session
    - Cr. Seymour – suggestion that Eddie and the KCCE Club think about pivoting to outdoor chess sessions. There are many locations within the municipality that would be suitable, and similar to the Beauty sector, the use of perspex screens/dividers could support meeting hygiene and physical distancing guidelines.
  - Rita
    - Virtual Social Support Program is up and running, after physically calling over 1000 clients to check in on their welfare and supports.
    - Digital Literacy Program focusing on addressing access (1 in 10 clients do not have access), education and safe use will be soon up and running. Bridges will be offering iPads to clients and through one on one mentoring and training, supporting clients to access a new learning portal on our website. This has been funded by Council.
  - Sharon
    - Knox U3A is in the process of promoting Council’s Age Friendly Knox survey.
    - Five members are interested in joining the Knox Community Safety, Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee.
  - Stuart
    - Digital Access and Inclusion could be an area that Council and groups and organisations such as Learning Centres and Neighbourhood Houses better explore over the next 12 months. We know that there a significant range of free and low cost programs being offered in the community, but we have minimal understanding as to the reach, outcomes and impacts of these courses.
- 6.2 **Overview of the September/October edition of the Zest4Life booklet (Linda Keenahan)**
- Link to new edition:  
[https://www.knox.vic.gov.au/Download.aspx?link=../Files/Seniors/Sept to Oct 2020 Z4L Sept Oct 2020.pdf&size=1175328&name=Knox%20Over%2055s%20Zest4Life%20booklet%20-%20Sept%20&%20Oct%202020%20\(incl%20Knox%20Seniors%20Festival\)](https://www.knox.vic.gov.au/Download.aspx?link=../Files/Seniors/Sept_to_Oct_2020_Z4L_Sept_Oct_2020.pdf&size=1175328&name=Knox%20Over%2055s%20Zest4Life%20booklet%20-%20Sept%20&%20Oct%202020%20(incl%20Knox%20Seniors%20Festival))

- 'Celebrating Seniors Goody Bag' - Council, as part of the 2020 Knox Seniors Festival, is giving 200 goody bags to give away to Seniors that have been feeling lonely or struggling (and who would benefit from a little cheering up) or who have stood out with the way they have been helping others in the community during this pandemic. Nominations must be received via our [online nomination](#) or post by 5pm on **Friday 18 September**. If members or residents need more information or a hard copy nomination form, they can call 9298 8000.

ACTION: Committee members to promote the 'Celebrating Seniors Goody Bag' initiative through their respective groups, networks and communities.

- Decluttering session - 43 residents attended this session
- Nutrition session - 29 residents attended this session

## 7. Next meeting/s

**Life Stages Group Advisory Committee Meeting (To be confirmed)**  
**Thursday 5 November, 6.30pm to 8.30pm**

**Knox Active Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting (To be confirmed)**