

KNOX ACTIVE AGEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To champion the voice and needs of seniors. Ensuring Knox is a welcoming, inclusive and connected community for all ages, where addressing loneliness and social isolation is a shared priority of Council and community together

Thursday 8 August 2024

Time: 6pm (catering service), Meeting commencement: 6.30pm to 8.30pm

**Eastgate North Conference Room, Eastgate North Building,
Knox City Council, 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna South**

And via MS Teams

Attendees:	Present		Present
Cr Nicole Seymour (Chair), Knox Councillor	Yes	Cr Meagan Baker, Knox Councillor	Yes
Catherine Balaz – Community Rep	Yes	Christine Pow – Community Rep	Yes
Eddie Atacador – Community Rep	Yes	Fen Peng – Physiotherapist	Yes
Gary Cantwell – Community Rep	Yes	Geoff Deacon – Community Rep	Yes
Gerard Meagher – Outplacement & Transition to Retirement Coach	Yes	Lawrie Gaylard – Community Rep	Yes
Linda Lim - EACH	No	Peter Burns – Bridges Connecting Communities	Yes
Pranee Birch – Community Rep	Yes	Shoua Liu – Community Rep	No
Gail Power - KCC Manager Community Access and Support	Yes	Anna Lawton – KCC Healthy Ageing Specialist	Yes
Sheridan Stone – KCC Social Connections Specialist	No		
Guests	Present		Present
Dayna Nicholas, KCC Community Wellbeing			Yes
Nicola Ward, KCC Manager, City Projects			Yes
Aman Mehta, KCC Planning & Development Lead, Knox Central Project			No

Estimated Time	Item #	Topic	Lead
1.0 Meeting Opening: [6:30pm sharp]			
10 mins	1.1	Welcome & Apologies	Cr Seymour, Chair
*6.30pm –	1.2	Conflict of Interest Disclosures – no conflicts reported.	
6.40pm	1.3	Acknowledgement of Country The Chair, Cr Nicole Seymour acknowledged Committee members were meeting on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation and paid respects to Elders past and present.	
	1.4	Previous Minutes	
	1.4.1	Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting on 27 June 2024: Motion moved: Lawrie Gallard; Seconded: Geoff Deacon	
	1.4.2	Matters Arising / Action List Current action list reviewed. Gail provided clarification the Age Friendly Evaluation Report will be submitted to Councillors, however due to the caretaker period coming up, it has not been possible for this to go on an Issues Briefing Agenda for tabling. Gail advised all current Action items are now complete.	Gail
2.0 Matters for Decision			
15 mins	2.1	KAAAC Workplan 2024 – check in	
*6:40pm-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating pathways for turning loneliness and isolation into community belonging 	
6:55pm		Gail provided an update on how this item from the workplan has been tracking and the consideration this topic is having on programming decisions. What else do we need to be doing? ACTION: KCC and Bridges to meet to discuss planning of annual calendar of programmed activities, to minimise duplication and optimise participation.	
3.0 Matters For Discussion			
35 mins	3.1	Family Violence Prevention	
*6:55pm –		Dayna Nicholas sought active contribution from members and presented a short presentation on what Prevention of Family Violence is and explained that gender inequality plays a large role in family violence. Dayna reminded members that if they needed any support or found the conversation triggering, that there is an excellent resource we can call to talk it through: 1800 RESPECT. Members engaged in a robust discussion on how family violence presents in our seniors community, with focus on Elder Abuse. Significant discussion re generational differences in acceptance of gender stereotyping, gendered roles and inequality (eg: financial – husband traditionally the breadwinner, wife the home maker). Important not to deprecate Seniors who have traditional values when attributing gender inequality as a driver of family violence.	
7.30pm		ACTION: Collate Elder Abuse statistics from resources such as ECLC and Elder Rights Advocacy ACTION: Send to members the Family Violence Presentation slides & key questions ACTION: Members to provide additional feedback to key questions	

Feedback from the members included:

- It would be helpful to know some statistics around elder abuse, and indeed the breakdown of ages with general family violence call-outs, provided by the police statistics. There was curiosity around whether family violence is increasing in prevalence because there is more happening or because more people are coming forward; and if there are more elder abuse cases reported because the population of older people is growing or because it is a growing problem.
- Members talked about the cultural shift in young people not respecting their elders in the same way members were raised, and that this has a flow on effect.
- There was discussion about Family Violence being a behavioural problem that needs to change rather than focusing on it being only a gender issue.
- Gender inequality experienced growing up can lead to low self-belief, esteem, and confidence.
- This lack of self-confidence makes individuals vulnerable to being taken advantage of by partners or family members.
- Elders with low self-belief may appear bitter or cantankerous, which can make them difficult to support.
This perceived difficulty can result in neglect of these elders.
The cycle underscores the long-term impact of societal norms on individuals' well-being and relationships.

40 mins
*7:30pm-
8:10pm

3.2

Knox Central Project

Nicola Ward provided the committee with an overview of the Knox Central Project - and the proposed redevelopment of Council's landholdings in and around the Civic Centre. Feedback was sought on the use of the Open Spaces, what they would like to see from an Active Ageing perspective. She covered themes that have been common across all cohorts – such as accessibility, mobility, cycling paths, good public transport connections, apartments that are well designed, environmentally sound, quiet spaces, and spaces to interact intergenerationally.

Feedback and comments from committee members:

- The committee members asked how many people are we expecting to house in this area? 3,000-5,000 (9ha). Many commented on the need for the tram line to be extended to cope with this, but acknowledged there are many challenges with this and even getting a trainline, so improving bus services would be beneficial and practical, and likely easier to advocate for.
- One member observed that over time we tend to encroach on well defined green space to build new buildings so consider this in the design – it was identified that land size definitions have changed over time, eg 450 sq metres used to be considered medium density, now it's viewed as a large block.
- It was raised that people need open space even in the cold and wet weather – so under cover, eg space for Chess, Marjong, other games- in a weatherproof space.
- Apartments are definitely attractive to some members, as they see this as their chance to downsize AND stay in the area.
- Consider spaces that allow for intergenerational interaction.
- Carparking was raised as a challenge already, and the more family groups we have in a concentrated area the more traffic congestion this potentially places on the streets and surrounding area. [Also visitor parking conflicts]

- Questions were asked around what the split would be between affordable/social/private/investors housing options. It was noted that because this is Council land, Council have the opportunity to set strong planning controls around its development to structure this according to community need. Comment was made that it would be worth considering who would move into this space firstly, and then ask what their needs are. Such as is this an opportunity for older people to downsize and move into? Or will the development attract people from outside the municipality? It was suggested to explore what type of people are attracted to these kinds of redevelopments, and design from there. Don't assume "build it and they will come".
- Other requests include to please consider universal design, and lifecycle of building materials to be environmentally sustainable.
- It is important to consider the community need over the financial benefits of a less fit-for-purpose development.

4.0 Matters For Noting

5 mins
*8:10pm –
8.15 pm

4.1 Bright Ideas / Dementia Advisory Group / Upcoming Events (standing item)

- The next Bright Ideas Network meeting on Thursday 15th August will be a planning meeting to plan projects for 2025. It was noted this would be an important forum to include/consider/involve stakeholders and seek out opportunities to work together.
- The Immerse Bus Tours were extremely well received, and there was support for more local art installations and tours.

ACTION: Please forward any feedback from this tour and its wonderful artwork to the Arts & Culture team.

ACTION: Send to Committee Members a list of the current Seniors Clubs in Knox.

- Seniors Festival is in October – Knox CC is hosting 8 events, but there will be plenty of club-run events across the month for older people to attend.
- Peter acknowledged how fantastic it has been to have access to the large bus twice yearly for bigger outings.

5.0 Meeting Finalisation

15 mins
*8:15pm –
8.30pm

5.1 Review Actions to be taken

-listed in Appendix 1

Gail

5.2 Meeting Evaluation

The committee noted that additional information supplied in the agenda allowed them to prepare better for the meeting, by doing some pre-reading and consider the topics in advance. Suggestion to include links to pre-reading would be helpful in future. All felt they could share and contribute to the topics and felt they could ask questions.

Cr Seymour/Cr Baker

5.3 Next Meeting: Thursday 3 October 2024

5.4 Meeting Close [8:36pm]

Appendix 1

Action	Who	Status
KCC and Bridges to meet to consider planning of programmed activities	Peter and Gail	
Collate Elder Abuse statistics from resources such as ECLC and Seniors Rights Advocacy https://www.aihw.gov.au/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/population-groups/older-people	Anna/Dayna	Complete
Send to members the Family Violence Presentation slides and key questions for feedback (attached to email with minutes)	Anna	Complete
Members to provide additional feedback for Family Violence Prevention – Elder Abuse	Community members	
Please provide additional feedback about The Knox Central Project https://youtu.be/ZFo-R20kU7c Here is the YouTube video	Community Members	
Please forward any feedback from this tour and its wonderful artwork to the Arts & Culture team	Community Members	
Send to Committee Members a list of the current Seniors Clubs in Knox	Anna	