

## Recreation & Leisure Committee

Directorate:	Community Services		
Approval by:	Council	Responsible Officer:	Coordinator Leisure Services
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### 1. Purpose

The function of this Advisory Committee is to facilitate stakeholder engagement which supports quality decision making and in turn, the achievements of Council's goals and strategies under the Community and Council Plan.

The Committee exists to:

- Assist Council with its community engagement process and provide valuable information to support the decision making of Council; and
- Support Council's commitment to engage with its community and to acknowledge the critical role recreation, sport and leisure plays in the wellbeing of our community.

### 2. Objectives

The objectives of the Committee are to:

- Provide strategic advice and input relating to the development of Council's leisure plans and policies;
- Engage in discussion regarding 'special interest' sport and leisure topics as determined by Council;
- Participate in the ongoing consultation, review and implementation of sporting and recreational strategic documents; and
- Provide input into Council's processes relating to sport where requested e.g. provide feedback regarding projects to be considered by Council for submission to external funding programs.

Advisory Committees, when established under this Policy, will be aligned to one of the following groups:

- Life Stages Group;
- Sustainable Development Group;
- Inclusive, Active and Creative Community Groups; and
- Grants Evaluation Group.

Whilst the individual committees will meet at the designated times within its Terms of Reference, each 'group' will meet once annually. This will generally be between October and December each year. A designated Directorate will be responsible for coordinating group meetings. The purpose of these meetings will be to:

- Provide feedback to group on priorities for individual committees;
- Update group of progress of key issues; and
- Identify synergies between groups and links to progressing the Community and Council Plan.

In addition to group meetings, all committees will be provided with an opportunity to meet together annually. The 'annual advisory committee' sessions will generally be held between April and May each year, and will be coordinated by the Governance team. The purpose of these meetings will be to:

- Report on progress by Council against Community and Council Plan;
- Provide overview of industry trends and Council priorities for the upcoming year;
- Consider synergies and opportunities for sharing information and collaboration; and
- Deliver training to support to committees.

### 3. Membership, Period of Membership and Method of Appointment

The Committee will comprise of up to, but no greater than 15 members and no less than 12 members, including the following:

- Councillor representatives (three) - Annually appointed by Council;
- General Community representatives;
- Sporting Association representatives ; and
- Sector representatives.

Membership representation is described below:

- Councillor representatives –Appointed annually;
- General Community representatives – These representatives are enthusiastic about sport and leisure. They may or may not be affiliated with a specific sporting or leisure group;
- Sporting Association representatives – Actively support a sporting code within the City of Knox; and
- Sector representatives – Represent special interest groups i.e. youth, access and inclusion and/or the broader sporting and leisure sector.

It is expected that each member will attend a minimum of 75% of meetings annually. If a member attends less than 75% of meetings annually, Council could appoint a replacement member if deemed necessary.

#### Applications

Applications will be assessed based upon their interest, knowledge and expertise relating to:

- Leisure, sporting and health and fitness trends;
- Sporting and leisure infrastructure;
- Community capacity building, particularly the importance of volunteerism;
- Sporting and leisure networks;
- A working knowledge of sport and leisure within Knox; and
- The provision of sport and leisure within a Local Government context.

Should it be required, a follow up interview with the applicant will take place. In the event of a member resigning from the Committee, a written letter of resignation should be made to the Chairperson. Council reserves its right to truncate the term of the Committee.

#### Term

Non-Councillor members on the Committee will be appointed for a maximum term of two years. At the conclusion of each term, pending Council approval, new Committee members will be appointed via the aforementioned application process.

### **3.1 Selection and Recruitment of Community and Professional Industry Representative Members**

The process to appoint community members will be advertised in local newspapers, on Council's internet site and through local networks. Applicants must make application via an expression of interest process.

Eligible community members will have an interest in and good working knowledge of sport and leisure in Knox.

The approach and method for appointing representatives will include the following:

- Community and professional/ industry members will be selected by a panel comprising a Councillor and two Council Officers from the relevant service unit;
- The method of appointment will be via an online expression of interest process;
- Members will be appointed for a two year term;
- All members will be eligible to re-apply for appointment, however continuous membership for longer than four years will not be considered;
- Consideration will be given to ensuring that the composition of the Committee is inclusive, diverse, equitable, and representative of the broader Knox community.
- Council will be responsible for appointing all Councillor, community and professional/industry representative members.

Professional/industry representatives unable to attend a committee meeting are able to nominate a proxy or alternate member from the organisation they represent. Any proxy attendance should be notified to Council's nominated officer at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. It is expected the appointed professional/industry representative will provide an appropriate briefing of the committee purpose and objectives and relevant meeting notes to enable active participation and contribution of the proxy representation to the meeting.

The Committee may invite observers to meetings from time to time. This is at the discretion of the committee.

Guests may also be invited to attend and participate at meetings, this would generally for a specific purpose and/or specified period of time. This is at the discretion of the committee.

### **3.2 Casual Vacancies**

Casual vacancies which occur due to a sporting association Committee members or a general community Committee member being unable to complete their appointments, may be filled by co-opting suitable candidates from a previous selection process for the remainder of the previous incumbent's term. Consideration will be given to ensuring that the composition of the Committee is inclusive, diverse, equitable, and representative of the broader Knox community.

Should there be further clarity on how to determine priority eg. Replace with qualities of the concluding member, or use the original ranking criteria, the selection panel will make a recommendation to the Chief Executive Officer, who will have the authority to appoint the recommended candidate to the Committee for the remainder of the previous incumbent's term.

Should there be no suitable alternative candidate from the previous selection process (inability to ensure that the composition of the Committee is inclusive, diverse and equitable); the position will remain unfilled unless the total membership of the Committee has reached a level below the minimum membership requirements.

Where there are no suitable candidates identified and the minimum membership requirements are not met, a formal expression of interest and selection process is required. The outcome of the formal expression of interest process will be presented to Council for determination.

### **3.3 Councillors**

Council will appoint Councillor representation annually.

Unless otherwise appointed to the committee by Council, the Mayor is, by virtue of the Office, an ex officio member of the committee. It is important that whilst the Mayor may not chair these meetings, appropriate recognition should be given to the presence of the Mayor if in attendance.

The role of Councillors is to participate in the meetings, listen to community and stakeholder views and keep the Council informed, through reports on committees by Councillors at Council meetings, on issues of community interest being considered at meetings.

### **3.4 Council Officers**

Council officers will be nominated to support the committee by the CEO as required to provide advice and administrative support to the committee.

## **4. Delegated Authority and Decision Making**

The Committee acts in an advisory capacity only and does not represent Council nor does it have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of Council. The Committee may determine and form (through its membership) specific purpose committees to undertake research and make recommendations to the Committee.

In accordance with section 76E of the Local Government Act 1989, a Councillor must not improperly direct or influence a member of Council staff in the exercise of any power or in the performance of any duty or function. The Committee acts in an advisory capacity only and has no delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of Council.

## **5. Synergies with existing committees**

The Committee is the only Council committee that deals with broad based sport, recreation and leisure issues within the City of Knox. Given the specific function of the Committee, the amalgamation with an existing committee is not recommended or considered appropriate. However, it must be noted that the other committees may have input in to key issues (eg. Community Safety, Health and Wellbeing, Disability Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, etc).

The Committee forms part of the Inclusive, Active and Creative Communities Group of Committees, which meets twice annually.

## **6. Quorum**

A quorum will be fifty per cent (50%) of the Committee membership plus one.

### **Substitute representation for a committee meeting**

Should a sporting association member of the Committee be unable to attend a meeting, the said member could send an associate of their organisation/group as a substitute. The substitute must be part of the organisation/group's

Executive Committee. The attendance of a substitute must be approved by the Manager Active and Creative Communities prior to the meeting.

Should a general community member with no alignment to an organisation/group be an apology for a meeting, the member will be unable to be replaced by a substitute.

## 7. Meeting Procedures

The Committee will meet four times per calendar year and additional meetings may be scheduled if required.

Meetings will follow Knox City Council meeting procedures, which are in summary:

- Commence on time and conclude by the stated completion time;
- Be scheduled and confirmed in advance with all relevant papers distributed (as appropriate) to each member;
- Encourage fair and reasonable discussion and respect for each other's views;
- Focus on the relevant issues at hand; and
- Provide advice to Council as far as possible on a consensus basis.

The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis and an annual schedule of meetings will be agreed upon at the first meeting of the Committee in each year. The Committee will also participate in the six-monthly group meetings and the annual Advisory Committee Forum.

The Committee is not required to give public notice of its meetings and its meetings are not open to the public.

At the commencement of each term the committee will develop a work plan for the upcoming year. This will generally be aligned with the Community and Council Plan. The Committee may also highlight any emerging issues which will also be documented. For efficiency purposes the business of the Committee throughout the ensuing year should align with the work plan and list of emerging issues.

Meetings will follow standard meeting procedure protocols, which are in summary:

- Commence on time and conclude by the stated completion time;
- Be scheduled and confirmed in advance with all relevant papers distributed (as appropriate) to each member;
- Encourage fair and reasonable discussion, participation and respect for each other's views;
- Focus on the relevant issues at hand; and
- Provide advice to Council as far as possible on a consensus basis.

## 8. Chair

The position of Chairperson shall be reviewed annually immediately following Councillor appointments to the Committee.

Where there is one Councillor representative on the Recreation & Leisure Committee that Councillor stands as Chairperson. Where there is more than one Councillor representative the Chairperson is to be agreed upon between Councillors. When this cannot be achieved, the Mayor of the day shall determine the chair.

The Committee may determine, with consent of the Councillor representative/s, to appoint another member other than the Councillor representative/s as Chairperson.

If the Chairperson is not present at a meeting, any other Councillor representative shall be appointed Chairperson. In the absence of any other Councillor representative/s, the Committee shall appoint a Chairperson for the purpose of conducting the meeting.

The Committee must advise Council's Governance Team of the name of the Chairperson within one week of appointment. These details will then be updated on the intranet and the Internet.

## 9. Agendas and Meeting Notes

Agendas and Minutes must be prepared for each meeting of the Committee. The Agenda must be provided to members of the Committee not less than seven days before the time fixed for the holding of the meeting.

The Chairperson must arrange for minutes of each meeting of the committee to be kept.

The minutes of a Committee meeting must:

- (a) Contain details of the proceedings and resolutions made;
- (b) Be clearly expressed;
- (c) Be self-explanatory; and
- (d) In relation to resolutions recorded in the minutes, incorporate relevant reports or a summary of the relevant reports considered in the decision making process.

Draft Minutes must be:

- (a) Submitted to the Committee Chairperson for confirmation within seven days of the meeting;
- (b) Distributed to all Committee Members following confirmation from the Chairperson and within 14 days of the meeting; and
- (c) Submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for formal endorsement.

Minutes must be approved by the Chairperson before being published or distributed and then formally endorsed at the subsequent meeting.

Agendas and Minutes of the Committee will be made available on Council's intranet.

Agendas and notes from meetings are not required to be made available to the public.

## 10. Voting

As this is an advisory committee, voting on issues is not required. Any recommendations will generally be developed through consensus. Where a matter cannot be agreed the differing opinions should be clearly expressed in the notes of the meeting.

## 11. Conflict and Interest Provisions

In performing the role of Advisory Committee member, a person must:

- Act with integrity;
- Impartially exercise his or her responsibilities in the interests of the local community;
- Not improperly seek to confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person;
- Treat all persons with respect and have due regard to the opinions, beliefs, rights and responsibilities of other persons;
- Commit to regular attendance at meetings; and
- Not make improper use of information acquired because of their position or release information that the member knows, or should reasonably know, is confidential information.

Meetings of the Advisory Committee may potentially form an Assembly of Councillors. Councillors and officers are required to comply with the conflict of interest provisions as set down in the Act.

Where a meeting is identified as an Assembly of Councillors, staff must follow the designated procedure.

Where a community member has a Conflict of Interest or perceived conflict of interest in relation to a matter before the Committee, the community member must disclose the matter to the group before the matter is considered or discussed. Disclosure must include the nature of the interest and be recorded in the meeting notes. It will be at the discretion of the Chairperson if the community member remains or leaves the room whilst the matter is discussed, and this must also be recorded in the notes of the meeting.

It will be at the discretion of the Chairperson if the community member remains or leaves the room whilst the matter is discussed, and this must also be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Where a meeting is identified as an Assembly of Councillors, staff must complete a Record of Assembly of Councillors form. Where a Conflict of Interest is identified by a Councillor or staff member at an Assembly of Councillors, the relevant Conflict of Interest form must also be completed. Forms should be forwarded to the Manager Governance within five working days of the meeting. This information will be published at the next available Ordinary Council Meeting and on Council's website.

All members of the Advisory Committee may be invited to attend annual training on Conduct and Interest provisions run by the Governance team.

## 12. Reporting

The Council Officers will prepare a Council report on an annual basis in line with their stated objectives. The report should directly reflect the objectives and the performance measures of the Committee as set out in the Terms of Reference.

## 13. Administration Support

Administration support will be provided by the Active & Creative Communities Department.

## 14. Contact with the Media

Contact with the Media by Advisory Committee members will be conducted in accordance with the relevant Councillor and staff media policies. Community members should defer any media enquiries to the Chairperson in the first instance and should take care not to respond as a representative of the committee.

## 15. Review Date

The Committee will sunset after two years. If the Committee continues to have a relevant function, a report must be presented to Council prior to this date that includes a review of the Committee's Terms of Reference and seeking endorsement from Council to continue act in an advisory capacity.

## 16. Meals

The provision of refreshments during the course of a committee meeting will be provided in accordance with the Meals and Beverages for Council Committees Policy.