

# Gladstone Region Youth Council

## Meeting Minutes

Held via Skype Online Meeting

On Monday 6 April 2020, commencing 5.22pm

**Present:** Max Thompson, Abbigail Willis, Emily Dunnett, Meli-Lisa Eayrs, Tinoda Pfidze, , Kailyn Smith, Skye Kierys, Gabriella Davie, Stephanie Merrick, Rebecca Creedy (GRC Community Development Officer), Jordyn Wilson (GRC Community Development Specialist)

**Councillor:** Nil

**Apologies:** Bridie Whelan, Jarrod Lowry

**Guest in attendance:** Nil

### Discussion and Recommendations

#### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA and PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- Previous meeting minutes were adopted, moved by Max Thompson and seconded by Skye Kierys

#### **AGENDA**

- ***Briefing Note: LNG Regional Community Consultative Committee (RCCC)***
  - Jessica Irvine, Community Engagement Support Officer at QGC, prepared a briefing note for the group seeking a Youth Council nominee to attend the RCCC meetings. The purpose of the RCCC is to provide a mechanism for two-way communication between LNG companies and the Gladstone regional community.
  - The committee is the key forum for dialogue between the Gladstone community and the three LNG companies and aims to build long-term, enduring relationships with communities and consult with members on issues and opportunities within the community
  - The RCCC has been in existence since 2011 and meets three times a year
  - Abbigail, Tinoda and Meli-Lisa self-nominated for the position. After discussion around the meeting dates and times being during school hours, it was decided Abbigail would be the most suitable to attend. Motion was moved by Meli-Lisa and seconded by Max.
- ***Saiki Sister City Committee Nominee***
  - Nominees were called upon for a committee member for the Saiki Sister City Committee, as discussed at the last meeting. Tinoda Pfidze self-nominated for the position. Moved by Max Thompson and seconded by Skye Kierys.

### ➤ **Council update on Covid-19**

- Rebecca updated the group on the current social distancing strategy implemented by Gladstone Regional Council, aiming to have a remote workforce wherever possible. The team at the Community Engagement Centre, who the Youth Council communicate with, will be working completely remote commencing this Wednesday. Both Rebecca and Jordyn are still contactable by phone, email and Skype. Meetings will continue as online meetings for the foreseeable future.
- There is still only 1 confirmed Covid-19 case in Gladstone, the resident is in home isolation and has not had contact with anyone other than medical staff and their partner. As the virus continues to spread throughout Queensland, it is important not to panic and focus our energy on maintaining our hygiene and social distancing practices, and remain calm and informed.
- As everyone is already aware, it is important that we limit our movements to essential activities only, which include: grocery shopping, chemist, doctors, exercise and work.
- Jordyn asked the group to please keep himself and Rebecca copied into emails and messages that is being shared amongst the group, as we cannot meet in person. Rebecca will be on maternity leave in 5 weeks-time and Jordyn will then be the first point of contact for Council.

### ➤ **Team Building opportunities**

- Max spoke with the group about coming up with ideas for team-building activities given the cancellation of the Great Regatta Raft Race and given the current social distancing rules
- Tinoda spoke about an online team building activity called “keep talking and nobody explodes”, where participants have to communicate to a person diffusing a bomb to encourage communication skills. He has used this previously and it was successful, Tinoda will share the trailer with the group to look at.
- Jordyn suggested creating a team for online trivia, Dr M’s Quizzology is currently hosting online trivia for free. There is a session on this Wednesday night and Rebecca will share the link. Anyone who wants to try it out individually this Wednesday can join in and provide feedback; we can enter as a team when this is established by the host later in the month.
- Max asked the Youth Council to continue brainstorming ideas and we can discuss at the next meeting

### ➤ **Evaluation of Facebook Group Chat**

- Max advised that the Youth Council Facebook Messenger group chat has strong engagement
- Stephanie and Emily need to change their settings so they can be added to the group chat
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### ➤ ***Specific Youth Council delegations and roles to be explored***

- Gabriella spoke to the group about how social media is really important for messaging with youth at the moment and the importance of creating a Youth Council Presence. We need to let people know that we are here to help
- Max suggesting advocating for Youth Council through online platforms and brainstorming ideas to help youth in the community build resilience
- Gabriella discussed getting messages out to youth, from youth, about social distancing as it seems a lot of youth are not following the restrictions. We need to put a positive spin on it
- Max raised concerns that we don't want to be seen as negative and attacking youth, as they won't respond well to this
- Tinoda suggested a good way to approach this problem could be showing the community what they can do while they stay at home. Youth Council could make a video compilation to raise awareness and inspire others through activities and challenges that can be completed at home. Youth can submit their home challenge for others to complete, for example the toilet paper juggling challenge that is currently circulating social media, prizes could be on offer for competition winners
- Emily agreed that suggesting alternatives to going out is a good approach to encourage youth to stay at home. For example meet up over skype, fun apps you can use etc.
- Skye suggested a bake-off challenge over skype as a promotional activity
- Abigail suggested that we need to provide more education around what youth in Domestic Violence situations can do to stay safe while following the recommendations to self-isolate. Rates of DV is an emerging trend and this isn't always partner to partner, it can be parent to child, sibling to sibling etc. With nowhere safe for them to go during self-isolation it can be a dangerous situation.
- Jordyn advised that Council could share resources with people in need and can share key messaging from Council which are coming from Qld Health and State Government. Jordyn will track down resources that can be shared with anyone asking for assistance, such as available support services in the community. If people are open and willing to start the conversation and share the messages that is a great start.
- Rebecca suggested this could also be raised at Wednesday's Youth Interagency as there are a lot of community organisations who can offer support in this area.
- Jordyn raised an idea that Youth Council could create individual profiles on who they are, why they are on the Youth Council and create exposure that they are a point of contact for Youth in the region to reach out to and progress any concerns.
- The group agreed that youth would feel more comfortable raising their concerns with other youth their own age and would be happy to share resources and contacts with others
- Max asked if these profiles could be published on the Council Website under a Youth Council Page

## Discussion and Recommendations

- Tinoda also asked how Youth Council could be involved in the rehabilitation phase, helping people get back on their feet after the hardships experienced due to Covid- 19 health crisis
- Emily suggested it is important to encourage youth to shop local and support local businesses where possible

### **EMERGING TRENDS / TOPICS OF INTEREST**

- Nil

### **PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS FOLLOWED UP**

- Nil

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Nil

**MEETING CLOSED** 6:22pm

**Next Meeting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 5.15pm via Skype Meeting**